

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 If you choose the second or third option, a name is still required, but it will not be published.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

Unsure

Please explain the reasons for your response

Q1. Which of the following best expresses your view of the proposed Bill?

Girls and women should not be economically disadvantaged because of their ability to reproduce.

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

If this system has been tried and tested and is acceptable to users and suppliers then it makes sense to replicate an existing system.

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.

I think anyone who needs to use this system should be able to. I can afford to pay for sanitary products and am happy to do so. I think women should be able to access as many products as they need but no more. I haven't ticked the obvious box for this response because I still feel a little uncomfortable somehow about stigmatising women by making this a means tested system and there feels something slightly just judgemental about limited the number of products women can access - my periods aren't particularly heavy so wouldn't need to access as many as someone whose periods are a lot heavier. Not sure how this would be regulated without making women feel uncomfortable answering questions about their periods.

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)?

Couldn't they be accessed from shops like everyone else? Would big retailers get on board and support this? Also, think it's very important that women accessing free products get the same choice of sanitary wear as anybody else, not limited to certain products.

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)?

No

Please explain the reasons for your response

I don't think it makes sense to add further financial burden into education.

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

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)						
(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

Not sure if I understand this correctly, but what I mean is , I would imagine the government would pick up the majority of costs. I don't think colleges etc should pick up costs a. I think it would reasonable for companies that make sanitary wear to make a contribution to this scheme.

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

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

No Response

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:

I guess if this scheme was used solely by this who needed it the most and that industry made a contribution to the cost of scheme as part of their social responsibility it might be sustainable.

Page 19: General

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

No Response