

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 If you choose the second or third option, a name is still required, but it will not be published.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

I fully support this with being a tenancy support worker. I work with clients that financially struggle and at times are not able to even afford food and have to rely on food banks. They are also not able to afford to buy sanitary towels and personal hygiene products - which is a god send that they are included in food parcels. However like everything else food banks are also limited. This impacts on people's well being and their health. Things definately need to be in place so that people can go and get help and be able to have more confidence and better health and well being.

## 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**

People will maybe not feel comfortable doing it that way and prefer another method.

Q3. Which of the following best expresses your view in relation to a card-based system?

There is no need for a card scheme

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

I think there should be another way to access the products without their being a card based system and I do not think there should be a restriction as I dont think people would be getting more than what they require. Something has to be in place that people are comfortable using

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)?

Yes all the above and maybe even in public toilets so people can get access to sanitary products if needed.

## 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**

I feel that this should have been in place a while ago due to the difficulties and poverty that is only getting worse.

## 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

**Please explain or give an example of your experience if you feel able to do so.**

I am fortunate that I am able to buy sanitary products when need to.

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

I would expect to claim free products regularly

**Please explain the reasons for your response**

You should be able to claim free products regularly when needed, however if people were abusing it, then it would be something that could be looked into.

## 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)?

Not sure but the focus is on helping people that's living in poverty and should be aimed at having the required income to facilitate to put into place.

## 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

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

I do not think there will be a lot of negative impacts on the proposed bill. Giving people their say and views to see how it can be avoided.

## 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

## Page 19: General

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

I am definitely all for it and feel that it should be in place to help people that are in need.

To be able to prevent poor health and people to have the confidence and dignity, that they deserve.