

# Response ID ANON-MU7C-5V4V-H

Submitted to Period Products (Free Provision) Bill - Call for Views  
Submitted on 2022-01-04 13:24:23

## Introduction

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

I would like my response to be published

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:  
Éile Donegan

4 What is your email address?

Email:  
[REDACTED]

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:  
Disagree

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

Yes

If yes, what amendment would you make? :

I fear that because the provision of free period products has been left to the department's discretion, the products may not be placed where they are desired most which is within the four walls of bathrooms/toilets, for example in toilet stalls or beside sinks.

So an appropriate amendment would be that public bodies must place period products first and foremost within bathrooms and toilets rather than reception areas for example.

Also the obtainment of items I believe should not require a third party (chemist or a card people apply for online) they should simply be placed free of charge n all public toilets.)

## 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:  
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 Disagree

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

Yes

If yes, what amendment would you make? :

Firstly, the Bill simply does not go far enough. In order for the Bill to be effective it must include ALL PUBLIC TOILETS, not just health and social care buildings, schools and places of further education. By only catering for those who attend school or further education the Bill excludes THE MAJORITY of the population which could greatly benefit from access to free period products. It would be a disgrace to the grass root supporters of this movement, and the people of Northern Ireland, if the Bill did not include ALL PUBLIC TOILETS.

I, as do many, believe that the Bill must be amended to state that councils must provide free period products in all public toilets. (just like toilet roll is).

Secondly, I am uncomfortable with the language in Clause 2(6) which describes how the providing body should only meet the need of the persons while the persons are on the premises and not elsewhere. People should be encouraged to take as many products as they need to get by, not just for a single use whilst on a certain premises.

### 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 add that period products should be placed in the toilets/bathrooms and not elsewhere in the premises, if the Bill is to stay true to its aim of providing EASILY ACCESSIBLE period products.

There was a lack of schools who took part in the Period Dignity Scheme, therefore in this Bill there should be more information and publicity around the Bill so more public buildings take part and know how to make part.

### 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?:  
Neither Agree or Disagree

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

Yes

If yes, what amendment would you make? :

I am concerned that some bodies have autonomy on the roll out of the products.

I believe this clause requires an amendment as to ensure that those from rural areas and those who may struggle to access products in public buildings, will be provided with the products they need.

### 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:  
Agree

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

If yes, what amendment would you make?:

#### 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:

Agree

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

No

If yes, what amendment would you make? :

#### 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?

No

If yes, what amendment would you make? :

#### 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:

Agree

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

Yes

If yes, what amendment would you make? :

As previously stated the Bill should include ALL PUBLIC TOILETS, not just schools and places of higher education.

However, if this cannot be achieved, at the very least the Bill should be extended to provide for all pupils, staff and visitors of schools and places of higher education.

Finally, I believe the Bill should focus more on period dignity rather than period poverty. This Bill should not be weighed against poverty. Somewhere in the Bill it should recognise free period products as an essential need for everyone that has a period. This Bill will of course help those who struggle to afford products, but also those who take their period unexpectedly outside the home. It is of course a poverty issue but it is equally, a health, human rights and gender equality issue.

#### 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?:

Only if the Bill provides products in all public toilets, if it fails to do this I believe this title is misleading.