

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 If you choose the second or third option, a name is still required, but it will not be published.

Lisa Stewart

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

Please explain the reasons for your response

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

I am very supportive of a statutory provision to ensure free access to sanitary products for all those who need them. I also agree that this should be on an opt-in basis, but hope that this will be rolled out in a dignified and person-centred way.

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 don't know enough about card based systems, but I would be concerned that this might be expensive to set up and that there might be some stigma associated with using it.

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 think the card should be available to anyone, to reduce stigma. I don't think number of products should be limited because I simply can't see how anyone could abuse having extra sanitary products. It should still be on an opt-in basis rather than just given out to everyone. This would mean that people could self refer or perhaps also be given cards by other service providers like GPs, social services.

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 examples listed are sensible places - as widely as possible, basically. Most of us have been caught out needing sanitary products unexpectedly at some point, so pharmacies that are on high streets and many other locations, like Boots, would probably be most useful.

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

This is vital for equality for young women in 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

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

No, because I am fortunate to have adequate disposable income that the cost of sanitary products has not been a barrier for me. However, I have been angry at the cost of products especially in bathrooms where they can cost up to £5 from machines, and at events like music festivals.

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 would not expect to claim them for free because I can afford to buy them. However, who knows, my circumstances might change in the future. I can't take my income or circumstances for granted for the rest of my life and it would be good to know that this provision exists. If there had been free products available in my school or university when I was younger, I might have used them occasionally when I was struggling for money or caught out and in need of products unexpectedly. I remember having to ask the school nurse for products a couple of times. Knowing they were freely available would have been a comfort.

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 don't think that the Scottish government has the power to extract some funding for this from the businesses

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

that profit from the sale of sanitary products, but I wish they did!

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

Page 19: General

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

No Response