

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 If you choose the second or third option, a name is still required, but it will not be published.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

Partially opposed

**Please explain the reasons for your response**

Would be against randomly distributing disposable sanpro and instead providing all women who present at

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

their GP a mooncup and/or a set of washable cloth sanitary towels. Also worth looking into Thinx pants. Disposable sanpro are awful for the planet, and I don't think they are optimal for women's health either. Especially at school, encourage girls to think eco-friendly.

## 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**

Yes, though I'd really rather see eco options pushed first - will prevent women having to keep returning - cloth sanpro lasts for many many years (forever?!) as does the MoonCup. I'd be more supportive of new mums getting postpartum pads.

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

The card should be available only to those on low incomes or in receipt of benefits; its use should be restricted (e.g. by limiting the number of products that may be claimed each month)

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

Not available to all - better use of funds - e.g. NHS. Available to those who otherwise can't manage. Though when I was young, my mother used cut up rags and washed them - I thought this was entirely reasonable, and nothing to do with being poor.

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)?

GP via nurse. (not to take up GP time)

## 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)?

No

**Please explain the reasons for your response**

Via school nurse. I think this scheme is otherwise going to cost a lot of money, people taking them when they can afford them. Also really want to see cloth sanpro encouraged.

## 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.**

As a teen, we were poor. I sometimes used scrunched up toilet paper.

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 use cloth sanpro now - no need ever to buy anything again. I have seven years or so left til the menopause. One investment several years ago and I've saved a fortune.

## 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	

**Please explain the reasons for your response**

Govt will have to supply = costs Suppliers will lose money unless they are the chosen provider. Individuals will save money by not having to pay for them themselves. Many most likely can afford their own.

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

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Cloth sanpro, Mooncups, Thinx pants. All cost-effective in the long-term and better for women's health and the planet.

Encourage women to not eat meat or dairy - = improvement in periods (less heavy, shorter, less odour)

## 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?

Slightly positive

**Please explain the reasons for your response**

It's unfair women have this extra cost, though I feel it is such a small cost as an individual it doesn't really make a huge dent in my finances. Definitely should not be taxed.

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

?

## 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:**

If it doesn't encourage women to use reusable options, we are going to keep on paying out. If it does, then yes - we can do it sustainably.

## Page 19: General

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

no