

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".)

Professional with experience in a relevant subject

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 If you choose the second or third option, a name is still required, but it will not be published.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 think it is good to provide sanitary products in schools for those girls who need them - it is probably more cost effective to provide everyone than to means test, otherwise I would be partially supportive as I do not think many people will use the free products. Most people will, I imagine, prefer to buy their own.

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

N/A

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.

Anyone should be able to claim but have limited access unless they are on a low income. People on higher incomes who need more products could supplement these themselves.

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. Also schools.

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

Dispensers will be emptied by people who don't need them, strewn across the floor and stuck to windows etc for fun. There is also a very high chance of the vending machines being repeatedly vandalised. I support the idea but vending machines in toilets full of teenagers is a terrible idea. I say that as an experienced secondary

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)?

school teacher! Great idea but it needs to be thought through,

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.

They are very expensive and those of us with very heavy periods have to buy lots them. It's difficult to factor this in to a monthly budget.

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 am quite happy to buy my own - I would like to see them sold tax free in shops. I also like a particular brand and would not move from this brand to free and most likely cheaper, alternatives.

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

Businesses should take the financial impact but this is capitalism so that won't happen...

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

Look again at how the products will be installed in schools.

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

Sanitary products should not be unobtainable for anyone in the 21st century.

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

Unsure

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:

Hard to say - especially for environmental impact as sanitary waste makes up such a lot of the waste found on beaches etc. It is interesting to consider an increase in availability may lead to a negative environmental impact. Not a reason for people not to have access to these products but perhaps we need to consider how well people will understand how to dispose of sanitary products safely with minimum impact and whether there are adequate facilities for women to do this?

Page 19: General

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

I like it - I just think it needs to be carefully considered rather than rushed through.