

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 If you choose the second or third option, a name is still required, but it will not be published.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

The discussion of sanitary products and periods is still a taboo issues in class, by providing free products this can attribute to the removal of negative stigma attached to the issue. Many of our pupils are familiar with food banks and know that this is a place where people can access food when in desperate need; where this facility 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?

Yes

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.**

Restricting the card would welcome the negative stigma around products even further. Who is to say that there is a "standard amount" used for sanitary products? Periods change from woman to woman. This is immediately impacting woman who have conditions where they ovulate several times a month. Periods are not a restricted category, they're individualised to a person. No one should experience prejudice for an issue that they have no control of!

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)?

GP surgeries can be isolated, busy places at times where there can be many queues in place. Pharmacies (especially big chains such as Boots) can be a place that is easily accessible to all. An advantage of this is that it is not an intimidating environment (GP surgeries can put many at ease) however having them at pharmacies can be something that people can access in their day to day life, little or no exceptions need to be made to go out of ones way to attend a pharmacy.

## 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**

With so much emphasis on the government's attainment challenge it has to be a necessity to make products

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)?

free; practice what you preach.

## 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.**

I have experienced having no access to sanitary products several times since being a teenager, especially when experiencing irregular periods. Not having access has led to embarrassing and a loss of dignity (Once when I was 12 at school I left marks on a chair as my make shift sanitary towel (I didn't expect my period) was not effective). I cry at the shame and embarrassment now as a 24 year old. No one should experience this.

Q7. If sanitary products were available for free, which of the following would apply to you?

I would expect to claim free products regularly

## 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	

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

Unsure.

## 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

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

## Page 19: General

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

*No Response*