

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 If you choose the second or third option, a name is still required, but it will not be published.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

It is an essential for women but perhaps should be means tested

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 do think this would be a good idea but I am not sure about the rules on the current cards. Again I think they should be means tested

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.

If the cards are for one person then I think they should be limited to the average amount of sanitary products required for one person per month. My mother had 3 girls and struggled to pay for herself and 3 girls all of an age to need sanitary products. Are the cards for adults only? What about young women still staying at home?

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)?

I think the locations that are not so overloaded with work at the moment should dispense the free products as GP surgeries for example seemed to be busy enough without adding to their workload.

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 do not agree with this as they would be available to all families whether they have low incomes or not

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, frequently

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

I personally did not but I know my mother did as already indicated she had 3 girls and a boy, she was a single parent although that was a long time ago as I am now 66 but it was hard for her.

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
(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 think there would be some increase in costs to the Government but I also think that sanitary products should cost less. Individuals should pay less or nothing if on benefits or low income. Perhaps the producers of sanitary products could think of cheaper ways of making them. I don't think Colleges and Universities should contribute to costs.

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

I think perhaps they should nationalise the production of sanitary products making sure profits are not being

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made by private companies for necessary products. I also think it is pretty galling that methadone is given out for free and sanitary products which are a necessity are not!!

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?

Neutral (neither positive nor negative)

Please explain the reasons for your response

I am sure there are men who have daughters who would be happy for the bill to go through. If condoms are given out why not sanitary products.

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

Personally I do not see why there should be any negative impact as previously stated. If there is then you should stop the free condoms and methadone - both items probably less needed than sanitary wares!! Females cannot help or stop having periods.

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 do not see why not but I do not have all the facts and figures to make a proper judgement

Page 19: General

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

All as previously made