



OFFICIAL

Glasgow City Council

City Administration Committee

Item 2

22nd June 2022

Report by Councillor Christina Cannon, Convenor for Education, Communities & Equalities

Contact: Douglas Hutchison, Executive Director of Education

PERIOD DIGNITY: PERIOD PRODUCTS (FREE PROVISION) (SCOTLAND) ACT 2021

Purpose of Report:

To provide the Committee with an update on Glasgow's implementation of the act and free provision of period products across the city.

Recommendations:

The Committee is asked to

1. Note the report and progress made to date;
2. Consider and approve the Statement on Exercise of Functions as detailed in appendix 2; and
3. Invite the Executive Director of Education to provide further reports on progress in due course.

Ward No(s): All

Citywide: ☒

Local member(s) advised: Yes ☐ No ☐

consulted: Yes ☐ No ☐

PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING:

Any Ordnance Survey mapping included within this Report is provided by Glasgow City Council under licence from the Ordnance Survey in order to fulfil its public function to make available Council-held public domain information. Persons viewing this mapping should contact Ordnance Survey Copyright for advice where they wish to licence Ordnance Survey mapping/map data for their own use. The OS web site can be found at <http://www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk> "

If accessing this Report via the Internet, please note that any mapping is for illustrative purposes only and is not true to any marked

OFFICIAL

OFFICIAL

1 Background

- 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 will come fully into force by 15th August 2022.
- 1.3 There are three sections to the Act.
- Section 1 of the Act places a duty on Local Authorities to make period products obtainable free of charge for anyone who needs to use them.
 - Section 2 of the Act places a duty on education providers to make period products obtainable free of charge on their premises for pupils and students during term time.
 - Section 3 of the Act allows Scottish Ministers to specify public service bodies who have to make period products obtainable free of charge to people on their premises (no bodies have been so specified at this point).
- 1.4 Local Authorities are required to provide period products free of charge to **anyone who needs them**. This includes for those accessing on behalf of another person. The guidance stipulates that
- all products should be relatively easy to obtain.
 - a reasonable choice of products should be offered. This will include re-usable and single use products.
 - due consideration is given to respect and dignity in our approach (including gender equality).
 - due consideration is given to those who may face additional barriers, for example, those who are disabled, homeless, gypsy/ travelers, victims of domestic abuse or those who have cultural barriers.
- 1.5 Products should be provided in all Local Authority run education establishments as well as in the community.
- 1.6 In addition, Local Authorities are required to carry out 1 or more public consultation(s), and to produce and communicate a Statement on Exercise of Functions to summarise the arrangements in place to meet the legal duties.

2 Statement on Exercise of Functions / Consultation

- 2.1 A Statement on Exercise of Functions, a summary detailing the approach Glasgow will take to fulfilling its legal obligations, has been prepared and is attached in appendix 1. Once approved, it will be available on the GCC website, as well as via other channels.

OFFICIAL

OFFICIAL

- 2.2 Glasgow City Council launched an online public consultation in January 2022, which closed 4 weeks later in February 2022.
- 2.3 The consultation and was comprised of 3 separate surveys to allow us to capture the views of school pupils, organisations and the general public. It was publicised via Social Media and the GCC website. In total, there were 2,642 responses to the consultation
- 2.4 A report with the full findings of the consultation has been published and can be accessed online. It has been used to shape the Council's current and future provision. A copy of the report is attached as appendix 2.

3 Provision in Schools

- 3.1 As of 15th August 2022 it will be a legal obligation for all schools, both secondaries and primaries, to stock a reasonable choice of products in at least one building frequented by pupils. Products should be sufficient to meet a pupil's needs during term time.
- 3.2 Products have been provided in all secondary schools since 2019 following the high school pilot in 2017/18.
- 3.3 Whilst most primaries are now also stocked, remaining primary schools are being supported by the Senior Policy Officer for Period Dignity to ensure an appropriate range of products are available by August.
- 3.4 Many of the secondary schools are taking a pupil focused approach and have established Period Dignity working groups run by senior pupils who take responsibility for managing their school's provision. In some schools, the student parliament is taking responsibility.
- 3.5 A streamlined ordering process has been devised where secondary schools order direct from the supplier Hey Girls via PECOS and provide their feeder primaries with stock. Stock is invoiced to Education Services Headquarters and does not come from an individual school's budget.
- 3.6 Despite there being no legal requirement to have products available in nursery / ELCC settings, 44 early years facilities are now also stocked as part of a pilot. Products are to be available for parents/carers and older siblings to use on site or be taken home. The pilot will run until December 2022 after which the uptake and impact will be evaluated to assess whether or not a further rollout across all nurseries on a permanent basis is beneficial.

OFFICIAL

OFFICIAL

4 Provision in the Community

- 4.1 In March 2019 a pilot project began where Simon Community Scotland, in conjunction with Glasgow Life North West Communities and Libraries Team, established “Period Friendly Points” in 15 community venues and libraries across the North West. PFPs provide period products free of charge and are stocked and monitored by Simon Community volunteers.
- 4.2 The pilot was extended across the city and by the start of the pandemic in March 2020, 45 venues were being stocked by 35 volunteers. Venues then closed for extended periods of time. By August 2021 the service was fully operational again with a new distribution method established to reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission. Period Packs were created containing enough products for one period cycle.
- 4.3 Given similar work around period products in schools was also progressing, GCC Education Services assumed responsibility as GCC partner. Education Services is currently formalising a contract between GCC and Simon Community Scotland until 2025. SCS have the responsibility of ordering, storing, distributing and monitoring the products.
- 4.4 The current supplier of the products is Hey Girls, a social enterprise who provide ethical and environmentally friendly products with a “buy one, donate one” ethos.
- 4.5 To date there are now 95 Period Friendly Points across the city. This includes 6 venues where we are piloting reusable products and packs of underwear, in addition to disposable pads and tampons. PFPs are mostly in libraries, museums, sports centres and community hubs.
- 4.6 We now have 16 local police stations stocked as well as some HSCP buildings. We continue to work closely with statutory partners to explore other options which would target our most hard to reach communities including those from BME backgrounds, refugees / asylum seekers and Roma / travellers.
- 4.7 An app has been devised to support communication in the community as to which venues stock products. The PickUpMyPeriod app was launched in January 2022 and can be accessed via both android and apple devices. The user is able to see all venues close to their current location which stock products. In addition, the app also provides information and signposting on a wide range of topics general health and wellbeing, financial inclusion, domestic violence, homelessness and addiction.
- 4.8 There is no legal requirement for products to be available in local third sector organisations, however we are keen to support additional product provision in the community.
- 4.9 A third sector pilot in the North West was launched in June 2022. There are 10 local voluntary organisations stocked with products and communicating/ publicising this to their client groups. The pilot will be evaluated towards the end of this year and a further rollout to other organisations across the city will be considered.

5 Funding, Monitoring and Evaluation

- 5.1 The full cost of delivering universal access is currently unknown within Glasgow and across Scotland. COSLA have a working group where this is being explored.

OFFICIAL

OFFICIAL

- 5.2 Glasgow has been allocated an annual budget of £620,000 to facilitate provision in schools and the wider community.
- 5.3 All period products are currently purchased from Hey Girls. To reduce administrative costs, schools and the Simon Community order direct from Hey Girls who invoice Education Services. This approach has worked very well.
- 5.4 Monitoring data was requested from all local authorities, associated with delivery of access to free period products during 2021/22. Glasgow submitted its response in March 2022. Data collected included total cost of delivery (including products - disposable and reusable) and administration. We were also asked for the total number of products purchased split into disposable and reusable.
- 5.5 There will be an independent evaluation between 2022/23 and 2025/26. Both process and impact evaluations will be conducted in May to September 2025 covering the three-year period from 2022/23 (when commencement of the substantive duties is expected) to 2025/26.
- 5.6 The evaluation will capture information from communities as well as Councils to provide an understanding of the impact of the Act.

6 Glasgow Period Dignity Steering Group

- 6.1 A Glasgow Period Poverty Dignity Group has been established to support the implementation of the Act. The group has representation from a number of services and organisations including Education, Financial Inclusion and the Simon Community.
- 6.2 The steering group has been responsible for undertaking the consultation and producing the Statement of Exercise.
- 6.3 Building on current arrangements in place, the steering group will work with organisations to ensure that the city is able to fully meet the requirement of the Act by ensuring that a variety of period products are made available across the city in schools and public places.
- 6.4 The steering group will ensure that appropriate monitoring systems (financial and performance) are in place to manage the process within Glasgow and to satisfy the Scottish Government's monitoring and evaluation requirements.

7 Policy and Resource Implications

Resource Implications:

<i>Financial:</i>	<i>For 2021/22, Glasgow received £620,000.</i>
<i>Legal:</i>	<i>None</i>

OFFICIAL

OFFICIAL

<i>Personnel:</i>	<i>None</i>
<i>Procurement:</i>	<i>The current provider was secured through procurement. A further procurement exercise is currently being undertaken through existing frameworks.</i>

Equality and Socio-Economic Impacts:

Does the proposal support the Council's Equality Outcomes 2021-25? Please specify.

Yes

What are the potential equality impacts as a result of this report?

A positive impact - Increasing the access to menstrual products would benefit the health of those who menstruate, increase their full participation in education, employment and general public life and help to contribute to a more open discussion around menstruation and women's health issues. This would further help to tackle the stigma often associated with menstruation. i.e. promotion of period dignity.

Please highlight if the policy/proposal will help address socio-economic disadvantage.

The provision of free sanitary products across the city will help address socio economic disadvantage and support those individuals who don't always have access to sanitary products, for multiple reasons.

Climate Impacts:

Does the proposal support any Climate Plan actions? Please specify:

Theme 1: Communication and Community Empowerment; Theme 2: Just and Inclusive Place; and Theme 3: Health and Wellbeing.

What are the potential climate impacts as a result of this proposal?

We supply only bio-degradable single use products and re-useable products. Overall our approach is eco-friendly as our products are plastic free,

OFFICIAL

OFFICIAL

contain less toxins, can save money, reduce energy use and can save water.

*Will the proposal
contribute to Glasgow's
net zero carbon target?*

Yes

**Privacy and Data
Protection Impacts:**

None

8 Recommendations

The Committee is asked to

1. Note the report and progress made to date;
2. Consider and approved the Statement on Exercise of Functions as detailed in appendix 2; and
3. Request that the Executive Director of Education provide further reports on progress in due course.

APPENDIX 1

OFFICIAL

OFFICIAL



Glasgow City Council

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

OFFICIAL

Table of Contents

1. Introduction	Page 3
2. Our Commitment	Page 3
3. Consultation	Page 4
4. Community-based Provision	Page 4
5. Education Establishment Provision	Page 5
6. Communication	Page 6
7. Additional / Future Provision	Page 6
8. Appendix (Consultation Results Report)	Page 8

OFFICIAL

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;

OFFICIAL

OFFICIAL

- 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

OFFICIAL

OFFICIAL

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 A full list of current venues and product provision is detailed in appendix 2. This will be reviewed and updated regularly.
- 4.6 Information on stocked venues can also 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

OFFICIAL

OFFICIAL

located within in the toilet facilities. Other schools may have products available in multiple locations.

- 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.

OFFICIAL

OFFICIAL

- 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.

Period Dignity

Consultation Results MARCH 2022

Report by:
Education Services,
Strategic Support Services

1. Introduction.

- 1.1 This report provides details on the recent findings of the Period Dignity consultation as completed by the general public, pupils and organisations.
- 1.2 The consultation was launched on Wednesday 12th January 2022 and closed on Wednesday 9th February 2022, following an extension of one week. It was an online consultation, publicised via Social Media and the GCC website. There were 3 aspects of the consultation where we hoped to capture the views and experiences of the general public, pupils and private or third sector organisations providing services to citizens of Glasgow.

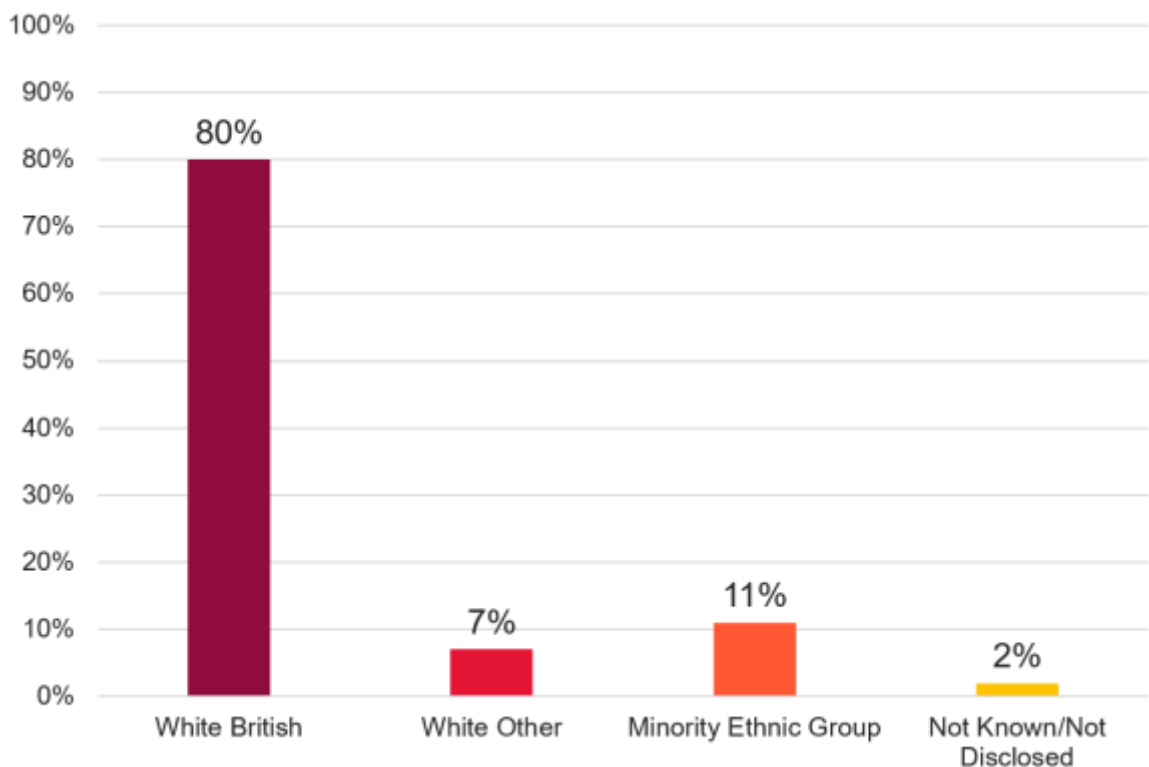
2. Background.

- 2.1 The Period Products (Free Provision) 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 make it mandatory for all public institutions to provide free and easily obtainable products for those who menstruate. The aim of the act is to support the rights and dignity of those who menstruate whilst reducing the stigma associated with requiring/using products.
- 2.2 As a Local Authority, Glasgow City Council is required to ensure that products are available in all GCC run public spaces (libraries, museums, sports centres etc.), all GCC run education facilities (primary, secondary and ASL schools) and all publicly accessible GCC workspaces. 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).
- 2.3 In line with the legal requirements, GCC launched a consultation process in January 2022.

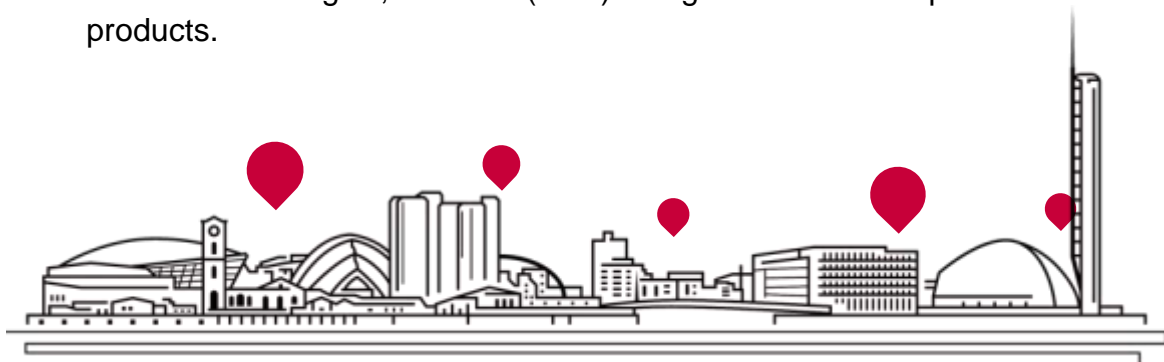
3. Findings of Consultation (Public).

- 3.1 The consultation questionnaire for the general public comprised of 16 questions and was open to anyone who wished to contribute, regardless of whether they themselves menstruated. 1186 people contributed to the consultation process.
- 3.2 Of the 1186 participants, 872 (**74%**) were people who currently menstruate, with 63 participants (**5%**) being people who will begin to menstruate in future. This meant there were 251 participants (**21%**) who do not currently, and will not in future, menstruate who contributed to the consultation.
- 3.3 The ethnicity of participants is illustrated below.

Figure 1: Ethnicity of Participants



- 3.4 Out of 1186 participants, 567 (**48%**) were aware of free products being available in Glasgow, with 619 (**52%**) being unaware of the provision of free products.

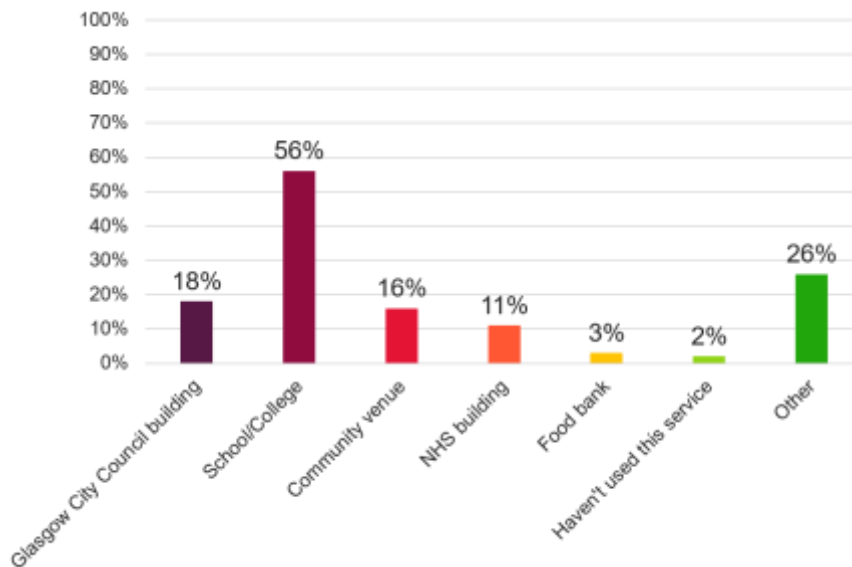


OFFICIAL

3.5 Looking at the 568 people who were aware, 185 (33%) had previously used free products.

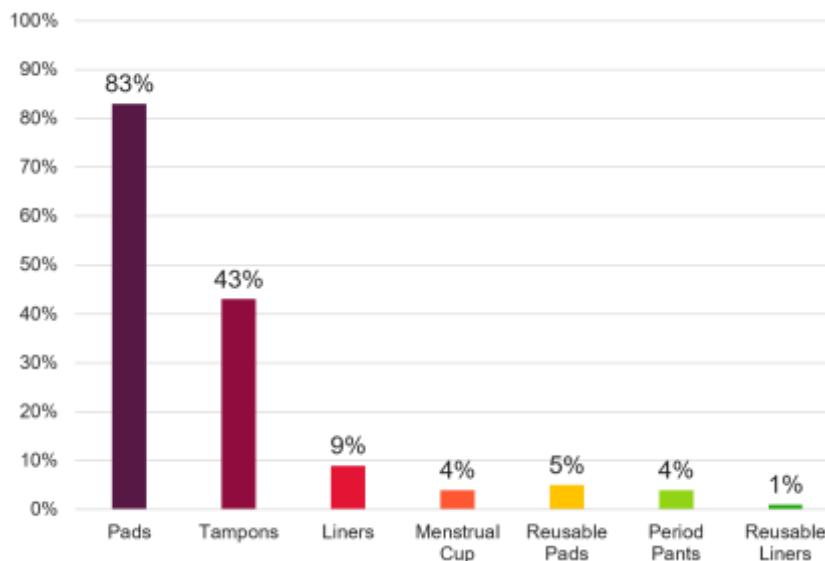
3.6 If we look more closely at those who were aware and had used the products before, we can see that most had previously obtained products from their school/college, with smaller numbers accessing products via a community facility, NHS building, Glasgow City Council building or from a foodbank. A significant number of people listed other venues such as private bars/restaurants, football stadiums, universities and shopping centres.

Figure 2: Locations Products Obtained



3.7 We can also see that pads and tampons were the most used products, with a smaller number having accessed reusable items.

Figure 3: Products Accessed

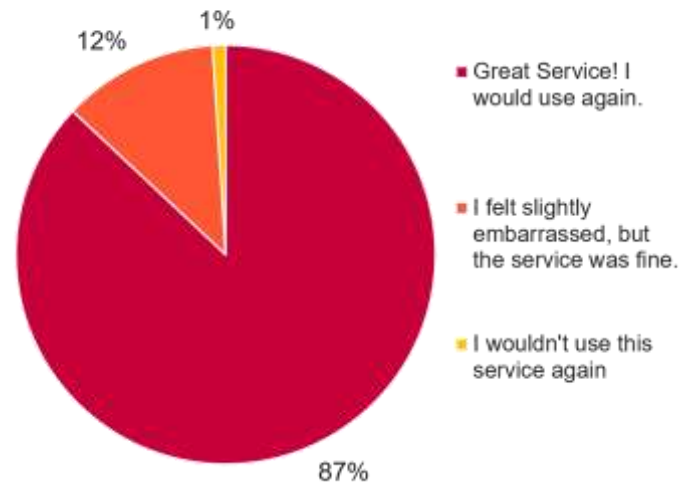


- 3.8 Still looking at those who were aware and had accessed products, respondents stated that they had mainly accessed these for themselves (94%), with some accessing for family members (11%) and a smaller number (8%) obtaining them for a service user / person they support in their job and a friend or partner.

- 3.9 We also asked those who had accessed products about their experience and whether they'd use again. Only 1 respondent out of 181 people said that they would not use again, with 157 saying it was a positive experience and they would definitely use again. 23 people said that they were slightly embarrassed, but overall the service was fine and they would probably use again.

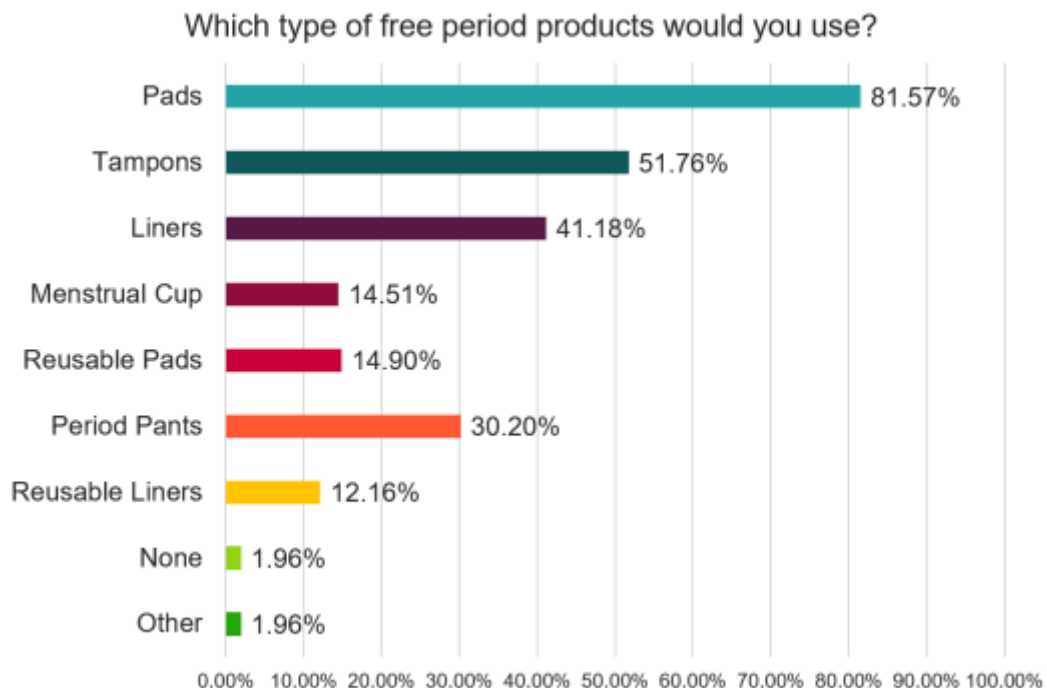
Figure 4: Experience

Based on your experience, please rate the process of accessing free period products?



- 3.10 There were 383 who people were aware that products were available but had not accessed products before. Of those, 257 people (67%) stated that they would be interested in doing so and selected one or more product(s) they would potentially use, as shown below.

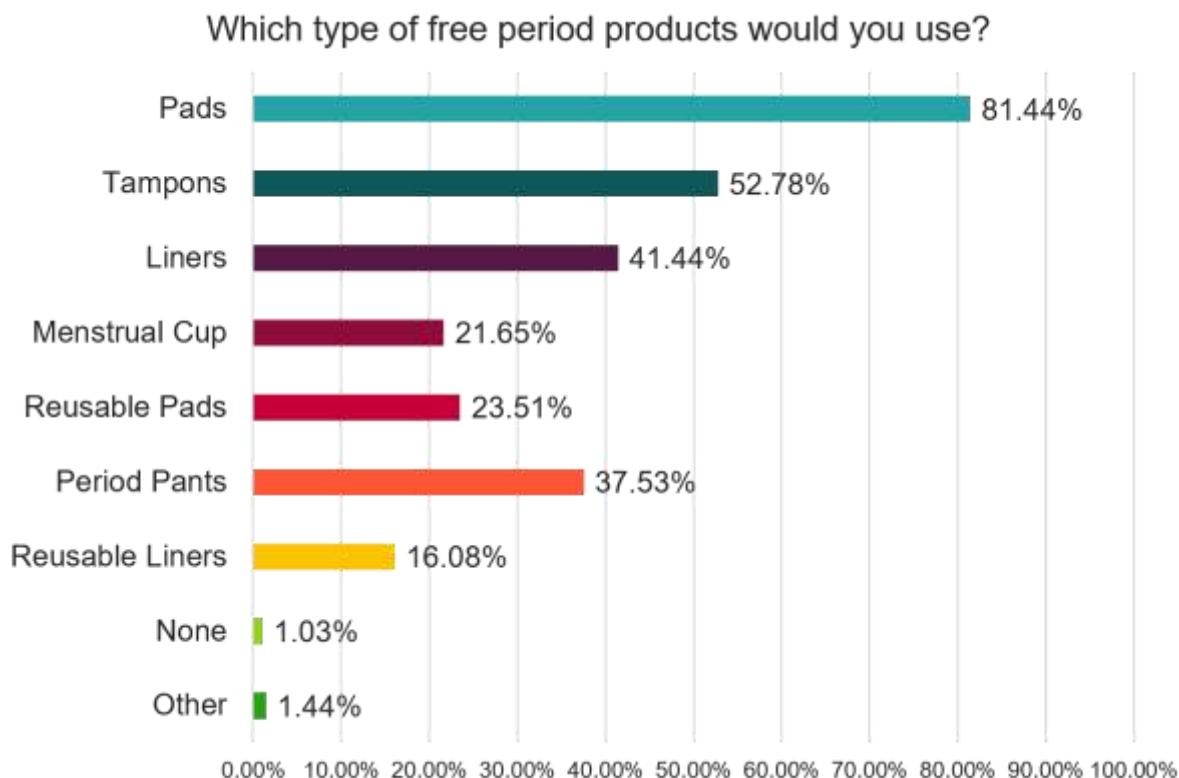
Figure 5: Product Preference (Aware)



OFFICIAL

- 3.11 There were 619 respondents who were not aware of free products being available in Glasgow. Of those who were not aware, the majority (**78%**) said that they would be interested in accessing free products. The products highlighted as the ones they would most like to see available were pads, tampons and liners, however 182 respondents chose period pants as one of the options they'd like to see, with period cups and reusable liners also highlighted by a smaller number of people, as shown below.

Figure 6: Product Preference (Unaware)

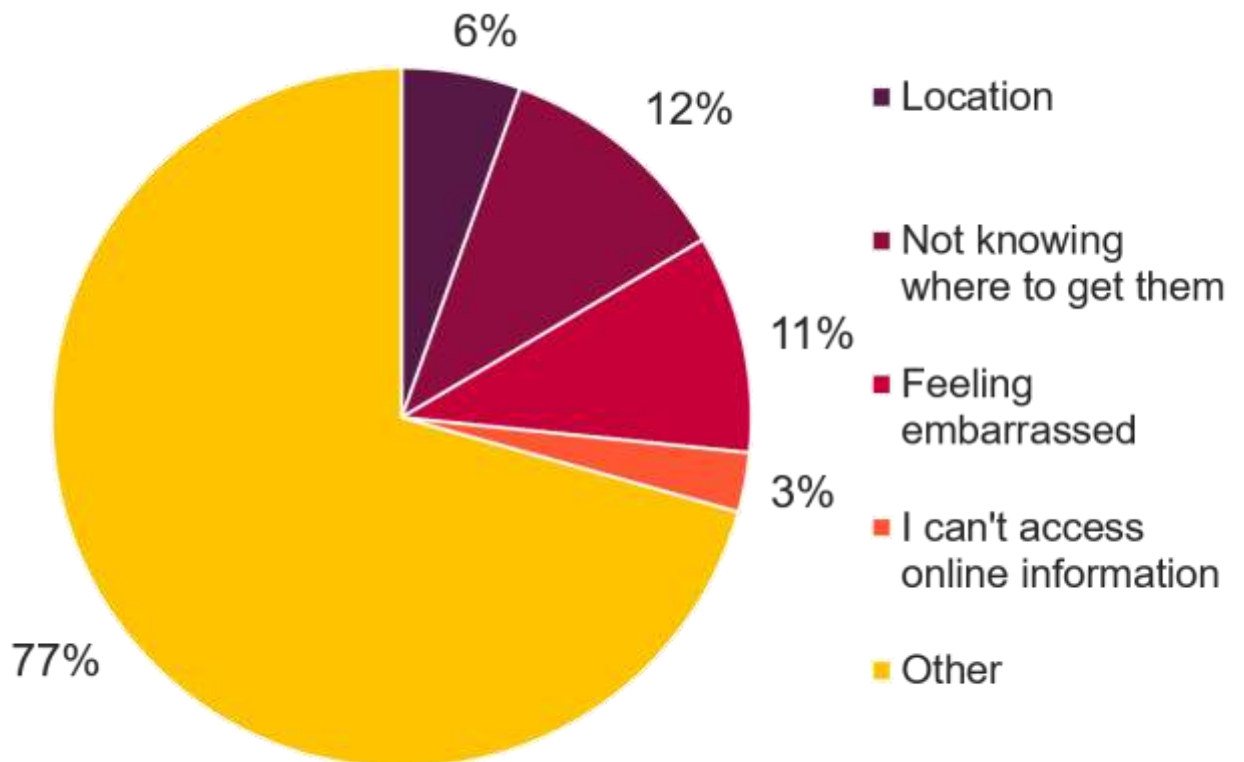


- 3.12 Of those who were not aware, but were interested in accessing products, **82%** would be interested in accessing for personal use, **45%** would be interested in accessing for a family member and **8%** would be interested in accessing products for another person.
- 3.13 When those who were not aware of free products in Glasgow but were interested were asked where they thought the best place to access products would be, schools and colleges was the most popular answer (**80%**). A high number of respondents (**80%**) chose online ordering service as an option. GP surgeries / health centres and hospitals were also popular in choice (**75%**), and over half (**57%**) also named community venues as appropriate places. Those who selected “other” gave suggestions such as train/bus stations, shops/restaurants and pharmacies.

OFFICIAL

- 3.14 Most respondents who were not aware of products but were interested stated that the best location within these buildings would be within the toilets (**89%**) or within a discreet location (**59%**). A smaller number suggested in the reception area (**32%**) or at a display stand (**30%**).
- 3.15 Looking at the reasons given for not being interested in accessing free products (for both those who were aware of the service and those who were unaware), we can see that **11%** cited feeling embarrassed a reason. For **12%** it was being unsure where to access products and for 6% it was location which was the deterrent. A small number (**3%**) were put off by not being able to access online information. However, it should be noted that the majority of respondents picked “other” as a reason.

Figure 7: Not Interested Reasoning



- 3.16 Respondents who had selected “other” were asked to elaborate on that reason. Many stated that they did not require products due to age, or because they were male, however a high number of respondents stated that they felt the service was not suitable for them as they could afford to buy period products. Below is a selection of comments pertaining to the financial aspect:

“I don’t need this service as I can afford to buy the products.”

“I can afford to buy my own but think it’s a fantastic service to offer.”

“I feel that there are many more people who need access to these products more urgently than I do.”

“I would want them to be available to those who need them most - I can currently afford them so wouldn’t want to use the resources and take them away from those most in need.”

“I’m fortunate enough to be able to afford them myself and would leave them for women who really cannot afford them.”

- 3.17 Finally, all participants were asked if they would be likely to use the PickupMyPeriod app which has been launched to show the location and availability of free period products. Nearly three quarters of all 1186 participants (**74%**) stated that they would use the app.



Figure 8: Likelihood of Using App



4. Findings of Consultation (Pupils)

- 4.1 The consultation questionnaire for pupils was open to attendees of both primary and secondary education facilities, including ASL facilities, in Glasgow. It was comprised of 15 questions and was open to pupils of any gender. 1,425 pupils completed the consultation questions. Of the 1,425 pupils to complete, 251 (**18%**) were primary school pupils and 1,174 (**82%**) were secondary school pupils.
- 4.2 Overall, 1,055 pupils (**75%**) were aware of period products being available in school. Breaking those figures down into primary and secondary pupil responses, we saw that 177 primary pupils out of 242 were aware, compared with 837 out of 1,106 secondary pupils. Both rates as a percentage are relatively similar at **72%** for primary pupils and **76%** for secondary pupils.

Figure 9 (A): Awareness Overall

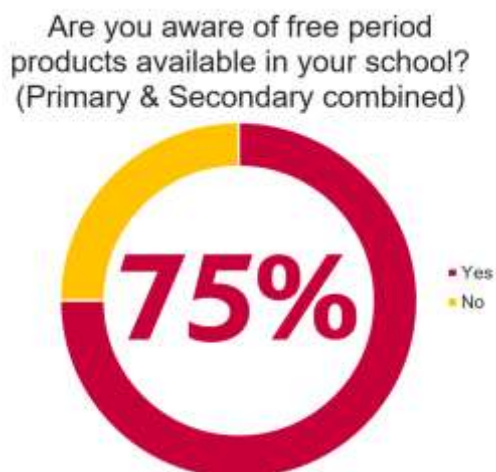
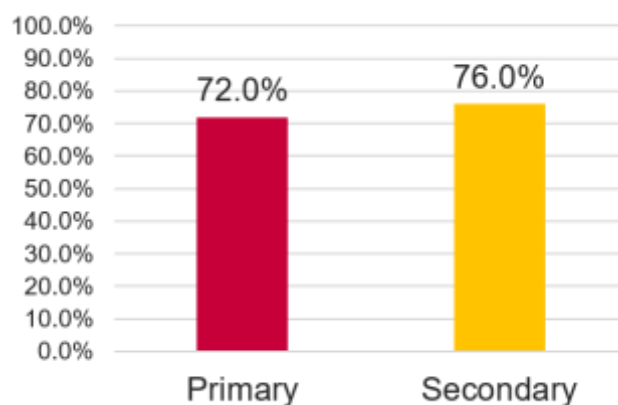


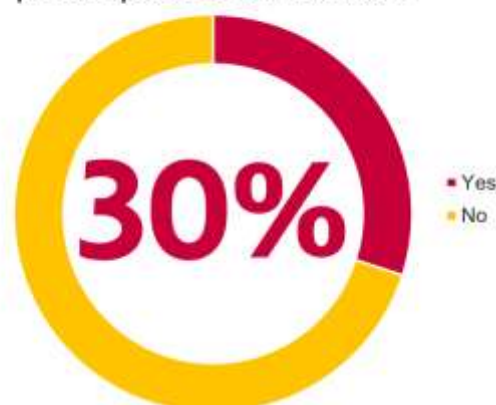
Figure 9 (B): Awareness Primary / Secondary



- 4.3 The consultation asked all pupils if they had ever accessed free period products in school. The number of pupils who had accessed free products was 421 (**30%**), with 960 pupils (**70%**) stating that they had not.

Figure 10: Product Usage

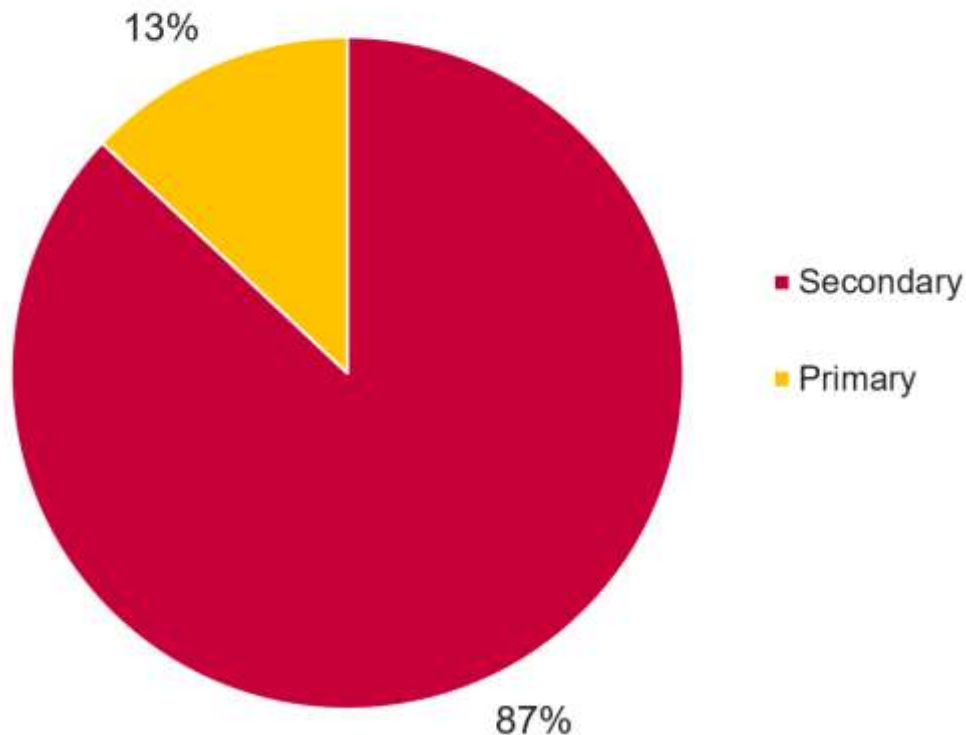
Have you ever accessed free period products in school?



- 4.4 If we break this statistic down into primary and secondary pupils, we can see that most of the pupils who have previously accessed products were secondary pupils (**87%**) with only 53 primary pupils of the 421 pupils (**13%**) having previously accessed free products.

Figure 11: Usage (Primary/Secondary)

Of the 421 pupils who had accessed products:



- 4.5 It should be noted that fewer primary pupils contributed to the questionnaire, as converting this into individual percentage rates shows us that the gap is less dramatic with **22%** of primary school respondents having accessed free products compared to **33%** of secondary school respondents. We should also be aware that fewer primary pupils may require products.

OFFICIAL

- 4.6 When asked if they brought products to school, 104 primary pupils out of 246 (42%) said that they did. Comparatively, 822 secondary pupils out of 1,113 (74%) stated that they brought their own products. This again could be attributed to the smaller percentage of primary school pupils who are likely to menstruate.

Figure 12 (A): Primary

Do you bring period products to school?
(Primary)

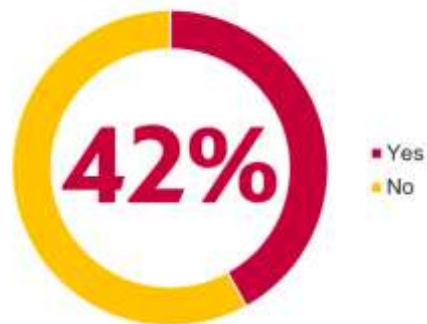


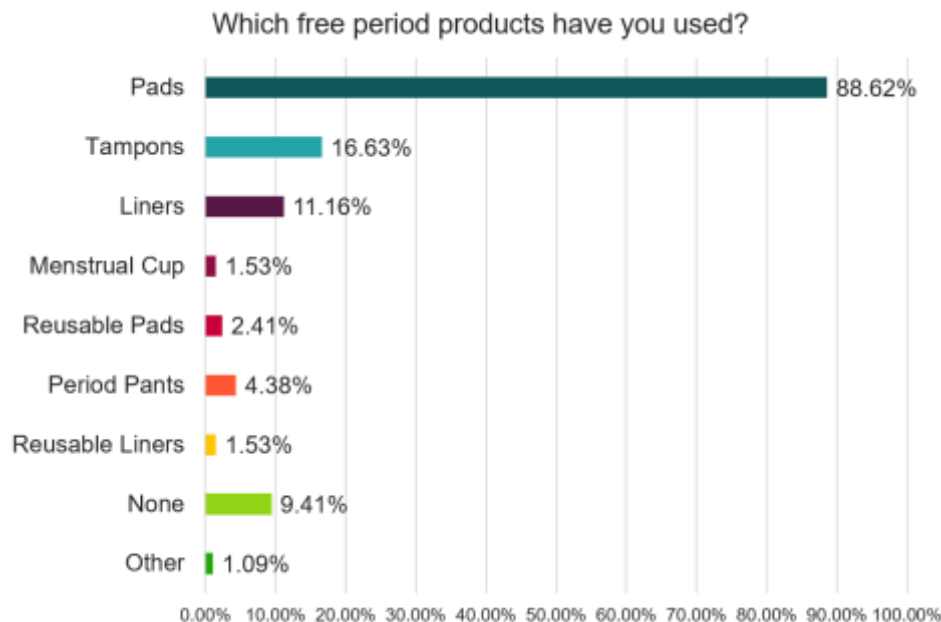
Figure 12 (B): Secondary

Do you bring period products to school?
(Secondary)



- 4.7 For those who had accessed products previously, we were interested to learn what type of products they had accessed. Out of 421 pupils, 373 stated that they accessed pads, 70 had also / instead accessed tampons, and 47 pupils had also / instead accessed liners. A smaller number of pupils had accessed reusable items, as shown below.

Figure 13: Accessed Product Type



- 4.8 There was very little difference in these results when split between primary and secondary pupils. Pads were the most used product by a substantial margin for both sets of pupils.

OFFICIAL

- 4.9 The products pupils would like to use was significantly different to those that pupils had used. It should be noted that this question was answered by both those who had accessed products previously as well as those who hadn't, and that pupils were able to select as many options as they were interested in. Pads were the still the most popular choice, especially for primary pupils, however over half of all secondary pupils also/instead chose tampons as a product they would like to see available. A quarter of both primary and secondary pupils picked period pants as an option.

Figure 14 (A): Preferred Products (Primary)

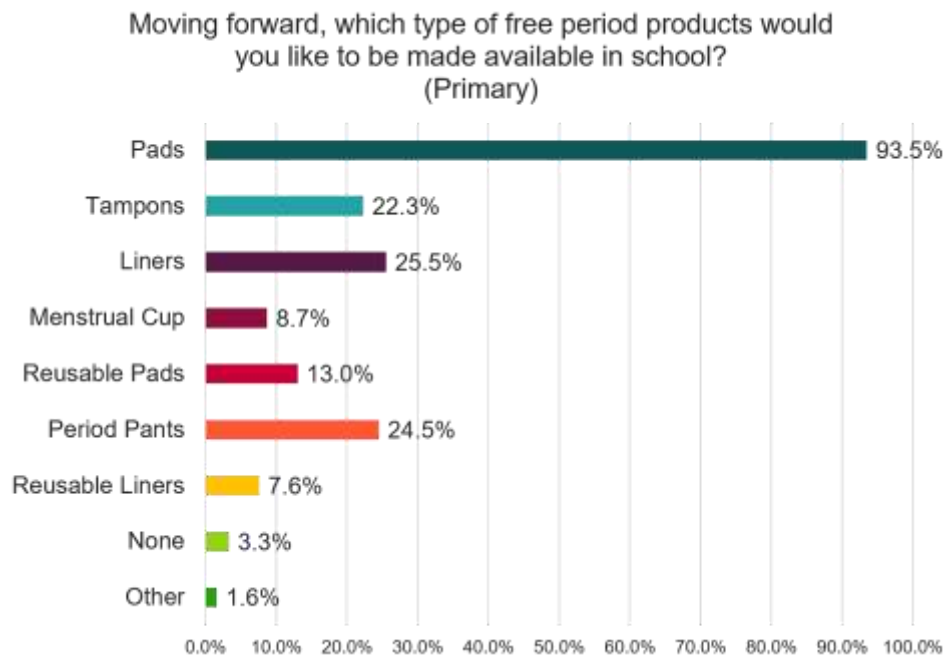
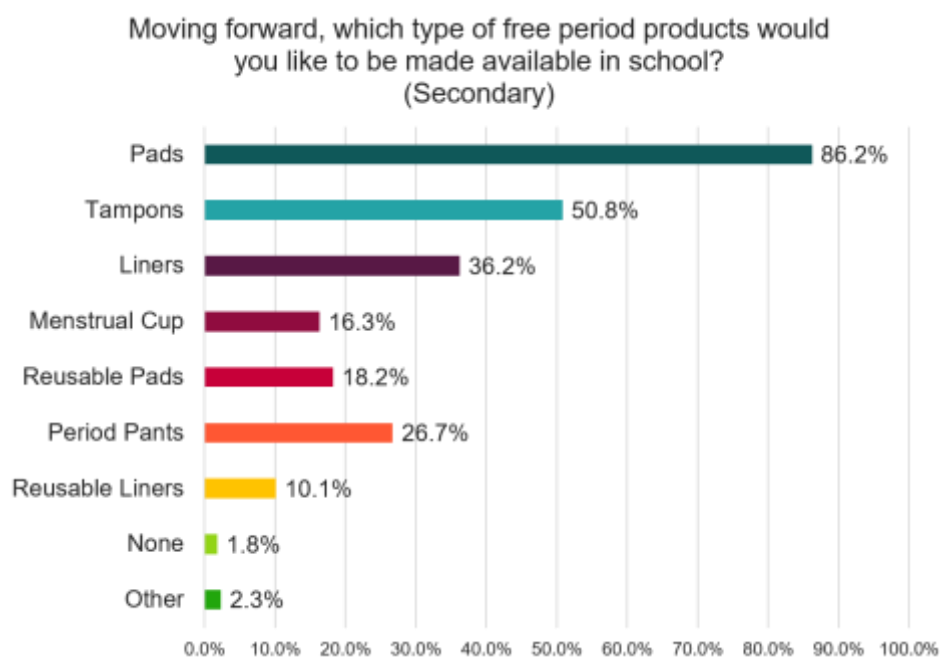
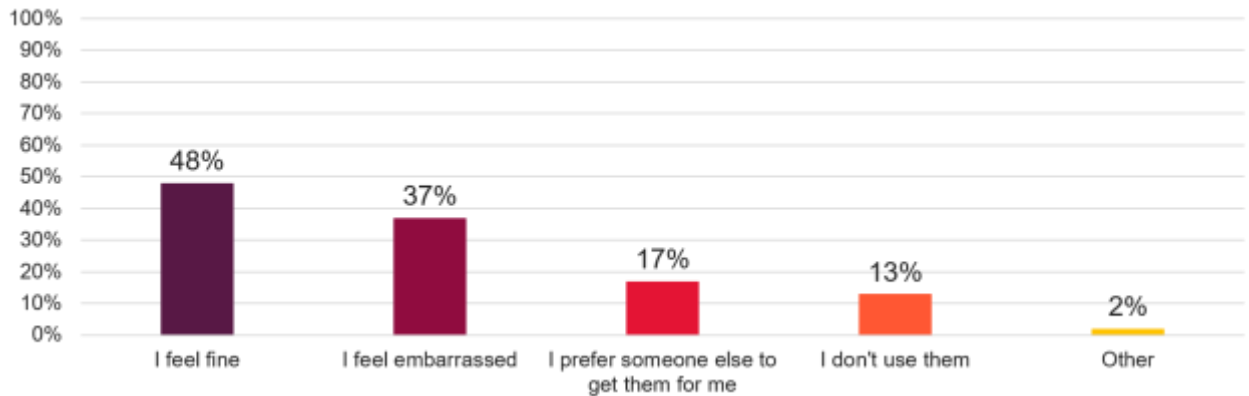


Figure 14 (B): Preferred Products (Secondary)



- 4.10 We asked pupils how they felt about looking for / accessing products at school. Overall, nearly half of pupils stated that they felt fine, with over a third saying that they felt embarrassed. A smaller number felt more comfortable with someone else obtaining products for them. Primary pupils were far more likely to feel embarrassed (**49%**) compared to secondary pupils (**35%**). Those who chose the “other” option mostly listed not requiring products at this time as their reason.

Figure 15: Attitude to Accessing Products



- 4.11 In terms of where period products should be available, both primary pupils (**87%**) and secondary pupils (**90%**) stated in the toilets as the most appropriate place. A smaller number stated the school office (**23%**) and the third most popular choice was asking a member of staff (**19.4%**).
- 4.12 Overall, over **50%** of pupils who hadn't accessed products previously said they would be interested in accessing products in future. Primary pupils were more enthusiastic, with **65%** stating that would be interested. Again, this could be down to age and stage of those pupils.

Figure 16 (A): Interest (Primary)

If you haven't previously accessed free period products, is this something you would be interested in?
(Primary)

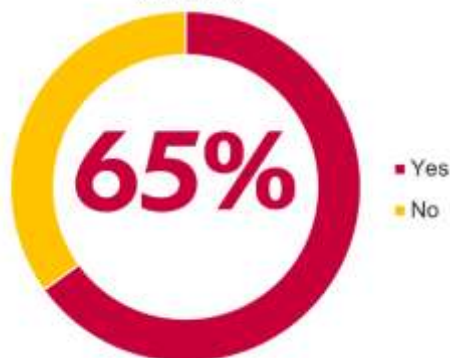


Figure 16 (B): Interest (Secondary)

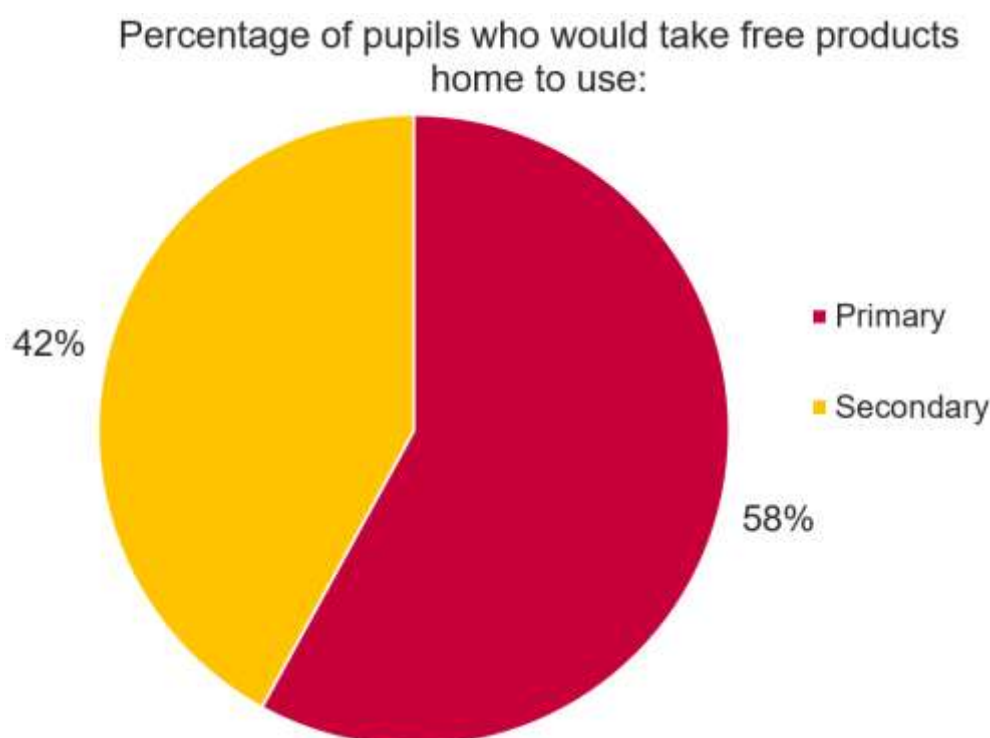
If you haven't previously accessed free period products, is this something you would be interested in?
(Secondary)



OFFICIAL

- 4.13 90% of all pupils asked stated that they had access to products at home, with 10% stating that they do not. Of that **10%** however we know that a significant number do not access products as school either. We therefore feel this could be because they do not currently menstruate and potentially won't in future – i.e. those respondents were younger pupils or male.
- 4.14 We asked pupils if they would be likely to take products home to use out with school. **58%** of primary pupils said they would take products home compared to **42%** of secondary pupils. Pupils were most likely to take products home for themselves, followed by for a family member.

Figure 17: Interest in Home Use



- 4.15 Pupils were asked if they would like to know more about free period products available at school. Looking at pupil responses as a whole, **50%** stated yes. When we separated responses into primary and secondary responses, we can see that primary pupils were more keen to have further information (**66%**) compared with secondary pupils (**47%**).

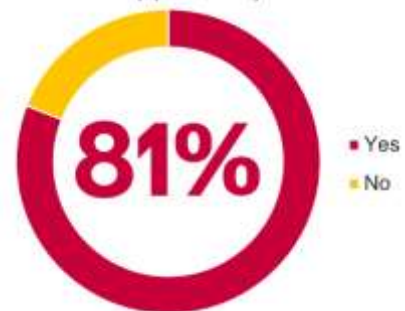
5. Findings of Consultation – Organisations.

- 5.1 The consultation questionnaire for organisations comprised of 11 questions and was open to private, public and 3rd sector organisations. 31 organisations in total completed the questionnaire. 30 participants were public or 3rd sector organisations with 1 participant not stating which sector/organisation they were from.

- 5.2 Of the 31 organisations who responded, 25 (81%) were aware of period products being available for free within Glasgow. Whilst the percentage of awareness was high, the actual number of respondents was fairly low which could suggest that an organisation was more likely to respond to the consultation if they were already aware of period dignity activity in Glasgow.

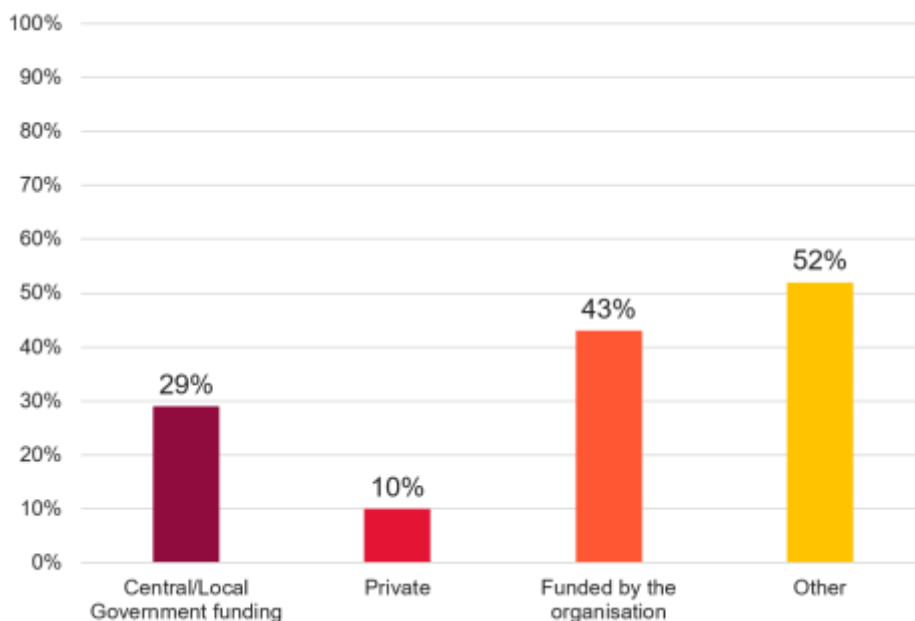
Figure 18: Awareness

Are you aware of the current availability of free period products in Glasgow under the Period Products (Free Provision) (Scotland) Act 2021?



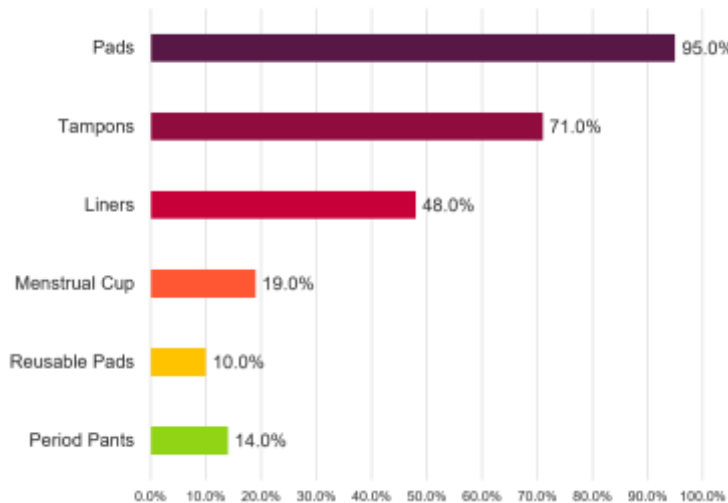
- 5.3 The majority of respondent organisations already provided period products, however 10 did not. Of the 21 who did provide products, there were different funding streams used. Those who chose “other” were asked to specify, and over half of the organisations stated that they relied on donations of products or collected/received these from other organisations/schools or Period Friendly Points.

Figure 19: Source of Funding for Products



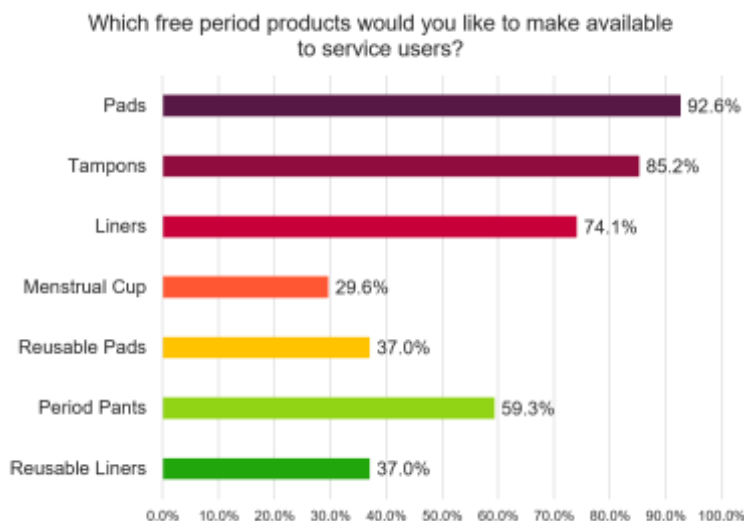
- 5.4 Respondents who were already providing products were asked to detail which type of products they offered. It was determined that single use sanitary pads and tampons were provided in the main, however 4 organisations stated that they had at least one reusable product, such as a menstrual cup or period pants, available. No organisation stated that they provided reusable liners, and no organisations chose the “other” option.

Figure 20: Products Provided



- 5.5 The majority of respondents (27 out of 31 organisations) said they would be interested in providing products. When asked which products organisations would like to make available to service users, it wasn't surprising to see sanitary pads and tampons as the standard and most popular items again. It was however encouraging to see that 16 organisations (nearly **60%**) were interested in period pants, with 10 organisations also interested in reusable pads and liners. Given only 4 organisations currently provide any form of reusable products, this shows real interest in more sustainable options.

Figure 21: Product Preference



OFFICIAL

- 5.6 When asked where they would like to make period products available, the overwhelming majority of organisations stated the female and accessible toilets. Other suggestions included male toilets, designated areas within the building, and pantry/foodbank facilities.
- 5.7 The last question asked for any additional comments or feedback. 16 participants provided a response. The majority of comments were positive, with some quotes given below:

"I think the provision of the free period products is fantastic for young people. As well as not having the expense of having to purchase these products."

"We feel this is an amazing thing & will be such a help within Glasgow especially with many families living in poverty."

"I think this is a great idea and so needed."

"We already provide some free period products, but we are keen to shift to providing sustainable products for our service users."

"This is a fantastic resource for young people ensuring they can access period products easily and without any stigma."

6. Conclusion

- 6.1 Just over half (**52%**) of respondents to the public consultation were unaware that Glasgow currently had free period products in venues across the city, suggesting that engagement and publicity should be continued. It is encouraging to see that the majority of respondents who were unaware (**78%**) were interested in accessing free products and gave an insight into what products they would prefer and where they would like to see them available.
- 6.2 Disposable pads, tampons and liners are the more popular choices by the public for products they would like to see available, regardless of whether they were aware or unaware of the service. A smaller, but still significant, number of participants also listed reusable products such as period pants and period cups as items they would like to see as an option. Most participants listed venues/buildings where products are currently available as suitable locations to house products.

OFFICIAL

OFFICIAL

- 6.3 We are pleased to see the vast majority of those who had accessed free period products before had a positive experience and would use the service again, and that nearly three quarters of respondents would use the PickupMyPeriod app to identify locations and availability of free products.
- 6.4 It should be noted that many respondents to the public consultation saw this as a service more geared towards those who were economically or financially disadvantaged as opposed to a universal service to support period dignity for all. It should also be noted that there was a low response rate from ethnic minority groups.
- 6.5 Approximately three quarters of school pupils, across both primary and secondary schools, are aware they are able to access free period products, however only 30% of pupils had previously accessed this service. This tells us that more engagement work is needed by schools to inform pupils they have access to products.
- 6.6 Pads were the most accessed as well as requested product. Around half of secondary pupils also listed tampons as a product they would like to see available. Reusable products were less likely to be chosen by both groups, however of the reusable product choices, period pants were the product pupils would most like to see available. Most pupils said that the toilet was the most appropriate place to access products showing that pupils would prefer for a discreet location.
- 6.7 In terms of attitude towards accessing free products, 48% of all pupils said that they felt fine, with 37% stating that they felt embarrassed. For primary pupils, the rate who felt embarrassed was almost 50%. More education is therefore needed around breaking the stigma of having periods and using products.
- 6.8 For those who hadn't accessed products, over 50% said that they would be interested in accessing products in future and, overall, 50% of pupils were interested in hearing more about free products available in school. Pupils require further information from their school if the uptake is to improve.
- 6.9 Despite there being no legislative requirement for Glasgow City Council to engage with third sector or private organisations, we are keen to be inclusive and have a flourishing city with regard to Period Dignity, so a consultation to gather organisational views was carried out in tandem with the consultations for the general public and pupils.

OFFICIAL

OFFICIAL

- 6.10 There was a relatively small number of respondents to the organisational consultation, however the findings show on the whole that organisations are already, or are interested in, providing free period products.
- 6.11 The findings of the organisational consultation do offer some encouragement around sustainable products and the willingness of organisations to provide these, as well as offer an insight into where products would be best placed.
- 6.12 It is reassuring to see that most organisations had positive comments to make around the free provision of products in Glasgow and were happy to engage in further discussion.

7. Recommendations

7.1 It is recommended that

- (1) Glasgow City Council continue engaging with the general public of Glasgow to
 - (a) Inform the public of the Period Products (Free Provision) Act 2021 and its requirements of GCC;
 - (b) Inform the public of venues offering free products and of the PickupMyPeriod app;
 - (c) Publicise that this service is not purely for those who are financially disadvantaged and promote the importance of period dignity for all;
 - (d) Encourage and promote the use of free products;
 - (e) Encourage and promote the use of reusable products;
- (2) Glasgow City Council carry out specific engagement with ethnic minority groups;
- (3) Glasgow City Council explore further location / venue options to increase availability of products;
- (4) Glasgow City Council run Education Facilities engage further with their pupils to
 - (a) Inform pupils that free products are available and how/where to access products within their school;
 - (b) Encourage and promote the use of free products;
 - (c) Help reduce embarrassment around having periods / using free products; and
 - (d) Encourage pupils to download the PickupMyPeriod app to access free products out with school;

OFFICIAL

OFFICIAL

- (5) Glasgow City Council run Education Facilities stock period pants, as the most requested reusable product; and
- (6) Despite no legislative obligation to engage with third sector and private organisations, Glasgow City Council continue to engage with organisations in Glasgow to:
 - (a) Inform organisations of the Period Products (Free Provision) Act 2021 and its requirements of GCC;
 - (b) Inform organisations of venues offering free products, and of the PickUpMyPeriod app;
 - (c) Encourage and support organisations to provide products; and
 - (d) Encourage and promote the use of reusable products

OFFICIAL