

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 If you choose the second or third option, a name is still required, but it will not be published.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

Period poverty is shocking, and the more so in a developed country. This is a matter of human dignity and must not be allowed to happen. To delegate the matter to goodwill, foodbanks and local initiatives is not acceptable. Menstruation is neither embarrassing nor shameful, it is simply biology. To hear that girls and women in our country are not able to manage menstruation because they do not have the money is indeed an indictment of sociopolitical failure. We need to redress this. However - we must also be mindful that this is just one of the many examples that illustrate that we are losing sight of the key parameters of what constitutes a civil society. Once we have this sorted we need to discuss the physical needs of our society in public spaces.

## 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

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 am actually unsure whether to go for unlimited or restricted, based on a generous (universal) needs determination. 'unrestricted' can lead to misuse, a generous limit will protect against misuse without creating a problem at the user end.

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)?

Choice of location really depends on the location - rural villages, cities... Public toilets and pharmacies, and where there are none whatever public and easy to go to place that enables easy access. And why not in supermarket and shops side by side with toiletry products. You pick up your tampon together with your toothpaste, the former with a zero barcode if needs be.

## 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**

Certainly schools. Universities / colleges - less so given age group.

## 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.**  
Sorry - but this almost reads like a 'women only' question ... I hope that is not the case

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**  
This reads awkwardly like a women only question! Surely you are not thinking this topic is a women only topic!

## 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	

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

Not able to comment

## 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?

Not sure

## 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

## Page 19: General

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

As you may have noticed I raised the question of 'gender imbalance' in the case of two questions. From this survey I cannot see how you capture the proportion of male and female respondents. This is a larger issue and I would expect men to be as engaged with a solution of the problem as women, otherwise we are really not addressing the matter of 'equality'. Equality concerns the target of the project as much as the stakeholders at large