

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 If you choose the second or third option, a name is still required, but it will not be published.

David Williams

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

All young female students should have free access to essential hygiene products similar to toilet paper, soap and paper towels as a right as expressed in Article 24 of the UNCRC.

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 this maybe appropriate for students as they reach an age where personal responsibility is encouraged and developed but children below this age, as young as 9 or 10, should have an easier means to access to sanitary products.

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

Other (please specify)

Please explain the reasons for your response.

Primary Age: Free to access High School: Card with certain amount free regardless of income that can be topped up either privately, subsidised or free based on income. I also believe that this card could still exist in colleges, universities and other educational establishment on the same principals as the High School.

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 and all of the examples given.

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)?

No

Please explain the reasons for your response

I don't think there should be a specific obligation on individual public establishments to implement this directive. This should be a celebrated achievement of an excellent parliamentary bill, financed by the Government mandating that all local authorities must establish a universal system for accessing sanitary products within 6 months/1 year or the bill being passed.

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)

Not applicable: I do not need or use sanitary products

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

Male

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

Male

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

The increase in cost for local authorities would be off-set by the power to negotiate the best prices for products than private individuals would have which would lower their costs. The savings for individuals would then be mostly spent on other areas of the national economy making our country. The cost of inaction would be far greater as it would indicate that Scotland was not empathetic to the needs of females

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

and young girls, not complying with Article 24 of the UNCRC and didn't prioritise health and well-being as directed through our own Scottish Curriculum.

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

Any profits from the card based system could off-set the costs of the free products.

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

I cannot imagine anyone opposing this legislation. Any modern, developed nation should be considering legislation like this that can only impact positively on its citizens.

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

Costs: Another way money could be saved would be through cutting free school meals for all pupils to P3. If this was changed to a needs based system, perhaps then children from the wealthiest backgrounds would supplement the poorest pupils. I would rather expand the net of pupils considered for free school meals and cut free school meals for all P1-3 pupils. Some of our wealthiest families are not paying for meals whilst some of our poorest older pupils are eating undesirable packed lunches. A targeted scheme may just reduce costs that can be re-distributed to this proposed bill.

Waste: Some children may abuse this system and waste products. Education is key to ensure this doesn't happen, normal disciplinary procedures, improved service models, etc.

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

Please explain the reasons for your response:

I think it needs to succeed and it would be a monstrous decision to oppose it/reverse it once passed.

Page 19: General

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

No Response