

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".)

Student (at school, college or university)

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 If you choose the second or third option, a name is still required, but it will not be published.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

I am shocked that the prices for sanitary products, they are far too expensive for something which is a necessity to buy in bulk once a month. This is especially hard on a student budget but I couldn't bear to think what a strain it puts on a single mother with teenage girls for example, or for a homeless woman. It is an outrage that women have to spend so much money every month and men don't, half the population are now at a financial disadvantage.

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

In theory this is the best method but it could be easily abused. Also, what would the criteria be to get a C card? If it's too low a bar it leaves out so many people who deserve it and if it's too high then it should be a universal system.

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

The card should be available to anyone; its use should be restricted (e.g. by limiting the number of products that may be claimed each month)

Please explain the reasons for your response.

It should be available to anyone but obviously there are limited resources so it should be restricted to an above average amount needed each month.

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)?

Places with easy access, like community centres or pharmacies.

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

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Definitely!! In bathrooms in these institutions. The universities certainly have enough money that they can make this available.

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.

My student loan only covers my rent and any money I earn goes towards living costs, so I've often had to ask my parents for extra money to buy sanitary products or stock up on the ones at home if I'm visiting, as my budget doesn't always cover the extra cost.

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

I would expect to claim free products occasionally

Please explain the reasons for your response

I am lucky enough myself I can mostly afford sanitary products but on the rare occasions I can't or I am somewhere where I can't access them I would like to be able to claim them.

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...)				Y		

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

consumers of sanitary products)						
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Please explain the reasons for your response

The government and NHS will obviously have to fund this so there would be a cost increase. Business and universities with enough profit would be okay to provide some. It would definitely be a relative reduction in cost for individuals.

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

Perhaps the council tax, which hasn't been increased since the SNP came into power, could go up as it should have with inflation. This would help fund the Bill.

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 think that the fact that women will be at less of a financial disadvantage than men will be 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?

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No Response