

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 If you choose the second or third option, a name is still required, but it will not be published.

Amy Davidson

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 abhorrent, and reflects gross inequality in our society. Sanitary products should be available to all those who cannot afford them (and also not blooming taxed for those who can!!). Women deserve better.

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

I'm not entirely sure of the model to which this refers, I would be against schemes that provide road blocks, or cards that could create stigma but understand there needs to be a mechanism in which to provide this.

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.

If there is to be a card scheme then to prevent stigma or the need to "earn" a right to sanitary products(!) then it should be 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. Plus food banks and grocery stores. Women shouldn't be geographically restricted, and there isn't a need to "medicalise" periods, your doctor doesn't need to be involved, unless you'd like them to 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

Absolutely. I also strongly believe period education should be MUCH better, and compulsory for people who identify as any gender. Even if you will never have a period in your life you should understand the principles.

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.

I'm very lucky in that this hadn't been a personal issue for me

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

I am in a fortunate situation where I can afford sanitary products, so wouldn't want to over burden an infrastructure that many more need more vitally than I do.

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 think between the government and the businesses who sell sanitary wear the costs should be covered. Inflating the costs of products for others who use the products is self defeating and will force more women into period poverty! Plus if prescriptions are free in Scotland, backhandedly pushing the cost of this onto others is ridiculous

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

No Response

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

Girls and women are missing out on days of education, or going without food for sanitary protection. Plus the stress and anxiety surrounding this will be detrimental. Ending period poverty is a gain towards equality as it will enable women to not be faced with this horrendous choice. Women will never be equal whilst they are not in full control of their reproductive systems.

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

There is none.

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:

Because we manage with free prescriptions and free condoms, so why on earth would this be an issue?

Page 19: General

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

I think it's a great idea, I wholeheartedly support the endeavour and hope it succeeds