

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 If you choose the second or third option, a name is still required, but it will not be published.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

Fully Supportive

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

**Please explain the reasons for your response**

NO WOMAN SHOULD EVER HAVE TO SUFFER INDIGNITY OF BEING UNABLE TO CONTAIN HER BLEEDING DUE TO BEING UNABLE TO AFFORD MENSTRUAL PRODUCTS. NO WOMAN SHOULD EVER HAVE HER FREEDOM RESTRICTED OR HER ACCESS TO EDUCATION OR ABILITY TO GO ABOUT HER DAY TO DAY LIFE RESTRICTED DUE TO BEING UNABLE TO AFFORD MENSTRUAL PRODUCTS.

## 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?

Unsure

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.**

MENSTRUAL PRODUCTS ARE EXPENSIVE AND IF UNLIMITED PRODUCTS ARE MADE AVAILABLE THE BENEFIT IS OPEN TO ABUSE

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)?

ALL OF THE ABOVE. ALSO, FOOD BANKS

## 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**

SCHOOL CHILDREN CAN'T CLAIM BENEFITS. UNFORTUNATELY, SOME PARENTS MAY NOT HAVE THE WHEREWITHAL TO EDUCATE THEIR CHILDREN ON USING OR OBTAINING MENSTRUAL PRODUCTS, OR EVEN PROVIDE THEIR CHILDREN WITH THEM. SCHOOL CHILDREN SHOULD NOT MISS OUT ON EARLY EDUCATION DUE TO FACT THEY MAY NOT BE ABLE TO ACCESS MENSTRUAL PRODUCTS. THOSE IN FULL TIME EDUCATION SHOULD ALSO HAVE ACCESS TO FREE MENSTRUAL PRODUCTS

## 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

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 CAN AFFORD TO BUY MY OWN, BUT WOULD HAPPILY PAY FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN, THE HOMELESS AND WOMEN ON LOW INCOMES TO HAVE FREE PRODUCTS TO ENSURE THEIR ABILITY TO CONTINUE EDUCATION AND HAVE BASIC FREEDOM TO GO ABOUT THEIR DAY TO DAY LIVES.

## 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**

UNLESS BUSINESSES ARE PREPARED TO FUND THIS, THE COST WILL FALL ON TAX PAYERS ONE WAY OR ANOTHER EVENTUALLY

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**

OBVIOUSLY PERIOD POVERTY ONLY APPLIES TO WOMEN AND GIRLS SO ENSURING THEY HAVE ACCESS TO AN ESSENTIAL PRODUCT, ESSENTIAL FOR DIGNITY AND FREEDOM, WILL HAVE A POSITIVE IMPACT ON EQUALITY BY ENSURING THEY AREN'T LIMITED IN THEIR ABILITY TO GO TO SCHOOL, WORK OR EVEN LEAVE THE HOUSE

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?

Yes

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

WHATEVER THE COST IT IS WORTH IT FOR BASIC DIGNITY AND FREEDOM OF ALL WOMEN AND GIRLS

## Page 19: General

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

*No Response*