

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 If you choose the second or third option, a name is still required, but it will not be published.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

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Fully Supportive

**Please explain the reasons for your response**

I fully agree that measures should be taken to end 'period poverty' in Scotland. It is shameful that there are women and girls in an affluent country who cannot afford adequate sanitary care.

## 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**

I think this would be a good way in which to manage this provision.

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

The card should be available to anyone; its use should be restricted (e.g. by limiting the number of products that may be claimed each month)

**Please explain the reasons for your response.**

I think anyone should have a card, to include carers as not everyone who would need this would necessarily be female or identify as female. I do think its use should be restricted, but this restricted level should be set at a high limit to account for individual circumstances.

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)?

locations should be close to the people who need them, so a wide range of settings would ensure this. This should not just include health settings, but also possibly shops and supermarkets.

## 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**

Children should not have to ask staff in schools for access to sanitary products, these should be available in toilets to reduce potential embarrassment. The same would apply to colleges and universities.

## 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?

I would not expect to claim free products

**Please explain the reasons for your response**

While I think free access should be universal, I would choose to continue to pay as I can afford to.

## 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 would not expect that colleges and universities would incur costs, it would be the Scottish Government. I would also expect that manufacturers of sanitary products would incur some of the costs, through reduced profit on these products.

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

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Brokering deals with manufacturers to reduce unit costs of the products.

## 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**

Women would no longer be financially penalised for menstruating.

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

I cannot foresee any negative impact on 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:**

yes, environmentally sustainable products could be more widely used through this Bill.

## Page 19: General

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

*No Response*