

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 If you choose the second or third option, a name is still required, but it will not be published.

Lynn Donald

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

## 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

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.**

This depends on what the limits would be per month, all girls/women are different and may need different amounts of products. I feel that there should just be free access especially at schools etc. of minimal amounts in case there is an emergency situation women are sometimes caught short when it comes to the start of their period and also flow.

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)?

for me it would most definitely be in schools we are talking about girls sometimes as young as 10 - for them it is embarrassing to ask for these things or maybe have to explain to male teachers why they need to leave the class. If the sanitary products are in machines with a card access or code access it would make it easier for them to manage their periods. For young girls the products could be posted to their home on a monthly basis and eliminate the need for health centres etc. to have additional space and staff to deal with this and it could be issues from spaces in areas of high unemployment using staff with special needs, disabilities that would normally be excluded from the work place.

## 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**

they give condoms away for free? why should girls not be given free sanitary products for times of emergency and this would encourage their full participation in education.

## 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)

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Yes, frequently

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

yes in my youth, due to low family income and often missed out on school and would always try to miss P.E. on my period for fear of embarrassment and humiliation.

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**

they should be available to girls from low income families on a monthly basis but in Schools and colleges for occasional use. That said I would imagine a lot of students are struggling financially so they may need them on a regular 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**

The government could stop giving away free low cost medication like aspirin, paracetamol and ibuprofen when discharging patients from hospitals to offset the cost. There could be lots of other potential savings that could be made to offset this cost.

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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they could be looking at using materials that are more sustainable and environmentally safer like Thinx underwear and cups that can be re-used and also save on pollution from the use of disposable towels and tampons.

## 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**

it will empower girls to feel more confident to go to school during their period and also take part in sporting activities and ensure that they are less stressed and anxious about leaks and staining clothes and chairs at school. In today's society with the use of social media this is more of a concern for young girls.

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

I don't see any negative impact of the proposed bill, drug addicts get methadone, Alcoholics are given more money to buy alcohol and girls are being discriminated upon by taxing sanitary products as luxury items when they are clearly essential to our health and wellbeing.

## 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:**

I think there needs to be a lot done in managing the type of products that are given away freely, re-useable items may be unattractive at first but if they are promoted and tried they may have a better success rate and stop the environmental impacts and be more sustainable.

## Page 19: General

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

I think going forward the government needs to make radical changes to the types and material sanitary products are made of and make use of more radical innovations.