

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 If you choose the second or third option, a name is still required, but it will not be published.

Anna Maclver

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 think this would help to end the stigma around periods as a lot of young women seem to be quite embarrassed about buying sanitary products but if they were free this may help to show people that it's something that is necessary for women's health. It's also important for boys and men to learn more about periods and realise they're nothing to be ashamed of. I also think it was really good the fact the proposed Bill addressed that trans people can experience periods, which is perhaps something that people may not realise or just overlook. I know I'm lucky enough to be able to afford to buy sanitary products but a lot of women can't and as you can't really prevent your period from happening then it shouldn't be an added worry to have to pay for sanitary 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?

Yes

Please explain the reasons for your response

I think it is good that you can get condoms for free but periods are something that are natural, can happen every month and can't really be prevented so I think it actually makes more sense for sanitary products to be provided for free. I think if women knew that they could get sanitary products for free then they definitely would make use of this.

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 think it should be available to anyone as this could help to de-stigmatise periods and won't make women feel ashamed. Also as periods happen to all women, then surely all women should be able to have the card. I also don't think that women would take advantage of having unlimited access to free sanitary products. Women's cycles and flows can change so I don't think it would be fair to limit the number of products as sometimes you might need more some months compared to others. It's also always good to have spare in case your period randomly begins and therefore you don't need to worry about going out to buy sanitary products.

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)?

I think all that were stated above would be suitable.

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)?

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Yes

Please explain the reasons for your response

I also think that it would be really important to have them in schools, colleges, universities and places of work. You want your focus to be on what you're doing and working on, not worrying about trying to find or pay for a sanitary product.

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 remember when I was younger and my period wasn't as regular and I was at school once when my period came. I didn't have any pads so I went to the nurse but I had to pay. I thankfully think I had money with me but I was feeling panicky and just wanted to go to the toilet, my mind wasn't wanting to have to think about finding my purse and hope I have the money.

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

As I've always been able to afford to buy my own sanitary products or sometimes my parents would if I'm at home then I don't know if I'd feel comfortable enough to expect to claim free products. However, you never know when circumstances can change so I think it would be good to know it would be possible to get for free if I really needed to.

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

Q8. Taking account of both costs and potential savings, what financial impact would you expect the proposed Bill to have on:

(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)?

Unsure.

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

I think the Bill will help to get rid of the stigma of having a period or even being a girl as by providing sanitary products for free it will show that it is a necessity and something to not be ashamed of. I think people will feel a lot less judged or worried about going to have to buy these products if they know that the government realises how important it is. Women should be allowed to feel clean, healthy and happy in their own bodies but if they are unable to change their sanitary products regularly or even buy them at all then this won't allow them to feel comfortable.

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

I think people need to be educated more in general about periods and especially with this Bill to help reduce any negative impact. So perhaps talks to school pupils could happen and even information provided in the places that the sanitary products will be.

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

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Please explain the reasons for your response:

I think if it allows girls and women to not worry about missing out on education or work then it will have a positive effect.

Page 19: General

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

No Response