

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 If you choose the second or third option, a name is still required, but it will not be published.

Laura Moore

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

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'd rather sanitary products were available without the stigma of having to produce a card. However I am aware that if the service was not monitored that it could be abused by people who don't need free sanitary products.

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

There is no need for a card scheme

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)?

In an ideal world they would be available in every public bathroom.

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

I agree implicitly. If a student was to cut their finger they would be given a dressing to stem the blood therefore it only makes sense that women should be given sanitary products for menstrual blood. After all it is a natural bodily function in which a woman has no control over. My first period started at school and I was so frightened and embarrassed that I did not ask anyone for a pad. I was so in shock that I used toilet tissue instead.

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

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

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 would only use this service if I was financially unable to access sanitary products or if I was caught unprepared in a public bathroom.

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)?

If sanitary products were tax exempt it would help a great deal. They are not a luxury they are a necessity. Also there may be reduced instances in toxic shock syndrome in tampon users as they may be less likely to use too high an absorbency tampon to get longer leak protection. This would lead to less hospital admissions of something which can be fatal. Also availability of reusable menstrual products such as cups and cloth pads could reduce cost and environmental damage. But these products are not for all women as they may not have the facilities to wash and care for them, such as homeless women. There should be a choice.

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

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?

Women would feel much more liberated and better equipped to live a shame free life. I believe if cis men had periods society would be more accepting of menstruation, there would be no taboo. Also young women would be more likely to attend school and not have the worry of no menstrual products. No woman should be denied access to something they need.

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

I don't see any negative connotations.

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

Page 19: General

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

I wholeheartedly hope that the proposal comes to fruition even if it's only on a trial basis. As a former Food bank volunteer I know how poverty destroys people's lives, through no fault of her own a woman can lose her job and face the decision of buying cheap pads which she will try to make last longer by putting toilet paper on them, or buying her children food. It's a disgrace in this day and age as I type this on an iPhone while someone else struggles in a life of poverty. It's just not right that there is such an ill divided world. And finally I would just like to say that a woman in poverty may starve herself so that her children may eat but she cannot stop her body from functioning the way God intended unless she takes birth control which she should have to.