

Response ID ANON-MU7C-5VBB-B

Submitted to Period Products (Free Provision) Bill - Call for Views
Submitted on 2022-01-05 14:43:03

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:
Nuala O'Donnell

4 What is your email address?

Email:
[REDACTED]

5 Please indicate if you are providing a submission:

On behalf of an organisation or business

If on behalf of an organisation or business, please state its name::
Irish National Teachers' Organisation

And please tell us briefly how the organisation or business relates to the subject matter of the Bill::
The INTO (Irish National Teachers' Organisation) represents over 7,000 teachers in the North of Ireland and this response is on behalf of these teacher members.

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:
Strongly 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?

Yes

If yes, what amendment would you make? :

amend 4(c) to include the types and quality of period products...
There is no point putting through this bill if the products are of inferior quality which would not be used.

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:

Agree

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

Yes

If yes, what amendment would you make? :

That all public bodies be appropriately and sufficiently funded to provide their required amount of products free to those who need them. This includes primary schools as many girls are starting menstruating at an earlier age.

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?:

Agree

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

Yes

If yes, what amendment would you make? :

Include that the standard of period products needs to be of a sufficiently high quality to ensure uptake by pupils, not quantity over quality.

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? :

The guidance needs to include information on funding and how and when this will be distributed. There needs to be sufficient funding to provide good quality products for the pupils in each school/college who require them.

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:

Neither Agree or Disagree

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

If yes, what amendment would you make?:

This clause places additional work on schools, which whilst more than willing to make the products available to pupils, are under extreme workload pressures currently. The Department of Education should provide the generic consultation documents for schools and draft written statements that schools can personalise as appropriate.

Sufficient funding needs to be provided to ensure that schools can provide the appropriate products required by their pupils as they need them.

IN addition, as mentioned earlier in this response, section 3(c) should include standard/quality of period products, not just type.

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?

Yes

If yes, what amendment would you make? :

Departments should work together to ensure that free period products are available at alternative locations, easily accessible to all pupils in schools and FE and HEIs during the summer holidays and other times of School/College closures.

Facilities to be in place to ensure pupils can access free products throughout the calendar year.

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:

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?

No

If yes, what amendment would you make? :

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:

Strongly 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?: