

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 If you choose the second or third option, a name is still required, but it will not be published.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

Everyone should be entitled to access sanitary products. It is unfair for some young people to be missing out on education because they can't leave home during their period as they have no access to sanitary products or they can't be as hygienic as they want to be during this time. This bill includes everyone and will see everyone as equals and that is important.

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

I think sanitary products are different to condoms. People use the C-Card service by choice, but when it comes to sanitary products and you can't afford to buy them then it wouldn't be a choice. If people are embarrassed to go in and get their sanitary products, they wouldn't actually have a choice in the matter. A subscription that comes to their house would maybe work efficiently, or an app on their phones where they can request different sanitary products. These options would also channel the nervousness and the embarrassment some individuals may have.

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.

This is about equality. Everyone should be given the option to use the service as those who are on low incomes could feel singled out and this could be an opportunity for discrimination, stigma and embarrassment to use the service.

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)?

Supermarkets. If they have one of the cards with them then they could use the card like a discount card.

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

Everyone is entitled to access these for free. This will decrease any stigma around periods. Not everyone will

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)?

carry these products around with them, so having access to these in schools, colleges and universities would be beneficial.

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 younger and in school, I had irregular periods and didn't always know when my period was due or when it was going to come so I didn't actually carry sanitary products with me all the time, so I had to ask friends. This gave me a sense of shame and embarrassment which could have been avoided if there was access to them.

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

The circumstances I am in just now I would not need to use the service. However, I do believe it should be open to everyone as if we only allow one group to access the service then this would open opportunity for discrimination, stigma and bullying. Circumstances could change for some people also, so I think this service needs to be easily accessible.

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)			X			

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

sanitary products)						
(d) Individuals (including consumers of sanitary products)	X					

Please explain the reasons for your response

I think because there are so many people living in period poverty it would cost the Government and private sector an increase in cost. People who are consumers of the products, if this bill was to come in to play then the products consumers do pay for will increase as they would need to make money back somehow.

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

Limiting the about people would need.
Limiting how often people can come in and get the sanitary products.

The card scheme may not be the most efficient way for limiting both these aspects as you couldn't keep count for how often people are using the service. Maybe sending cards out to households who request them would work better or sending sanitary products to households once a month could help decrease costs also.

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

If everyone has access to the sanitary products scheme, then it can't have a negative impact. Although a certain group is being targeted by this scheme. it is being opened to everyone.

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

No Response

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

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?

Please explain the reasons for your response:

The economy, social surroundings and environment is constantly changing, so this scheme would have to move with the times as well. So something that works just now may not work in the future, so it would constantly be evolving as other people will have opinions.

Page 19: General

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

No Response