

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 If you choose the second or third option, a name is still required, but it will not be published.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

I work in a school in an area with multiple deprivations. As such, I feel that the schools or other public institutions need to enable girls of all backgrounds to take care of their menstrual needs safely and timely. Providing free sanitary products is a huge step in that direction. I also feel that raising the profile on this discussion will help de-stigmatize the topic as, no doubt, there are many girls in schools/colleges who would benefit from this bill but feel uncomfortable asking for sanitary products.

## 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 familiar with this. Is it means based? If so, I think it would be more beneficial to make it a universal support. Chances are that girls from more affluent backgrounds will still bring their own rather than take advantage of the system. Sanitary products have become such a lifestyle statement, no doubt there are fashion trends for those who can afford it.

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.**

Finding the golden middle between people exploiting the system and making sure even days with heavy flow are catered for. Of course, if the product is for free, there would be no point in stockpiling it.

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)?

All of the above plus high schools, primary schools, colleges and universities.

## 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)?

Unsure

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**

Provide for free, yes. Not sure whether dispenser is the best option. Who would be responsible for checking, restocking, etc.?

**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?

Not applicable: I do not need or use sanitary products

**Please explain the reasons for your response**

No longer have periods.

**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**

For (c) not so much a question of cost, but maybe loss of income. If more product is sold wholesale or handed

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

out as sample packs, there will be some effect on overall turnover.

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

Unsure. Could the Government approach "sponsors"?

## 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**

It's allowing girls better access to education during their periods by ensuring increased confidence and certainty that they won't run out of products.

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

I am not sure I see a negative impact on the end users. The question of cost needs to be addressed but I would need more information on this.

## 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?

n/a