

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".)

Professional with experience in a relevant subject

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 If you choose the second or third option, a name is still required, but it will not be published.

Kate Ramsden

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 strongly believe that all girls and women should have access to free sanitary products. It is about dignity but also about health. Girls should not have to find other ways of managing their periods or have to use the same towel or tampon longer than is healthy. It is not a choice to have a period. Free sanitary wear is as important as free condoms.

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

Provided it can be managed sensitively and confidentially.

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.

Universality will ensure that those who need sanitary wear will be able to get it. It's not all about income. It can be about control. No girl or woman should be denied access. However universal benefits have to be paid for by increased taxation to claw back from those of us that can afford it.

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 i.e. GP surgeries, pharmacies, community centres, health centres and schools.

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

Sanitary products should be as widely available as possible.

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

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

I have been fortunate enough to always have been able to afford sanitary wear but know of others less fortunate. They are so much more expensive these days and poverty has grown.

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

I would not expect to claim free products

Please explain the reasons for your response

I don't think that this system would be abused. But would be a safety net for those in need.

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 am not sure what the business response would be but I see no reason for them to increase costs. It will cost money to implement this on a universal basis but as stated I think a modest tax rise would more than compensate.

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

Modest tax increases to ensure universal provision does benefit the poorest most.

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

It will benefit women and girls and this group is demonstrably disadvantaged compared with men.

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

I can't see a negative impact.

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:

Provided the cost is recovered through modest tax rises. The sanitary wear provided should be as environmentally friendly as possible.

Page 19: General

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

I think it is way past time to provide access to free sanitary wear to those who need it. I fully support the bill.