

Response ID ANON-MU7C-5VB1-T

Submitted to Period Products (Free Provision) Bill - Call for Views
Submitted on 2022-01-04 16:42:42

Introduction

1 How would you like your response to be published? (Please note: this question requires a response)

I would like to request my response not be published, and I understand this will only be accepted in exceptional circumstances

2 Are you content that any of your suggestions which have been published to the Committee or the Assembly may inspire the text of an amendment?

Yes

3 What is your name? (Please note: this question requires a response)

Name:

██████████

4 What is your email address?

Email:

████████████████████

5 Please indicate if you are providing a submission:

As an individual

If on behalf of an organisation or business, please state its name::

And please tell us briefly how the organisation or business relates to the subject matter of the Bill::

Clause 1: Provision of free period products: Department scheme

6 Do you agree with the proposed duty described in Clause 1?

Do you agree/disagree with proposed duty in Clause 1:

Agree

7 Do you think the duty takes account of all necessary factors e.g. dignity, accessibility, choice, differently able people, travel arrangements, consultation and advertisement of arrangements for provision of period products?

Do you agree/disagree with proposed duty in Clause 1:

Agree

8 Would you add, detract from or otherwise amend any element of Clause 1?

No

If yes, what amendment would you make? :

Clause 2: Provision of free period products: public service bodies

9 Do you agree with the proposed duty described in Clause 2?

Do you agree/disagree with proposed duty in Clause 2:

Strongly Agree

10 Do you agree that the clause takes into account all necessary aspects of preparation to roll out the scheme, such as identification of relevant public service bodies; provision of free period products at each of their sites; provision only for use while on those premises; the ability for Departments to make regulations about these arrangements on a phased basis; and the ability for the Assembly to use affirmative procedure to give a relatively high level of scrutiny to these regulations?

Do you agree/disagree that the clause takes into account all necessary aspects of preparation:

Strongly Agree

11 Would you add, detract from or otherwise amend any element of Clause 2?

Yes

If yes, what amendment would you make? :

I would amend the bill to include all public buildings (for example libraries, leisure centres) and all public toilets.

Clause 3: Arrangements under sections 1 and 2: particular requirements

12 Do you agree that the principles set out in clause 3 – easy access, dignity, choice and publicised arrangements - are relevant and proportionate principles to underpin the implementation of this scheme?

Do you agree/disagree that principles set out in Clause 3 are relevant and proportionate?:

Strongly Agree

13 Would you add, detract from or otherwise amend any element of Clause 3?

Yes

If yes, what amendment would you make? :

I would amend Clause 3 to include the importance of products being available in the toilet stalls themselves, or if not feasible, available in the bathroom itself. A person should not have to go to a front desk and ask for period products, they should be able to take what they need privately.

Clause 4: Guidance

14 Do you agree that this clause will help co-ordinate implementation between Departments and Public Service Bodies?

Do you agree/disagree this clause will help co-ordinate implementation?:

Strongly Agree

15 Would you add, detract from or otherwise amend any element of Clause 4?

No

If yes, what amendment would you make? :

Clause 5: Statement on Arrangements

16 Do you agree that Clause 5 would provide transparency as to how specified public service bodies are providing period products in the best interests of appropriate product users?

Do you agree/disagree Clause 5 would provide transparency:

Strongly Agree

17 Would you add, detract from or otherwise amend any element of Clause 5?

If yes, what amendment would you make?:

I would add to Clause 5 that the products have to be easily available in the toilet or bathroom (i.e. a person does not have to ask at a front desk for products).

I would also add that 'product users' must stress that it is anyone who can menstruate that should be able to access period products.

Clause 6: Duty to Publish Information

18 Do you agree that this clause will make available timely, useful, information that will benefit persons obtaining free period products?

Do you agree/disagree with proposed duty in Clause 1:

Strongly Agree

19 Would you add, detract from or otherwise amend any element of Clause 6?

Yes

If yes, what amendment would you make? :

I would add to the clause that period products should be available in bathrooms & toilets. Someone that needs to use period products should not have to ask for the products, instead they should be accessible.

Clause 7: Key Definitions

20 Do you agree with

Do you agree/disagree with proposed duty in Clause 1:
Strongly Agree

21 Do you agree that this Clause provides a comprehensive list of key definitions of terminology used throughout this Act?

Do you agree/disagree that Clause 7 provides a comprehensive list of key definitions of terminology:
Strongly Agree

22 Would you add, detract from or otherwise amend any element of Clause 7?

Yes

If yes, what amendment would you make? :

I would like to highlight the importance of this bill using gender neutral terms. Women are not the only ones to have periods!

Clause 8: Interpretation

23 Do you agree that this clause signposts the reader to accessible and standardised explanations of the legal terms used throughout the language of this Act?

Do you agree/disagree that this clause signposts the reader to accessible and standardised explanations:
Strongly Agree

24 Would you add, detract from or otherwise amend any element of Clause 8?

Yes

If yes, what amendment would you make? :

I would add to clause 8 that the list of 'public service bodies' should extend to all public buildings (such as libraries and leisure centres)

I would also like to stress how this Act should not rely on being weighted against 'poverty' numbers. A person from any background can be caught short and become in sudden need of period products. For example, a school in an affluent area should not be given barely any period products just because it claims minimal free school dinners; anyone who has a period can unexpectedly take their period.

Clause 9: Commencement

25 Do you agree that there should be two years to allow everyone to prepare for this new law?

Do you agree/disagree there should be two years to allow everyone to prepare:
Disagree

Clause 10: Short Title

26 Do you agree that when it becomes an Act, this should be called the "Period Products (Free Provision) Act (Northern Ireland) 2021"?

Yes

If no, what amendment would you propose and why?: