

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 If you choose the second or third option, a name is still required, but it will not be published.

Kay Munro

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 believe that all people who have periods should have access to sanitary items without any charge to the individual. It is totally unfair that because you are born female you will have to pay for sanitary products which are essential not a luxury. This is a form of unfair taxation based on your sex. It has been a long time that prescription charges were stopped, I think sanitary products should have been treated the same.

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

If this guarantees that anybody requiring sanitary products gets them free of charge and without any embarrassing questions then yes I think this is the way to go.

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.

Some people have heavier and longer periods than others therefore it would be inappropriate to put an average number of products a person can receive. Obviously if someone is claiming extraordinary amounts and are perhaps selling them abroad or something similar then this would need to be addressed.

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)?

Wherever is the most convenient, probably local pharmacies.

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

People should not have to worry that their period may start and they may not have access to sanitary

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)?

products. It can be miserable enough with period pain etc without the added misery of no access to suitable products free at the point of need.

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.

Although I am now post menopausal, I remember when bringing up my family and money being tight the added pressure of having to find the extra funds to buy the necessary products. I experienced heavy long periods which then cost significant amounts of money to manage the 7+ Days of my period.

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

I am a post menopausal woman there do not require 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

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

(d) Individuals (including consumers of sanitary products)							X
---	--	--	--	--	--	--	---

Please explain the reasons for your response

I do not really know the costs involved but I do know that for women to have to fund this every month is similar to an extra tax on half the population of world which is entirely unfair.

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

I do not know about this aspect of it but know that women having to fund this themselves for approx 30+ years of their lives is wrong when we live in a country whereby the wealthy are entitled to free prescriptions.

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 is clear that women are doubly disadvantaged financially as they already earn less than men, equality has yet to be completely achieved in wages and then to have to fund the purchase of sanitary products monthly for 30+ years is entirely unfair.

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

I do not know how to respond to this question as I cannot see why this there would be any negative impact on equality. I believe this bill will move us towards equality.

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:

Surely it is plain to see that up to this juncture there has been a disproportionate economic and social negative impact on half the population!

Page 19: General

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

Only that it is shocking that we are living in the 21st century and women are being discriminated against because of a necessary physical bodily function. If this proposal is not successful it will only reinforce the financial inequality that women experience. No sane rational human being would think that there is anything fair about half the population having an additional form of taxation based on their sex and a physical necessity!