

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 If you choose the second or third option, a name is still required, but it will not be published.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

Fully Supportive

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

**Please explain the reasons for your response**

I have first hand experience of young girls who have started their periods coming to school and asking for sanitary products because there were not any at home. This child was only able to ask for this because of the good working relationship she had with the staff member she spoke with and it concerned me that had she not felt she could talk about it, she would be having to suffer.

## 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**

This would mean those entitled would be getting what they need and also reduce the risk of this system to be abused.

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 it should be available to anyone - often there are many schemes that are proposed at council and government level that are unreachable by people who really need it because they earn too much money/work too many hours - however they are still struggling. I don't believe you can limit the number that people are entitled to as everyone is different - unless this was going to be a number of products that would exceed the likelihood of them all being used.

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 believe GP surgeries, community centres, health clinics and also schools/colleges would be good locations for these products to be dispensed.

## 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

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)?

**Please explain the reasons for your response**

Particularly schools/colleges where women may be "caught out" on the day.

## 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

**Please explain the reasons for your response**

While I am in the financial situation I am currently in I would not expect to claim free products as I am in the situation to be able to purchase them. (Although I do believe they should be tax free!) However, I know from personal experiences that people's life situations can change dramatically in a short space of time and I think this would lead to being one less thing for people to have to worry about.

## 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	

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

**Please explain the reasons for your response**

The government/local authorities are going to have to pay out in order to put these sanitary products in place. If colleges and universities are putting them in from local authority there should be less cost to them and it should hopefully improve attendance for those who are taking days off due to their periods. Because people may not be buying as many sanitary products, those who are paying may find that suppliers put up to price of the products for sale and I do think there would perhaps need to be work put in here to ensure that those who are not receiving the free sanitary products are not then punished financially. There should be a reduction for some people who are buying the products if they are accessing the free ones, however again it would be concerning that those still paying may need to pay more to support the deficit in sales.

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

**Please explain the reasons for your response**

All women should have access to the correct sanitary products during their period. The proposed Bill should allow for equity for all women who are having their period.

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

Education for all children/young adults on the understanding that these products are for genuine use and that they are not "free" as in the cost taxpayer etc.  
Some form of system to allow men to collect sanitary products for females without scrutiny.

## 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:**

Environmentally this could be a concern for some if they are disposable sanitary products. Economically there may be concerns with whether the funding for such a project would be sustained. Socially I would

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?

fear that at times there are always people out there who will abuse the system however I do not believe this is enough of a reason not to move forward.

## Page 19: General

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

Great idea!