

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 If you choose the second or third option, a name is still required, but it will not be published.

Deborah Mooney

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?

Sanitary products are necessary not only for the dignity of those who use them, but also for their health - if they cannot afford to buy sanitary products then they may resort to other methods which can increase the risk of TSS. People who have periods do not choose to do so, it's a natural biological occurrence and should be treated as such.

## 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 there is still a lot of stigma surrounding periods and this needs to be tackled or people who require sanitary products may still be put off going to get them.

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.**

Children also need to be taken into consideration as people as young as 10 can have periods and so this would make it difficult to give it to only those on low incomes etc. As someone in a position of relative privilege, I would still be happy to pay for mine or through buying my own, help contribute to paying for others'.

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 all of the suggested venues above, plus maybe also a drop in at libraries as they are somewhere everyone can easily access.  
I think many venues would be suitable as long as dispensation is relatively discreet.

## 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**

Being caught out by your period is no fun at the best of times, but particularly at a young age this can be more likely to happen. Equally, if you have a busy day of classes at college/Uni, it would not be ideal for students to

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have to miss a class because they don't have sanitary products on their person.

## 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

## 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

**Please explain the reasons for your response**

I believe this programme could reduce the stigma surrounding periods if they are readily available for almost anyone to access, including trans women who may not have fully transitioned.

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

By making sure that the products are available in places which all people in society will be able to access.

## 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*