



West Lothian College

Period Products - Statement on Exercise of Functions

The Period Products (Free Provision) (Scotland) Act 2021 received Royal Assent on 12th January 2021. The Act requires colleges to ensure period products are provided free of charge to anyone who needs them during term time on their premises. It is the world's first legislation to make it mandatory for all public institutions to provide sanitary products for menstruation.

The Act states:

- Everyone in Scotland who menstruates should have reasonably convenient access to period products, free of charge, as and when required.
- We must make products reasonably easy to obtain, we must try to ensure dignity is preserved and respected and offer a reasonable choice of types of products (1 type of tampon, 1 type of sanitary pad and 1 reusable product).
- Recipients should not be required to ask for products, justify why they need them, or any limit placed on the number of products recipients can receive. Colleges have a duty to make period products available free of charge for anyone who needs them, and in their role as education providers, make period products available at no cost in college buildings.

Colleges are also required to publish a Statement on how they will exercise their functions under the Act. The statement must be prepared in consultation with relevant individuals, groups, and organisations.

West Lothian College Statement of Function

Current Provision

With the funding made available by Scottish Government West Lothian College provides period products to all those who need them. We ensure that:

- *All period products are provided free of charge and easy to obtain, with a choice of single use and reusable products offered including single use pads, washable period pads, single use tampons and menstrual cups. Products are displayed on a stand, to promote easy access to all. We also have a dedicated email address where student can contact should they wish to give us feedback.*
- *Products are available in all female and gender-neutral toilets in all five buildings throughout the year except during the Christmas break when the campus is closed.*
- *Information on the scheme is communicated effectively internally on posters, on the college website and social media platforms.*

West Lothian College has ensured there is no limit to the number of products a student can access. There is no requirement to ask for products as they are freely available in toilets, Student Services areas, Students' Association offices, and other public areas. Estates staff monitor and refresh stock regularly. Posters and product displays are exhibited throughout the college and refreshed on a regular basis to ensure information is current. In a recent consultation study carried out by the Student Association the majority of students were very happy with the provision we offer, and any suggestions for improvements were acted upon.

Our Commitment

West Lothian College is committed to maintaining the current provision and will continue to promote this service and consult with our students to evaluate uptake, and performance to ensure we have the best options available to meet student needs.