

Proposed Sanitary Products (Free Provision) (Scotland) Bill

Page 2: About you

Are you responding as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?

an individual

Which of the following best describes you? (If you are a professional or academic, but not in a subject relevant to the consultation, please choose "Member of the public".)

Member of the public

Please select the category which best describes your organisation

No Response

Please choose one of the following; if you choose the first option, please provide your name or the name of your organisation as you wish it to be published.

I am content for this response to be attributed to me or my organisation

Please insert your name or the name of your organisation. If you choose the first option above, this should be the name as you wish it to be published. If you choose the second or third option, a name is still required, but it will not be published.

Alasdair Kelly

Please provide details of a way in which we can contact you if there are queries regarding your response. Email is preferred but you can also provide a postal address or phone number. We will not publish these details.

Page 7: Your views on the proposal

Q1. Which of the following best expresses your view of the proposed Bill?

Partially supportive

Q1. Which of the following best expresses your view of the proposed Bill?

Please explain the reasons for your response

There still has to be an economic element to be looked at. There has to be a financial incentive for the production of sanitary towels, etc but I do believe there should be a free provision area. I am not keen on the VAT on sanitary products but I do not know if removal from it will give women cheaper sanitary goods. I volunteer at a foodbank. We do give away sanitary products free. For a while sanitary product were placed in an open box to supply visitors. For example there are a variety of sanitary products some suit one visitor other suit better a different visitor. This selection system was abandoned. Some visitors looked to feel embarrassed to delve into this box. The foodbank provide sanitary products but we packet it in the stock area with the rest of goods in plastic bags. The communication comes via paper. I do believe in free provision of sanitary products. People will continue to purchase them in shops as I believe people do get embarrassed in not purchasing them. The free provision will not hurt companies of sanitary products. I believe sanitary products should be made available free. They should be available free at all educational places of any level. They should be available free at health centres and places associated. e.g. chemists, sport centres Sanitary products should be made available to all.

Page 8: Universal provision of sanitary products

Q2. Do you think a universal, card-based system (modelled on the c-card system for free condoms) would be an effective means of providing sanitary products for free to those who need them?

Unsure

Please explain the reasons for your response

I know nothing about the c card.

Q3. Which of the following best expresses your view in relation to a card-based system?

Other (please specify)

Please explain the reasons for your response.

i know little about this.

Q4. Do you have a view on which locations would be most suitable for dispensing free sanitary products (e.g. GP surgeries, pharmacies, community centres, health clinics)?

GP Surgeries, Pharmacies, Health Centres, Sport Centres, Fitness Centres, Hospitals, Libraries, Community centres, Suitable Government and Council buildings.

Page 11: Schools, colleges and universities

Q5. Do you agree that there should be specific obligations on schools, colleges and universities to make sanitary products available for free (via dispensers in toilets)?

Unsure

Please explain the reasons for your response

I believe they should but refusal from building should be respected.

Page 12: Personal experience (questions 6 and 7 are for individual respondents only)

Q6. Have you ever struggled to access or afford sanitary products during menstruation? (e.g. financial barriers, unexpected circumstances, health issues)

Not applicable: I do not need or use sanitary products

Q7. If sanitary products were available for free, which of the following would apply to you?

Not applicable: I do not need or use sanitary products

Page 14: Financial implications

Q8. Taking account of both costs and potential savings, what financial impact would you expect the proposed Bill to have on:

	Significant increase in cost	Some increase in cost	Broadly cost-neutral	Some reduction in cost	Significant reduction in cost	Unsure
(a) Government and the public sector (e.g. local authorities, the NHS)			X			
(b) Colleges and universities			X			
(c) Businesses (including suppliers/retailers of sanitary products)			X			
(d) Individuals (including consumers of sanitary products)						X

Q8. Taking account of both costs and potential savings, what financial impact would you expect the proposed Bill to have on:

Please explain the reasons for your response

I am unsure in the options in this section. I think any change is negligible for shops and manufacturers. There will be a minor cost to government after the first cost in setting up the system.

Q9. Are there ways in which the Bill could achieve its aim more cost-effectively (e.g. by reducing costs or increasing savings)?

don't know

Page 16: Equalities

Q10. What overall impact is the proposed Bill likely to have on equality, taking account of the following protected characteristics (under the Equality Act 2010): age, disability, gender re-assignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion and belief, sex, sexual orientation?

Neutral (neither positive nor negative)

Please explain the reasons for your response

I do not see the equality act related to this proposal.

Q11. In what ways could any negative impact of the proposed Bill on equality be minimised or avoided?

no comment

Page 18: Sustainability

Q12. Do you consider that the proposed Bill can be delivered sustainably i.e. without having likely future disproportionate economic, social and/or environmental impacts?

Yes

Please explain the reasons for your response:

Once started it is sustainable provided overall employment in buildings is not significantly reduced.

Page 19: General

Q13. Do you have any other comments or suggestions on the proposal?

no