

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 If you choose the second or third option, a name is still required, but it will not be published.

Lee McPherson

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
it just makes sense.

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

It may be embarrassing for someone to produce a card, signaling that they are in a poor financial situation. Perhaps a system that provides more anonymity might be more appropriate. An area where people could dip in and take which ever products they need, without the need of a verifier. More research would be a good idea in my opinion.

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

There is no need for a card scheme

Please explain the reasons for your response.

Those who NEED free sanitary products will be the people who will exercise there right to use this service. My sense is that those who wish to use more premium or branded products will continue to purchase these in the shops. make it available to all.

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 suggested areas. Schools and public toilets could be looked at as well.

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

BUT I believe the obligation should be on the government to provide funding ect. Schools budgets and time is stretched to breaking point. It would be wrong to pass the financial buck on to schools.

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)

Not applicable: I do not need or use sanitary products

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

I am a man.

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

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

Any organisation that provides a new service will incur some cost, in terms of staff time, product and dispensers. Naturally the individuals who use the service will see some reduction in their costs, receiving a product for free which they have always paid for in the past.

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

Use the tax collected specifically from retail sanitary products to partly, or fully fund this service.

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?

Slightly positive

Please explain the reasons for your response

The positive is that all will have access to basic sanitary products regardless of any differences in circumstances. However as long as we live in a market place, then the supply of superior product will always be available to those with greater expendable income. Therefore the impact is only slightly positive.

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

Take small measures re packaging and design, to make the government product caring, sensitive, and practical to women's needs, in the same way shop bought product tries to do.

Allow women to use the service discreetly.

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:

My gut says yes but I would need to spend more time than I have researching this in order to give a better answer.

Page 19: General

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

Be bold. Take this forward.