

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 If you choose the second or third option, a name is still required, but it will not be published.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

The reasons and explanations given in the consultation seems sensible, well thought out and to serve the best interests of those members of society who could benefit from such legislation.

## 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**

Presumably such a system would enable those who wish to access sanitary products to do so without prejudice whilst reducing the possibility of the system being abused.

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

Other (please specify)

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

A card-based system may be the most realistic approach, particularly when taking costs of providing sanitary products into account. However, it may be that the requirement for a card may put some people off. Would it not be possible to ask for an initial registration process to be established and for this to be updated subsequently at what might be considered reasonable points (e.g. every five years).

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 example indicated seem to be suitable locations.

## 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)?

Unsure

**Please explain the reasons for your response**

If the locations suggested in question 4 were in place is it not reasonable to expect that those requiring sanitary products make the necessary effort to access those products from those locations. There may be a stronger

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)?

case for schools to have some means of provision.

## 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

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
<b>(a) Government and the public sector (e.g. local authorities, the NHS)</b>		X				
<b>(b) Colleges and universities</b>						X
<b>(c) Businesses (including suppliers/retailers of sanitary products)</b>						X
<b>(d) Individuals (including consumers of sanitary products)</b>				X		

### Please explain the reasons for your response

In the case of (a) there will obviously be some increased cost simply because a product which wasn't being supplied at all would become freely available. As to how great the cost would be will be dependent on uptake and level of demand. In the case of (d) there will obviously be a reduction in cost to those people who make use of products which previously required them to pay for the products but who then choose to take some or all of the sanitary products they use for free. In the case of (b), unless there was a requirement for colleges and universities to fund the free provision of sanitary products on their premises (if this is what is being proposed, I am afraid I missed that point) it seems reasonable to think that the financial impact would be broadly cost-

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neutral to the institutions themselves.

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

Presumably it would make sense to carry out some market research to discover the potential level of uptake and ongoing usage of a system that provided free sanitary products.

Would it perhaps make more sense to bring in some form of government subsidy so that all sanitary products were cheaper at the point of sale? This would at least mean that users would be able to choose specific and preferred brands rather than being obliged to take what was available on a free provision basis.

## 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**

I assume the impact would be positive because it would allow those users of sanitary products to be freed from a range of possible worries about accessing those products. Hopefully it would also serve to reduce the stigmatising effect that some people may experience as a consequence of menstruation and the way in which that may affect some people.

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

It will probably be helpful if a clear message that expounds the benefits and fundamental reasons for such legislation is presented to the public so that those who have strong objections may be convinced that they have little or no reason to object to the free provision of sanitary products.

## 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

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

I don't have enough knowledge about how the system would actually operate and how successful it might turn out to be that enables me to make a meaningful prediction as to its ultimate effectiveness and efficiency.

## Page 19: General

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

No