

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 If you choose the second or third option, a name is still required, but it will not be published.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

No girl or woman should be without proper, hygienic sanitary products for lack of money.

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?

No

Please explain the reasons for your response

Younger girls may be embarrassed to do this

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

The card should be available to anyone; card-holders should have unlimited access to free sanitary products

Please explain the reasons for your response.

If everyone has access to free sanitary products it relieves the stigma. No limits should be put on products as periods are unpredictable not just in younger girls but also older women e.g. Following childbirth, approaching menopause. Some people have frequent periods every two weeks, some have bleeding between periods, some have exceptionally heavy periods and some have periods that last for three weeks. Some will experience all this in a menstrual lifetime.

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)?

Pharmacies best but also schools, community centres etc

Schools could have a free vending machine with tokens or the card

GPs ok but suggests periods are an illness or medical condition

Public toilets - free vending machines as 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

Periods can start unexpectedly at any time - or you can forget to take spare pads or you can need more. no

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)?

school girl or young woman should be without

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.

When I was a young girl, one of seven daughters, my mum struggled to buy sanitary products for us all. I often had to use strips of cloth (which had to be washed and reused) or toilet paper or make towels last longer than they should. It was humiliating, embarrassing and never properly effective or hygienic. I hate to think that any young girl or woman has to do the same. This is still a painful memory for me and I'm now fifty. I have two daughters and the sanitary towel drawer is always full of products for them.

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 might get them occasionally depending on my income at the time

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					✓	

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

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

No Response

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

Supporting women - and therefore society as a whole - in this way shows maturity, equality, responsibility and understanding - all qualities any good government should possess.

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

By showing its impact on society as a whole. Any thing that affects women and young girls and reduces their financial stress in providing for what is a basic biological function whilst improving their personal care also affects the wider family and society in a positive way. Those at the sharp end of this, in lower income families, young girls and students are particularly in need of this support.

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 public toilets can be provided with toilet paper this is merely an extension of this. If necessary raise taxes to absorb the cost. We have successfully implemented free prescriptions and the cost of this will be far less. Businesses - also have a part to play in this provision

Page 19: General

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

Good luck - we must end period poverty. And when we do the benefits will be more far reaching than you realise.

Foodbanks are also a national disgrace that must come to an end. Scotland should lead in this regard.