

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 If you choose the second or third option, a name is still required, but it will not be published.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

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

Please explain the reasons for your response

I live in an area where there is marked poverty and unemployment and know the daily struggle some have to merely put food on the table, let alone provide so called luxuries like sanitary protection. As a mother of three daughters I am aware of the embarrassment some girls may feel if they need to approach a member of staff within the school if they are caught in a position where they may need sanitary products. Further, my youngest daughter was at school when she started her period for the first time (she was also 9). Fortunately I had had that conversation with her, but she was too embarrassed to approach her teacher for assistance. For people who find themselves having to use food banks - putting food on the table is more important to some than self care, plus as previously said there is an embarrassment factor.

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

Card based model, unless for use in vending type machines again may cause embarrassment. Where a machine dispenser would be a bit more anonymous.

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

The card should be available to anyone; its use should be restricted (e.g. by limiting the number of products that may be claimed each month)

Please explain the reasons for your response.

Have answered this way as, financially they may be in a position where they have high overheads, be a single parent, be in an abusive relationship where they are given an allowance which doesn't stretch to sanitary products

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)?

Would need to be somewhere easily accessible & not time restricted - all of the ones listed here have opening & closing times. Maybe hospital A & E , would need to be vending type dispensing if within A & E, or in 24 hour supermarkets & garages

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

As a mother of three daughters I am aware of the embarrassment some girls may feel if they need to approach a member of staff within the school if they are caught in a position where they may need sanitary products. Further, my youngest daughter was at school when she started her period for the first time (she was also 9). Fortunately I had had that conversation with her, but she was too embarrassed to approach her teacher for assistance.

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)

Yes, occasionally

Please explain or give an example of your experience if you feel able to do so.

Previous partner held purse strings and would restrict money for 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

Please explain the reasons for your response

Although no longer in need, I would possible have used service occasionally if it were available, if i was in position to need it.

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			

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

(c) Businesses (including suppliers/retailers of sanitary products)			X			
(d) Individuals (including consumers of sanitary products)			X			

Please explain the reasons for your response

Personally I would hope that individuals who can afford products would continue to self fund their use. Likewise once given use of free products individuals when in a position to self fund would do so. With proper/relevant input from suppliers/retailers or indeed manufacturers of sanitary products (such as funding/promoting) individuals would be more likely to remember products and would purchase once in a position to do so.

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

With proper/relevant input from suppliers/retailers or indeed manufacturers of sanitary products (such as funding/promoting) individuals would be more likely to remember products and would purchase once in a position to do so.

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

Please explain the reasons for your response

Provision of free products would, for some women & girls provide a bit more confidence - wouldn't need to worry about being "caught short" or not having enough products to get through a day, especially if having a particularly heavy flow.

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

Misuse - taking products because they are there and free, hence previous answer of restriction on number of products taken in a month

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?

Unsure

Please explain the reasons for your response:

Given right input from sanitary product producers - possibly incentive lead. Environmental issues could be tackled similarly.

Page 19: General

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

No Response