

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 If you choose the second or third option, a name is still required, but it will not be published.

Sarah Ross
Clerical in a high school in Edinburgh

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 work in a high school in Wdinburgh where we sign up to all free sanitary products from tampax etc so we can supply our pupils through their menstrual cycle. We also buy in profits which comes from our budget. We have a high poverty rate and these products for various reasons are not a priority in their households so school is the only place they can ask for them. We send several pupils home to change their clothes every week as they have leaked on to their clothes through ineffective sanitary products.

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

No one wants the stress or embarrassment of having to ask for products or having to make do with makeshift sanitary protection. No one should feel shame for needing a sanitary towel. A free scheme introduced through school is a great way to get the products to the people who need them.

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.

Everyone should be entitled to these products. It's an natural bodily function. We supply prescriptions in this country for free, sanitary products should be the same.

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 but a school environment where people attend every day is a more comfortable environment to distribute them discreetly.

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

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That should be as easy as possible.

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)

Yes, occasionally

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

These products can be very expensive and raising a family I had money restrictions. When supermarkets started making their own brand products it became much more affordable.

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 now in a position where I can afford my own products but when caught off guard then having them available would be great. It's awful knowing you aren't prepared and may end up with stains on your clothes.

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	

Q8. Taking account of both costs and potential savings, what financial impact would you expect the proposed Bill to have on:

Please explain the reasons for your response

There will be cost as someone has to pay for this but with incentives from suppliers this is money well spent. The time gained back from woman not missing school is worth it.

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

Bulk buying and incentives to suppliers. Monitoring how many we distribute and how often would lead to less waste.

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

Any action that stops people feeling poor and under privileged is worth it and will raise their confidence and make them feel more equal within their environment.

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

Make it available to all to reduce stigma.

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?

Being a teenager is hard, with changes in your body and hormones we should be raising our children up and making them comfortable in their own skin. Giving them sanitary protection will eliminate the shame or

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embarrassment of trying to juggle and manage their period. Another reason to be proud of Scotland leading the way in providing basic health care for our citizens.