

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 If you choose the second or third option, a name is still required, but it will not be published.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

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

Please explain the reasons for your response

Periods are not a lifestyle choice. They are a bodily function. We support dental health in children, we vaccinate children, we monitor children's nutritional health and we intervene in matters of welfare and protection. So we should look after the physical health of developing girls and support them in practical ways.

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

I think we should be prepared as a society to provide sanitary products for free. However, as a decades long user of a menstrual cup myself, I believe we should look at issuing reusable products to girls along with instruction in how to use them. This would be much much greener than providing pads and tampons, and would be much cheaper to administer as a policy. There are a variety of pads, cups and sponges available on the open market and I think the government should look at these as a better alternative to the card-based system as they would be a one-off issue, that would last for several years per client. I have to say, I'm always surprised that no-one else ever seems to even think of this as a possible solution....

Q3. Which of the following best expresses your view in relation to a card-based system?

There is no need for a card scheme

Please explain the reasons for your response.

See my previous response in which I offer a cheaper product with lower administration and running costs.

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 if my suggestions were followed, you could make products available at GP surgeries. Each client would only need one 'prescription' potentially lasting several years, so it would be easy to administer from any of these, but simpler if just one agency had a record of who had received their free product.

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)?

Unsure

Please explain the reasons for your response

If you follow my suggestions (see previous questions) there is no need for on-going dispensing, and therefore

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)?

no need to have dispensers dishing out endless products. Save money, save the environment and keep the whole system/infrastructure as simple as possible.

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

Please explain or give an example of your experience if you feel able to do so.

For 20 years I have used a mooncup. Over time I have got through 2 of them (I lost my first one when I lost luggage travelling). Each cup cost about £17 and lasts for years. I cannot believe people are still using disposable sanitary products when the range of reuseables is now so good. You never run out of towels or tampax if you don't need them....it's very simple!

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

Please explain the reasons for your response

I already have a mooncup (plus a spare). So I don't need disposable products. If I did, I would expect to get them free if anyone else did. But I wouldn't actually claim them, as I wouldn't use something that will end up in landfill.

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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Please explain the reasons for your response

It would cost £20-£25 per head to provide reuseables as a one-off package per client. I'd imagine this would have to be met by local authorities, but if you go with my reuseables idea, then it's a fully predictable cost.

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

Yes, by issuing reuseables ie cups, towels, sponges etc.

How many times can I say it?

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?

Neutral (neither positive nor negative)

Please explain the reasons for your response

It's not really a big deal. Most women have periods and we all deal with it as we are. I can't see what this even has to do with equality but everything to do with health. Infertility treatment is provided on the NHS, gender reassignment is provided on the NHS, maternity treatment is covered on the NHS and none of those things apply to everyone. Is anyone going to be ridiculous enough to suggest that it's not fair because it's only applicable to girls? Come on!

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

What could be negative about providing an essential health item? Apart from the cost, which I have already addressed with my reuseables suggestion.

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:

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?

Try it and see. You can't always predict how things will work out, but you can do what is right now.

Page 19: General

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

I think I've said it all. Please read previous comments carefully!