

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 If you choose the second or third option, a name is still required, but it will not be published.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

You can get free condoms on the NHS and they are NOT NECESSARY. They are not considered a "luxury

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

item" despite being only one of a number of methods of birth control. Periods are, however, an unavoidable aspect of female life. From the ages of 10,11 to the ages of 35, 40... each month (at least) women will menstruate. It is unavoidable and there is no way around it. for homeless women or women with limited expendable income, periods can be embarrassing and incredibly stressful.

## 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**

Don't know what that is

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

The card should be available only to those on low incomes or in receipt of benefits; card-holders should have unlimited access to free sanitary products

**Please explain the reasons for your response.**

It's highly unlikely that tampons would become fully available to any who needed them (although this should be the case in an ideal world). I don't expect the budget for a bill like this would allow that, and so realistically I would wish that women who needed it most got it. I am so privileged to be able to afford tampons, but not many people are. I can afford to buy tampons to last me my whole period - which sometimes lasts 2 weeks. Women in low incomes cannot

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 the service should be easily reached and simple to use. There should be no shame and taboo around this. I would suggest pharmacies, Boots the Chemist.

## 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**

Students and, in particular, high schoolers deserve and need this service. Teenagers usually have to rely on their parents income and their parents support also. For teenagers with single parents - single male parents - periods may be a taboo subject. Secondly, a parent's income does not necessarily mean that income is spent

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)?

on the child. In terms of welfare this would be an essential service for many.

## 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 prefer not to say

**Please explain the reasons for your response**

I would feel better knowing that if I was in a situation where I needed support, this access would be available.

## 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**

If the NHS can afford condoms finding money for tampons should be easy.

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

Reducing budget for free condoms

## 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?

There are no negatives. Unless you count an uproar from 5 men on twitter because they feel oppressed, but to be honest that's still not a negative to me.

## 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:**

It should have happened decades ago.

## Page 19: General

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

Do it please.