

# 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 am content for this response to be attributed to me or my organisation

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 If you choose the second or third option, a name is still required, but it will not be published.

Hannah Herbert

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?

It is outrageous that people who need sanitary products are unable to access them, for whatever reason, and therefore suffer more than one usually does during menstruation. It is matter of basic public health and thus the gov. should do all they can to help address this issue.

## 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 it would be effective but I am wary of how people would find out about the system and then how they would sign up. For example, it would be easy to publicise and get people to sign up in schools, shelters, etc, but perhaps homeless people living on the streets may not be fully aware of the system.

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.**

I think this scheme should be available to anyone as hygiene and safety is a basic human right.

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)?

I think it is important to have free sanitary products in schools as normalising periods at a young age is vital in order to loose the stigma the topic currently has.

I think it is also important that locations are conveniently placed so that people do not have to go out of their way to get sanitary products. This means having many locations, but also in places where people are spending time anyway - work places, schools, pharmacies on high streets, etc

## 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**

Normalising periods is essential in order to loose the stigma. If young people know that they can access products for free at school/college it eases the worry of affordability, where to get products, or simply being able to go to the toilets without stuffing a tampon up your sleeve. For young people who perhaps feel

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)?

uncomfortable about discussing sanitary products at home it also will help alleviate this worry.

## 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.**

I have not struggled financially, but I've been caught off guard in public places and found no dispenser was available.

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 would not claim as I am in a position where I can afford 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 consumers of sanitary products)				X		

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

**Please explain the reasons for your response**

There would clearly be an increased cost to those providing free products, but the benefit to health and well being is, I believe, worth it.

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?

Neutral (neither positive nor negative)

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:**

There would be an environmental impact given an increase in use of sanitary products means more waste from packaging, the product itself, etc. Whilst health and well-being is perhaps the more important issue, I think it should be considered how sanitary products can be used and disposed of more in a more environmentally friendly way. This is obviously a wider issue than period poverty.

## Page 19: General

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

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

*No Response*