

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 If you choose the second or third option, a name is still required, but it will not be published.

Ms. Fiona Thomas

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**

In line with poverty proofing our schools, and equity for all our children and young people, it is fitting that girls and young women face no barrier to educational or life experiences. That anyone should feel shame or a lack of dignity due to period poverty, concerns me greatly. I am highly supportive of the Bill.

## 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 am not sure if there has to be a system in schools, where girls and young women should just have access.

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

There is no need for a card scheme

**Please explain the reasons for your response.**

I am not sure if there is a need for a card scheme. It is not just another hurdle to access.

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)?

Possibly a range of centres, across a community. Rural and smaller communities need to be as well resourced where possible.

## 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**

To implement a campaign of poverty proofing our schools, and giving equity to our girls and young women, there should be an obligation on the Scottish Local Authorities/ Government to make this happen. This issue has not just arisen.

## 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.**

I am continually struck by the price with v.a.t. as being expensive as is in no way a life choice, one-off or luxury item !

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 earn a professional salary myself and would whole-heartedly support any scheme that benefits girls and young women who require the service whether occasionally or regularly. I am looking for equity of life chances in our society.

## 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**

If directly funded at a government level, would other budgets be affected markedly ? At this stage, I am unsure of the costing implications.

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**

Equality and equity in life chances for all our girls and women. Barriers are removed regardless of who you are, with a particular emphasis on supporting groups that may be classed as vulnerable.

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

It is a concern as a Scottish citizen that there would be a negative impact of the Bill. Therein lies greater issues of discrimination.

## 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:**

It is up to the hard work and determination, foresight and strategic planning of the Scottish Government to make this happen in a sustainable and effective way.

## Page 19: General

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

*No Response*