

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 If you choose the second or third option, a name is still required, but it will not be published.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

## 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

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)

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)?

Anywhere free condoms are issued eg pharmacy, gp surgery, student accommodation

## 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

## 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)

No

**Please explain or give an example of your experience if you feel able to do so.**

I'm lucky to have been able to afford sanitary products however I can't imagine how difficult it is for people who can't. As menstruation happens to all women there should definitely be free sanitary products available to relieve any unnecessary stress in relation to affording 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**

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

I would only claim in an emergency from machines in public toilets as I am able to afford sanitary products and have a moon cup which I believe to be a good resolution to the sanitary product issue as it can last for years.

## 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)?

*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**

Sex is a protected characteristic and therefore as all females menstruate the proposed bill would be extremely positive. This would treat all as equals as women NEED sanitary products and it is not a luxury item. In relation to those in poverty who may not be able to afford food etc, as upsetting as this is, free sanitary products are essential as all women should be able to have a period without facing humiliation, worry and/or the risk of infection from unsanitary products used instead of tampons etc.

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

**Please explain the reasons for your response:**

Menstruation cups would be a more efficient way of dealing with the period poverty problem as although not everyone would like to use this product, it is better for the environment and more cost effective in the long run. If everyone were allowed to claim one every few years I believe this would stop people from potentially abusing the proposed bill and taking too much, and would be overall an effective way to provide those in need with free sanitary products. If the person has access to clean water the menstruation cup would be beneficial and hygienic and runs little risk of TSS if left in for an extended period of time. Overall I believe this product would be a great way to introduce the proposed bill as people in poverty in general may be on the streets and find it hard to change the cup as regularly as a tampon would need changed. This would not necessarily impact the sanitary quality of the product as long as the user could access a toilet once a day.

## Page 19: General

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

*No Response*