

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 If you choose the second or third option, a name is still required, but it will not be published.

Jennifer McGhee

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?

Partially supportive

Please explain the reasons for your response

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

I believe that introducing this bill will help towards ending the stigma around periods. I think the UK government has made progress towards this by ending the 'tampon' tax. This bill seeks to help Scotland take this further. As a professional working within a primary school environment I feel all pupils should have an increased education into sexual health and the menstrual cycle. In doing so it will help young girls to be more embracing of their body and feel more confident within themselves as we normalise periods. Having easy access to sanitary products will help those in poverty. I support this bill and even the idea of a similar C-card operation system and easy access to free sexual health advice and help.

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

Menstruation is a natural process and is part of sexual health. I think under the banner of sexual health help, and advice should come easy access to sanitary products. I think that within Scotland the C-card system and free condoms works so having access to sanitary products should just be an extension of this.

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.

The NHS is accessible to everyone and everyone's mental cycle is different having unlimited access to sanitary products means a fair and just approach to solving a problem as big as this.

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 think having sanitary products within pharmacies will mean it is easy to access and they are placed within a community

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

I agree that schools should be obliged to make available sanitary products, especially within the primary schools. By doing so it will help normalise periods and help those who take their period at a young age feel

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)?

less embarrassed and it allows schools a greater opportunity to educate pupils from a young age on this.

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?

I would not expect to claim free products

Please explain the reasons for your response

I have been fortunate enough to have completed a degree and have a stable and steady income. This allows me to have enough money each month to purchase sanitary products. I would like the money which I spend on sanitary products to help others who are less able to access these 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)				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)?

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

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

No Response

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?

No Response

Page 19: General

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

No Response