

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 If you choose the second or third option, a name is still required, but it will not be published.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

Fully Supportive

**Please explain the reasons for your response**

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

As a teacher of RSE lessons which cover menstruation and the changes young people experience, both physical and emotional, I feel I understand the need for this 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?

Yes

**Please explain the reasons for your response**

It seems to be a fair and accessible way of providing for those in need.

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.**

I like the idea that applicants may choose to take it up rather than be chosen by other means. If it is available to all it is more equitable.

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 feel that all Health care provision centres should be able to dispense these products.

## 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**

Good practice in most primary schools is to have a supply of products available in case of emergency anyway, but this is often at a cost to the school.

## 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 felt that sanitary products are over-priced and should be free as a healthcare essential but also understand the cost to the taxpayer could be excessive. In times of real need I would have appreciated access to free products when demands on finances were stretched as I lived on benefits for about two years. Sanitary products are absolutely essential in modern society.

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

## 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)						
(d) Individuals (including consumers of sanitary products)					X	

**Please explain the reasons for your response**

Perhaps there would be implications for provision of vending machines and maintenance in places like Universities and Colleges. I can't see the retailers suffering too badly. Money not spent by the consumers could obviously be saved towards something else.

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

Bulk ordering has always cut costs. Broker a deal with manufacturers?

## 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 acknowledges the extent to which society has changed in favour of equality for women and people who menstruate.

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

The system would need to be well-managed to ensure privacy and respect for applicants.

## 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:**

We have to decide if the positive impact is worth the economic cost. Perhaps a trial period would allow that judgement to be made more fairly. There is always a cost in implementing change but the longterm benefits may balance that out.

## Page 19: General

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

Good Luck!