

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 If you choose the second or third option, a name is still required, but it will not be published.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

Please explain the reasons for your response

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

I believe that people of any social status and salary should be allowed access to sanitary products. It's an outrage that homeless menstruating people must choose between food and basic sanitation needs, And I for one believe we should all have access. It is not a choice to menstruate, but it is the governments choice to tax us more for "pink" pain pills, to capitalise on our period products, and in general ignore our demands for equal access to basic sanitation.

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

As a bisexual woman, I can walk into any sexual health clinic and get free condoms. If this was the same basis with sanitary products, "no questions asked," I'd be happy with this. Perhaps I do not know enough about the c system or what it entails, but when freshers week at uni can go around throwing out free condoms I see no reason why we can't use the same attitude towards free menstrual care.

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.

We have sex, we need condoms. We bleed (unwillingly) we need sanitary products. People still BUY condoms, people will still BUY menstrual products.

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 anywhere that offers sex education should have them. Schools, unis, free clinics, all of the above.

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

Keep your paid machines and have a free supply on offer!

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.

Due to medical reasons ive not had a period for 5 years. I still carry pads and tampons with me, because the number of people who have asked me in public if I have a sanitary towel or something is too high to ignore. We shouldn't have to rely on each other, we should have access

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

Im sure theres plenty people like me who want them for everyone and not just myself...

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

I think people still want to be prepared so will be in charge of their own supply. I hope/imagine this is a back up/safety option, for those who can't afford or have access to sanitary products.

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

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Remove the pink tax on sanitary items. It's 2017 how is that still a thing

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

How can it have any other impact?? In the same way that access to condoms has reduced the aids outbreak and allows people to express themselves sexually, this will allow people to go about their lives with a little more dignity. People on a budget, trans people, people from religions where they view menstruation as dirty, these people will all be able to live more comfortably. I cannot see downsides. You're all gonna raise our taxes anyway, might as well be for equal access to sanitary products. I don't mind paying more for someone worse off than me to feel human

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

Education x 10. Dont separate classes to find out about puberty. Everyone should know what everyone else has to go through and how they can help

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:

Environmental issues do concern me, As I believe if I did menstruate I use a diva cup to prevent pollution. I'm not sure of a way around that yet about from education about all the options, but a diva cup to each person is not financially viable...

Page 19: General

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

No Response