

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 If you choose the second or third option, a name is still required, but it will not be published.

Tamara Rybak

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?

Working in a high school environment, I see first hand how vitally important it is that young girls and their families are supported in this way. No girl should be afraid to sit in a chair in case she bleeds out. No girl should have to suffer the humiliation of marks on her clothing. No girl should have to make excuses to miss out on PE - forgot kit etc resulting in de-merits, referrals or detentions. No girl should feel that it is just easier to stay at home, risking her education, because it's 'that' time of the month and she has no access to suitable or adequate sanitary protection.....and no mother should have to forego food for her family in order for her daughters to have, or have access to, this sanitary protection. I commend the Scottish Government, as it stands, on pushing this issue and am proud to support them in doing so.

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

This would allow girls to purchase their own sanitary protection rather than suffer the further humiliation and indignation of having to join a queue in a Tory-fuelled food bank.

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.

Whilst I am 100% in favour of this scheme, I believe that there is a possibility of it being abused if there was 'unlimited access'. Therefore I believe there should be a degree of restriction to ensure that girls are not being put into a situation where they are pressured into purchasing items for other people. I do, however, feel that the scheme should still be open to all girls as we need to encourage a culture of trust and also because even people who are not on benefits can struggle with day-to-day necessities.

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)?

Pharmacies, otherwise there is a risk of girls feeling embarrassed by having to queue up for free protection. They should also still be allowed choice over the products they use.

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

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

Working in a school environment I see frequent occasions when girls are caught short with their periods and have to be sent home or have their parents come in with towels or tampons. Luckily we have a small supply held in the first aid room which we issue on request.

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 had the odd occasion where my period has started unexpectedly or has been heavier than normal and I have been afraid to sit down. It's not very nice.

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

I would expect to claim free products occasionally

Please explain the reasons for your response

I believe in equity, where everyone should have the same opportunity based on their needs at the time. Where at the moment I do not require to claim, my needs could at some point change.

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				

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

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

Please explain the reasons for your response

No negatives

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

Ensure area of issue is NOT foodbank, community health centre. Make sure menstruation is seen as normal NOT something you have to go to the doctor's for.

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?

No Response