

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 If you choose the second or third option, a name is still required, but it will not be published.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

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

**Please explain the reasons for your response**

Menstruation is as natural and inconvenient as any other bodily function. We provide toilet paper for other functions but periods seem to remain an expensive anomaly that is not accounted for.

## 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**

Makes sense. As long as it was ensured that the system was easy to use, or it wouldn't be accessed by those who need it most (low socioeconomic/ education background)

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)

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

If you were caught short you could still use it this way. But those on lower incomes should get access to more.

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)?

Schools/ universities. Pharmacies and community centres would also be good

## 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**

Places of education should cater to all needs and backgrounds. This would be useful in schools in particular, where girls are just starting their periods and may not be prepared.

## 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.**

They are really expensive!! I'm a student and towards the end of the month money is really tight. Tampons in particular are ridiculously expensive despite being an essential sanitary item. When I was a teenager I would also be very embarrassed by buying 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**

I wouldn't want to burden the service when there would likely be those who need it more. But I would greatly benefit from not having to pay for sanitary products at certain times (when money is low).

## 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**

I imagine this would be quite expensive to do in any significant way. Not sure what is meant by businesses costs.

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

Not using the most expensive products- although if you use the big cheap old fashioned pads, and cardboard tampons people probably won't want to use it.

## 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**

We need to normalise periods, and this is a huge step in that direction. Also, making sanitary products free and readily available makes it less of a financial burden, which currently women are expected to cover in relative secrecy as periods are such a taboo in our society.

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

I don't see a negative impact on equality for this bill. It is for women, that doesn't mean it is against men.

## 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:**

I don't know what this would cost. I think that schools and very low income women need this extra support but on a population level things like trying to remove the luxury tax on sanitary products would be more beneficial.

## Page 19: General

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

This is an excellent proposal and an extremely important issue that is so often overlooked. Sanitary products are essential items, and in the same way that toilet paper is they should be supplied to those that are in need. If this was my bill, I would prioritise high need women such as homeless women first. Although really I do believe that sanitary products should be widely and cheaply available to all.