

Proposed Sanitary Products (Free Provision) (Scotland) Bill

Page 2: About you

Are you responding as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?

on behalf of an organisation

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".)

No Response

Please select the category which best describes your organisation

Third sector (charitable, campaigning, social enterprise, voluntary, non-profit)

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 If you choose the second or third option, a name is still required, but it will not be published.

Intensive Rescue Foundation International -IRFI-

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?

1. Free disposable sanitary pads in schools will ensure that undeserved girls have the opportunity to use hygienic menstrual materials for the first time in their menstrual cycle. 2. These girls will no longer have period anxiety over the funds needed to procure these pads. 3. Girls will be able to stay in school and complete their education. 4. The need to engage in high risk transactional sexual acts is mitigated. 5. The need to use unsavory and unhygienic materials to absorb menstrual blood is mitigated.

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

1. This c-card system will track the monthly usage of the pads, ensuring that the registered person is not using them for other purposes [selling them]. 2. Evidence based MHM data can be collated and shared. 3. The effectiveness of the universality of the policy will be determined.

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.

Simply to mitigate abuse of the policy.

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)?

The aforementioned centers can all serve as dispensary centers because menstruating women are found in all locations.

The locations also have lavatories that can provide safe, private and hygienic spaces for changing used pads and freshing up...

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

This is to ensure accountability and responsibility on their part in line with the tenets of counterpart-funding-

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)?

collaboration.

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 Response

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

No Response

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

Individuals who receive free pads will definitely save lots of money.

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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Yes...Introduce washable and reusable pads...

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

1. The weight of financial obligation towards MHM will be lifted. 2. MHM will now be a front-burner issue. 3. The taboo of menstruation will finally be broken.

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

By ensuring that the C-card system is effective in tracking the number of pads dispensed per individual per month.

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:

Unsure.

Page 19: General

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

Consider the provision of washable and reusable pads to minimize overall cost and ensure sustainability of the Bill.