

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 If you choose the second or third option, a name is still required, but it will not be published.

Ona Ramsay

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**

Great idea: really puts us at the forefront of women's health and wellbeing

## 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**

Simple, easy to use system

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.**

Easier and less costly to manage

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 toilets!

## 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**

Would begin a healthier view taken of human procreation!

## 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?

Not applicable: I do not need or use sanitary products

**Please explain the reasons for your response**

Of a "certain" age now so no longer need them but I am fully supportive of this Bill.

## 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**

The Government would need to pay for the equipment and product: a usage costing can be done over 3 years at the Universities and Colleges as well as anywhere the equipment is placed. As the Government would be bulk buying (and have the NHS requirements to entice suppliers) I am sure they would get good prices.

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

I believe that the Bill should be for all women: we cannot choose to have Periods; they happen and as such, they are a health issue.

I do understand the cost implication so perhaps by limiting the brands used, this would reduce costs as

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

those women who do not have monetary issues will use their favourite product as opposed to the NHS one if it is not the same.

## 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?

Neutral (neither positive nor negative)

**Please explain the reasons for your response**

No one can complain! Unlike men (who can choose not to shave), we cannot choose not to have periods.

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

Not relevant

## 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:**

In believe that over time this will create a mindset change in our society: it will set a standard for us being a more proactive and socially aware country and as such will be seen as economically sustainable. If the equipment required, and the products used, are bought with the environmental impact to the fore, then it should have a negative environmental impact

## Page 19: General

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

*No Response*