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Glasgow City Council

**Statement on Exercise of Functions for the Period
Products (Free Provision) (Scotland) Act 2021.**

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1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Period Products (Free Provision) (Scotland) Act 2021 was passed by the Scottish Parliament on 24th November 2020 and gained royal assent on 12th January 2021. It is the world's first legislation to support the provision of free products for those who menstruate.
- 1.2 The Act requires Local Authorities to provide period products free of charge to anyone who needs them. There should be a reasonable choice of products which are easily obtained in a way that respects a person's dignity. Products should be provided in all Local Authority run education establishments, community venues and in publicly accessible workspaces.
- 1.3 Local Authorities are required to produce and communicate a Statement on Exercise of Functions to summarise the arrangements in place to meet the legal duties, which includes carrying out 1 or more public consultation(s).
- 1.4 This statement sets out Glasgow City Council's commitment to free product provision and details current and future provision in education facilities and the wider community.

2. Our Commitment

- 2.1 Glasgow City Council is committed to the provision of free products for those who may need to access them. Provision is to be made available for Glasgow's citizens and visitors to the city for work or leisure. Scottish Government funding has been made available to facilitate this provision.

"Glasgow has been at the forefront of the huge change in the way that periods are discussed and delivering on period dignity. From providing free period products in schools back in 2017 to extending that access across council and community buildings, we've made a massive difference to the lives of girls, women and everyone who menstruates."

– Leader of the Council, Councillor Susan Aitken

- 2.2 We will ensure that:

- All products are free of charge and easy to obtain;
- A reasonable choice of both single use and reusable products are offered;
- Provision will be available in the community, as well as in GCC run Education facilities;
- Due consideration is given to respect and dignity in our approach;
- Due consideration is given to those who may face additional barriers, including those who are BME, LGBTQ, disabled, homeless, victims of domestic abuse etc;

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- Public consultation(s) and community engagement is carried out to inform our provision;
- What products are available and where these can be accessed is communicated efficiently to our citizens; and
- Provision will be regularly monitored and reviewed.

3. Consultation

3.1 A public consultation was launched in January 2021 and concluded 5 weeks later in February 2021. There were 3 separate surveys to allow us to capture the views of school pupils, organisations and the general public. In total, there were 2,642 responses to the consultation.

3.2 The consultation was open to any member of the public regardless of gender, age or menstruating status. We particularly sought views from those who met the following criteria:

- Those currently using sanitary products.
- Those who will use sanitary products in the future.
- Those who may collect sanitary products on behalf of others

3.3 The consultation covered:

- Awareness of free product availability
- Types of products currently used
- Types of products wanted
- Venues/buildings where people would like products
- Locations within venues/buildings where people would like products
- Feelings towards accessing free products
- Obtaining products on behalf of others

3.4 The findings of the consultation have been used to shape Glasgow City Council's provision. The report detailing the findings is attached to this statement as appendix 1.

4. Community-based Provision

4.1 Glasgow City Council is partnered with Simon Community Scotland to provide free products in the community. Products are supplied by the social enterprise Hey Girls.

4.2 Period Friendly Points (PFPs) have been established in more than 100 locations across the city. PFPs are stocked by SCS volunteers and include libraries, museums, sports centres and community hubs, as well as some

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local police stations and Health and Social Care buildings. Just look for the PFP logo

- 4.3 Products available include single use pads and tampons in various sizes/ absorbencies to accommodate differing needs and preferences. In some venues, reusable items such as period pants, period cups and reusable pads are available. The type of products available will be regularly reviewed to meet the needs and wants of the community.
- 4.4 Products are available for collection by anyone who needs them, or by anyone collecting on behalf of another person. Products will normally be available within toilet facilities of a building, unless otherwise stated. Those who wish to access products can do so without having to ask a member of staff and in a way that respects their dignity. A person may access as many products as required.
- 4.5 Information on stocked venues can be accessed via the PickUpMyPeriod App. PickUpMyPeriod allows users to enter a postcode or location to see where free period products are available in their area. Users can filter what products are available, check building opening hours and also access a wide range of advice and support on various topics including health and wellbeing, financial support, domestic abuse and addiction support.

The app can be downloaded via these links:

For Android: <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.myperiodapp>

For Apple: <https://apps.apple.com/gb/app/pickupmyperiod/id1500403938>

5. Education Facilities Provision

- 5.1 Glasgow City Council will provide free products in all primary and secondary school establishments for which the local authority is the education provider.
- 5.2 Products will be available in a way which respects the dignity of the pupil and can be accessed without having to ask a teacher.
- 5.3 Products will be available during term time in at least one building of the school which is normally used by pupils. For most schools, products will be located within in the toilet facilities. Other schools may have products available in multiple locations.

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- 5.4 Pupils will be consulted with to ensure the products available are appropriate to their needs and wants. A reasonable choice will be available to pupils to ensure their needs can be adequately met whilst attending school. This will be monitored and reviewed on an ongoing basis.
- 5.5 Glasgow City Council will provide ongoing support to its education establishments to ensure every pupil in Glasgow who requires products is able to easily obtain them.

6. Communication

- 6.1 Glasgow City Council will endeavour to communicate with its pupils and the wider community as to the provision of free products on an ongoing basis.
- 6.2 We will make use of various communication channels including, but not limited to, social media, website, Glasgow online and local press outlets to inform its citizens and visitors what products are available and where they are located.
- 6.3 Glasgow City Council has made available the results of the public consultation and will continue to share any further engagement via above mentioned communication channels.
- 6.4 The PickUpMyPeriod App will be promoted to ensure those who require products can easily and quickly access information as to their nearest collection point.

7. Additional / Future Provision

- 7.1 Glasgow City Council recognises the importance of Period Dignity for all. We are not only committed to meeting all statutory obligations, but also to exploring additional provision.
- 7.2 We will pilot supplying local third sector organisations with products to support them in addressing access barriers for the most vulnerable in our community. We will engage with organisations to target specific groups to ensure full inclusivity with regard to Period Dignity.
- 7.3 Glasgow City Council will continue to work closely with our statutory partners Police Scotland, Glasgow HSCP and others to expand product provision.
- 7.4 We will continue to monitor, evaluate and build on service provision to ensure Glasgow remains a Period Friendly city where everyone has easy access to products appropriate to their needs.

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