

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 If you choose the second or third option, a name is still required, but it will not be published.

Hannah Oldham

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?

Students, due to the rising cost of rent and general living costs, can often not afford to buy sanitary products which can have negative mental impacts and impacts on hygiene.

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

As long as the cards were easily provided, and accessible to groups such as homeless people or transgender people, I think this would be a good system as it is simple. Obviously, free replacement cards should be integrated into the system if the original card is lost or stolen.

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.

The card should be available to anyone as condoms are largely free of charge all year round, therefore there is no reason why people who menstruate shouldn't have free access to the products they need all year round.

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)?

- University Unions (for students)
- GP Surgeries
- Health Clinics
- Community Centres
- Homeless Shelters
- Housing associations

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

Student maintenance loans cannot always cover the basic essentials needed to maintain hygiene or a healthy diet. Parental support is not always available / an option

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.

My period came soon after I had used the last of my maintenance loan to pay my rent, I had no sanitary products left and had to ask friends for help.

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

There will be unexpected circumstances that leave me with little to no money for sanitary products. However, there will be times where I can afford to buy the products myself.

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

Firstly, with the amount of money that universities gain from the student body, they can at least provide us with free sanitary products in bathrooms or union buildings. Secondly, I feel like Health Centres or Community Centres will have less strain if the products are freely available. Thirdly, this service would not stop people from buying sanitary products, it will simply provide them for those who couldn't afford to buy them anyway, so the

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

businesses will not suffer.

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

- Use cheaper sanitary products (not necessarily lower quality) than the main brands.

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

Will allow more female and transgender people to get access to the products they deserve. However, there is still much to be done to increase equality. This bill will not solve it all

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

Not entirely sure

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:

Use products that are cheaper and that are reusable (moon cups for example) to cut down on the cost and environmental impact.

Page 19: General

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

Deliver products that differ in styles. For example, provide tampons, sanitary pads and reusable cups rather

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

than just pads