

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 If you choose the second or third option, a name is still required, but it will not be published.

Chris Mcilwaine

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?

Access to Sanitary products should be classed as a basic human right. As a husband and father of a daughter, I would despair at the thought of these products being unavailable or inaccessible due to low income or circumstances associated to cost. This bill is based on both common sense and a need for basic progression in modern society! I support this bill 100%

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

This is one of several solutions but I believe this could be worthwhile on at least a trial basis to assess usage and effectiveness!

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.

While I believe that all should have access to products, a limitation scheme is necessary to avoid exploitation or abuse by those who may stockpile supplies to the detriment of others. The limitation (albeit within reasonable limits) would also work towards keeping a sustainable cost-effective model.

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....we must ensure that sanitary products are readily available from multiple locations as long as they are distributed in a controlled fashion!

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

Access to sanitary products may help to eliminate the pressures and stresses faced by many young female students who require access to such products during school days sometimes at short notice.

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)

Not applicable: I do not need or use sanitary products

Q7. If sanitary products were available for free, which of the following would apply to you?

Not applicable: I do not need or use sanitary products

Please explain the reasons for your response

As a male I have no personal requirement, but I would expect both my wife and daughter to claim sanitary products on an occasional and as necessary basis.

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

A basic human right such as access to sanitary products should be government funded and not subsidised by increasing costs elsewhere!

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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I'm afraid I am unqualified to make such a suggestion.

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)

Please explain the reasons for your response

I see this as irrelevant as the requirement for sanitary products is simply a genetic fact based on gender. It is not gained, purchased, assigned, gifted or classed as an entitlement. Periods, and their associated symptoms are an involuntary characteristic of the female gender. Sanitary products are a basic requirement to manage these symptoms and do not represent any preferential treatment towards or against any demographic. They are not a luxury, nor an unnecessary benefit....but as previously stated a basic human necessity.

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

Not applicable as per previous 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:

If managed correctly and funds appropriately apportioned to ensure supply, distribution and disposal then cost should be a non-factor! Perhaps some of the funds allocated to transporting the royal family or senior members of parliament in such luxury to their engagements could be leveraged?

Page 19: General

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

Just my full support and gratitude to Monica Lennon for her continual promotion of such a fundamentally important cause, and one that is long overdue!