

# 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".)

Student (at school, college or university)

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 would like this response to be anonymous (the response may be published, but no name)

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 If you choose the second or third option, a name is still required, but it will not be published.

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?

Fully Supportive

## 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?

Yes

**Please explain the reasons for your response**

Yes I think this would be effective so long as stigma surrounding the use of the card was tackled.

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

The card should be available to anyone; card-holders should have unlimited access to free sanitary products

**Please explain the reasons for your response.**

Should be available to anyone otherwise this could become something to be ashamed of for those on low incomes - nobody should have pay for sanitary products anyway. You don't make a choice to menstruate and so these essential products should be free to anyone who menstruates.

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)?

All of the above - make this as widely available and convenient as possible.

## 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)?

Yes

**Please explain the reasons for your response**

Yes I think there should be - availability of free sanitary products in schools would be especially important for the de-stigmatisation of menstruation and use of free san pro in general. Certain colleges already provide free sanitary products to their students, this means there is a precedent and should be no reason why this can't be implemented by colleges nationwide. Universities can certainly afford to provide free sanitary products and should do so - this would demonstrate their investment in students' general health and well-being. However, as universities are the most economically powerful of the three, they will likely put up the biggest opposition. If it is argued there is a budgeting issue which means a university cannot afford to provide free san pro then the reassessment of entire budgets should be firmly suggested. In the case of this type of opposition it would be wise to draw attention to salaries of top university staff and investment in industries such as the arms trade.

## 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)

No

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

I would expect to claim free products occasionally

## 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	

### Please explain the reasons for your response

I expect the government and private sector would save money as providing free san pro would be cheaper than treatment of medical complications for people who do not have regular access to sanitary products i.e. treatment of toxic shock syndrome. As I have highlighted before I expect universities especially can comfortably afford to provide sanitary products. I expect that retailers of sanitary products would take a very small hit but would be able to withstand this. Sanitary product manufacturers themselves would suffer the biggest financial loss but I do not believe that the industry is ethical in general. Loss of jobs for e.g. factory workers could however be problematic. Of course, there would be a significant cost reduction for individuals as the need to pay for sanitary products would be eliminated.

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

*No Response*

## 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?

Positive

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

Substantial quantitative and qualitative research which supports the aims of the Bill.

## 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:**

I do not believe that the provision of free sanitary products in Scotland is going to lead to economic and social downturn. However, proper research into biodegradable sanitary products should be undertaken - and I believe this is already happening.

## Page 19: General

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

*No Response*