

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".)

Student (at school, college or university)

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 If you choose the second or third option, a name is still required, but it will not be published.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 young female student teacher, I am aware of the financial pressure that paying for sanitary products can have. I am also aware that girls in primary school and early secondary find discussing their period uncomfortable and difficult. I fully support that access to sanitary products should be made easier for these pupils, to ease stress and discourage them from feeling that taking time off school during their period or using unsanitary alternatives such as clothing are their only options.

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?

Unsure

Please explain the reasons for your response

How would the individuals access the card? Can schools issue them or must they be given out by doctors/health visitors? They should be easy to access, explained clearly and not gimmicky.

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 feel that an unlimited supply of sanitary products is unnecessary. However, an adequate supply should be available each month. Could GP's have the authority to increase the amount that individuals are entitled to if required (e.g. girls with health conditions that result in a heavier flow or more than one cycle in one month)?

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)?

Schools, pharmacies, health clinics, GP surgeries.
Link with foodbanks for emergency sanitary products? Emergency referrals from GP's?

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

No child should miss out on their education due to something as small as not having access to a sanitary towel. Having dispensers in toilets is a way to make the products available without having to ask for them.

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.

As a teenager, realising that period has started but no sanitary products in school bag. Only options were to ask around friendship group (intimidating for first few years, especially when in a friendship groups of girls and boys) or pretend to be ill so that I would be sent home. Thought of explaining problem to staff member was too embarrassing.

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 feel that I would only claim products during times of emergency. I am in a financial position that means I can afford sanitary products and feel that there are people with much greater needs than mine. I am happy to pay for them if that means that others have better access.

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		

Please explain the reasons for your response

Sanitary products should not be taxed, could they be subsidised slightly. A profit should not be made on

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

something that is an essential for so many members of the public.

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?

Unsure

Page 19: General

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

No Response