

# 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".)

Politician (MSP/MP/peer/MEP/Councillor)

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 If you choose the second or third option, a name is still required, but it will not be published.

Becky Gillan | MSYP for Hamilton, Larkhall and Stonehouse

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

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

**Please explain the reasons for your response**

At school I have witnessed some of my peers lose their dignity due to period poverty. Some girls who can't afford to buy pads or tampons have to use the same product for a whole day. I am supportive of the bill as our poorest would benefit from free menstrual products in multiple ways.

## 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**

A card based system may work well but I think they should be available to girls without having to fill out any forms or have discussions. Also carrying a card may be embarrassing for many women.

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.**

I believe that anyone who menstruates should have access to free sanitary products as long as they have a sufficient reason to claim them. Even girls from middle income families could find themselves struggling to afford feminine hygiene products in certain circumstances. However I would restrict (within reason) the number of products that could be claimed in order to make sure that the bill is not abused.

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 pupil support in schools should be able to dispense free sanitary products, citizens advice and foodbanks would also be ideal

## 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**

In my schools case, I think free sanitary products in dispensers would be largely abused. Also school budgets are extremely tight already so it may be hard to account for. Instead pupil support/ student advice should have

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)?

a supply that pupils can access with no questions asked.

## 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)

I prefer not to say

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
<b>(a) Government and the public sector (e.g. local authorities, the NHS)</b>			X			
<b>(b) Colleges and universities</b>		X				
<b>(c) Businesses (including suppliers/retailers of sanitary products)</b>			X			
<b>(d) Individuals (including consumers of sanitary products)</b>				X		

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

Hygiene products could be bulk bought and unbranded to cut costs.

## 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**

Women's hygiene products should never be seen as a luxury. Basic hygiene and dignity is not a luxury.

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

The bill needs to remain cost effective

## 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:**

Instead of tampons, girls who regularly use the supply could be offered menstrual cups and reusable cloth pads to reduce economic and environmental cost.

## Page 19: General

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

*No Response*