

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 If you choose the second or third option, a name is still required, but it will not be published.

Zoe Hubbard

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**

Having been in a position of having to shoplift in order to get sanitary protection in my younger day, period poverty is a real thing and must be addressed and this conversation needs to be had

## 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?

Yes

**Please explain the reasons for your response**

Although, I'm not entirely sure of the benefit of a card system. Is it to gauge the numbers of people who are engaging with the service? It still also means that the person requiring the sanitary protection has to go in and ask....difficult if a man is the first person they come in contact with. Free vending machine?

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; 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.**

But those on low incomes already receive a card for engaging with NHS services, perhaps it should just come under this umbrella rather than having to administer another system

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)?

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**

In my younger day was when I especially found I had no money for sanitary products so this should be essential for schools/unis/colleges

## 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)

Yes, occasionally

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

Not now as I use a moon cup but in my younger days as a student I often shoplifted or had to scrounge money off friends/families just for these things. It has certainly never felt like a 'luxury' product!!! But that's a separate issue

Q7. If sanitary products were available for free, which of the following would apply to you?

I would not expect to claim free products

**Please explain the reasons for your response**

I use a moon cup and also am in more a stable financial position in this time of my life.

## 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)?

Bringing back a small prescription charge could raise funds

## 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**

Women in society would feel more supported

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

I cannot see a negative, young women shouldn't have to stuff their pants with tissue or not leave the house for days because they can't afford sanitary protection. Ridiculous in 2017 that this is even a thing

## 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:**

MOON CUPS!!!! No landfill, one of these can last from 5 to 10 years if carefully looked after by the user. A one off cost. I bought one from ebay for £3 a year ago. Compare this to £2 per month for towels. £3 over 12 months Vs £24 over 12 months MOON CUPS ARE THE WAY FORWARD

## Page 19: General

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

Mooncups