

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 If you choose the second or third option, a name is still required, but it will not be published.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

Sanitary products are a necessity not a luxury to be bought or not. We would never say people should not have their required medications if they need them, neither should pads or tampons . It is part of being female , not a whim or want. Half the population are women, thats a lot of need. When a basic bodily function is made to be a topic not discussed we are denying our gender and we are leaving those without the means to buy pads etc in an awful situation. Let us take control of our bodies without the wretched situation some women and girls are put in.

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

Dont want anyone to be stigmatised, would a card be very obvious to others?

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.

I have chosen the first instance as it would be appalling to distinguish between those who are on low incomes and those not. We either have a free system or it will bring a stigma with it.

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)?

It should definately NOT be doctors surgeries or pharmacies , far too off putting for many young women. It is not a medical issue.
Perhaps dispensers in school and public toilets, and in all public buildings. Easy and above all accessable In fact anywhere that has public toilets, (supermarkets etc) could have these.

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

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)?

Please explain the reasons for your response

All community organisations should be offering this.

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.

As a young girl, being too nervous to ask at the chemist.

Q7. If sanitary products were available for free, which of the following would apply to you?

I would expect to claim free products regularly

Please explain the reasons for your response

I would claim them for my granddaughter as I am her carer and she has Autistic Spectrum Condition.

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 are so many things we pay for out of our taxes but this one is never one of them. The cost should be factored into Government spending on health and wellbeing. This is a biological function just like any other, why are we paying for what are necessities? It is another aspect of good health.

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

Depends what reductions are being considered. Buying as part of a national wellbeing strategy will render bulk savings. Cost efficiencies can be delivered by properly monitored systems of delivery and supply (as supermarkets do).

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

It can only be a positive thing when all females are treated equally regardless. We are not asking for something extra, just a basic need being met. I think it will be a move towards a more civilised country.

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

Presented as a Health and wellbeing package which will include such things as no smoking advice , dietary advice and how to look after your general health.
It should be something which is essential for all people .

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:

Considering the huge sums spent on health campaigns this could be a part of that , with some adjustments. Disproportionate? Well that depends on whether we think half the population are not worth spending on. Equality is more than getting the same pay, the perception of what is deemed equal has to be addressed.

Page 19: General

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

Be bold, do not accept a watered down version of the Bill because that insults all women.