

# 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".)

Professional with experience in a relevant subject

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 If you choose the second or third option, a name is still required, but it will not be published.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

Sanitary products are not an optional purchase they are essential yet extremely costly to buy. People on low income have to make other sacrifices in order to purchase these yet we happily provide free baby boxes to every person, would have thought this was a much higher priority.

## 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?

No

**Please explain the reasons for your response**

Products should be made available in all public places, some young girls feel embarrassed enough without adding to this.

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.**

There should be no need for a card system every woman should be entitled to these products free should they be unable to purchase them for whatever reason and I am sure this would not be abused. How can you consider limiting the number of products some women suffer extremely heavy periods and have to change products every hour.

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)?

Products should be made available in as many public places as possible this would also stop a lot of the taboo around the subject.

## 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**

Yes, I am fortunate to have a good relationship with my daughter but not all girls have that and don't approach their parents and end up using lunch money to purchase these products because they are too embarrassed to bring the subject up at home.

## 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.**

Yes, financially when younger and more recently when out and unable to find a working dispenser

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**

I would still continue to purchase them, however, would use them if they were available in bars, restaurants if caught out unexpectedly.

## 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**

I would expect that the companies supplying these products would be selling them at a reduced cost to the government and therefore would put a slight increase in the cost of individuals purchasing them.

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

Not really but cost should not come into the equation for such an essential product

## 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**

Having your period is not a choice and women should not be discriminated against by having to purchase these essential products

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

I cannot see how anyone could justify a negative impact of this bill. For some spending one week in four in excruciating pain and then having to choose food or hygiene in this day should not be a choice

## 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?

Unsure

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

Only time would tell, this would need to be evaluated after a period of time (no pun intended)

## Page 19: General

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

I started completing this survey but didn't realise how strongly I felt about this subject until I started answering the questions.