

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 If you choose the second or third option, a name is still required, but it will not be published.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

Partially supportive

Please explain the reasons for your response

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

It sounds great just need more details!

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'm not sure how easy it would be.

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.

everyone who menstruates, regardless of income, should have an equal right to sanitary products. Limited because I don't think it would work if it was unlimited as it would be expensive and hard to coordinate.

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)?

Any public building should have them available but apart from that maybe surgeries and pharmacies. Shops etc should be encouraged to provide them as well.

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

People at school may be financially dependant on guardians' income and may be denied either through parents' choice, relationship or economic situation the access to products. Even if you are not financially dependant on a guardian, most young people do not earn a lot and so they are particularly vulnerable. Everyone has a right to education and getting your period and having no sanitary products may hinder your access to education

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.

Shops around me don't open until later in the morning when I am already at school and so if I don't have a supply ready I can't access pads until later on. When I was younger around 10/11 I didn't really have extra money on me when I was at school and most of my friends didn't have pads as they hadn't started their periods yet and so if I started during the day I'd find it very hard to find pads.

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

I would expect to claim free products occasionally

Please explain the reasons for your response

I feel that it is not sustainable for everyone to always claim free products and seeing as I have the money to buy the products I would mostly buy them. I also like specific brands and types and I feel that I would only really use the free ones when my period comes unexpectedly or my own pad supply has run out or I needed to save some money. In some packs you only get 12 pads which, considering you are supposed to change them every couple of hours depending on your flow and also that some people have periods for 7 days, it is obvious that you are going to need more than 1 pack which can quickly become expensive so I would maybe use a bit of both.

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

A) products cost money and many people would use them B) C) Businesses could easily provide pads just as

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

they buy toilet role and they would not be used that much. People may also want to shop there because of the access to pads and also the stand the business has taken. I think sanitary product retailers might find a reduction in individuals buying (though not as much as you would think) but they would also gain money from NHS etc buying them in larger numbers. D) Depends how much you used this option - the price of individual pads might go up due to less demand

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

Challenge the prices sanitary products are set at as they are extortionate and exploit the fact that they are essential

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

Periods are a normal thing that half the population go through. This would not only bring down stigma but also improve access to products for people from all religions races backgrounds and incomes. itJust because this bill is unprecedented does not mean that it isn't necessary and it challenges our society

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

An overall campaign on periods in general as many may see it as unfair that women get access to these products for free.

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:

If it is done sensibly and slowly, coupled with change in attitudes to periods in society

Page 19: General

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

No Response