

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 If you choose the second or third option, a name is still required, but it will not be published.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

**Please explain the reasons for your response**

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

The cost of sanitary products are a cost that women bear with no option to opt-out. Having experienced period-poverty in the past, when I have been unable to afford to change sanitary products as often as I would like, I can testify that this is an uncomfortable and embarrassing predicament. When I was able I invested in a Moon Cup and the relief of knowing that I had access to sanitary protection when I needed it was a weight off the mind. I did have to stop using for a time due to sciatica, unfortunately. By providing free sanitary protection you will be removing an unfair cost of being female, as well as easing the worries, discomfort and embarrassment of women and girls across Scotland - wonderful idea, thank you!

## 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

**Please explain the reasons for your response**

I don't have experience of this system, but I don't see why not. As long as it doesn't add an element of embarrassment or extra inconvenience to those using the service

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 don't see why there would be a need for restrictions, if everyone has access.

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)?

Pharmacies would work well for me, as there is one in the village and would allow access without much change to habits. Understand that other set-ups might be easier for others. Would like to see the option women to have one-off access to a reusable sanitary device (such as Moon Cup). This would probably have to be restricted, and could perhaps be received via GP as a prescription? I don't think regular sanitary protection should require a prescription, however.

## 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**

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)?

It would be helpful

## 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.**

At times, recently, as a mature student, I have been unable to use my reusable sanitary device (due to sciatica), and have also struggled to afford sanitary products. I have been able to afford some items, but not enough for all the changes required for comfort.

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 hope to be able to continue with current reusable, as long as sciatica stays at bay

## 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)?

offering one-off reusable products for those interested.

## 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**

Cost around menstruation contribute to gender/ sex inequality

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:**

Obviously these costs are ongoing. Not likely to rise significantly, but not likely to decrease either. I would have thought there would be some savings made via economy of scale?

## Page 19: General

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

I think this is a very good thing. Reducing poverty around this. Wonderful.