

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 If you choose the second or third option, a name is still required, but it will not be published.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

Fully Supportive

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

Please explain the reasons for your response

Periods are a natural part of life and it is unfair that some people struggle to afford sanitary products, especially when they are necessities.

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

I think that for many people, a confidential way of receiving sanitary products would be good because some people may find it embarrassing to ask for them.

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.

There should not be restrictions as everyone's needs/bodies are different so will require varying amounts of products. It should be open to everyone, as condoms are available to all incomes, as people are not required to take free products if they do not need them, however, they have to option if they ever need access to them.

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, community centres, health clinics and education centres would be good places to have sanitary products as it means that everyone who needs them could have access to them. Having them in only one location may not be helpful as sanitary products may be required quickly so the person can carry on with their day.

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

Teenagers menstruate too, so there should definitely be free sanitary products available in schools, colleges and universities, particularly because not all children/teenagers have their own income to buy sanitary products

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)?

without asking their family to buy them.

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 lived with my parents, at times I would have to wait until they got paid and had to ask my friends if they could give me some sanitary products. At the moment it can be a struggle some months as my student loan has to go to accommodation and food before sanitary products and there is not always enough money left over to buy sanitary products.

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

For the majority of the time, I can afford to buy sanitary products, however there are some months when I do struggle and it would be helpful to know that if I needed them, I could receive free products.

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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Please explain the reasons for your response

I think that it may have a small increase in cost for the government, but as periods are taboo subjects, I think that only people who genuinely need help buying sanitary products would take the free ones provided.

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

Have the option for reusable menstrual products such as menstrual cups and reusable pads. While they may have more of an upfront cost, in the long run it would be cheaper to give one person a menstrual cup than disposable products every month.

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

It will allow all people who menstruate, as it is not just women, to deal with a natural process in a dignified way, allowing menstruating people to realise that their voices are being heard by the government.

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

Make it clear that it is not just for women, it is for all menstruating people.

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

Page 19: General

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

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No Response