



Period Products (Free Provision) (Scotland) Act 2021: Scotland's Rural College (SRUC) Period Product Statement on Exercise of Function

Introduction

In 2018, the Scottish Government committed to providing access to free sanitary products for students in schools, colleges, and universities. Scotland has subsequently become the first UK nation to offer free sanitary products for all, as part of the 2020 Period Products (Free Provision) (Scotland) Bill.

SRUC continues to deliver on the Scottish Government requirement to provide access to free sanitary products in our premises, to support equality, dignity, and rights for those who menstruate, and to ensure that lack of access to products does not impact on an individual's ability to fully participate in education at all levels.

SRUC is fully committed to student care and works hard to educate and empower our students throughout their learning journey. Ending period poverty is an important strand in this work and the Period Products (Free Provision) (Scotland) Act 2021 has given us a platform to provide accessible, free products to all students who need them in a way that respects the dignity of individuals.

SRUC is an integrated institution encompassing both further and higher education. It is a diverse and flexible partnership serving our communities and is connected to their needs.

Scottish Funding Council (SFC) funding is provided to SRUC, and we have a model in place whereby period products are distributed to our local premises where both staff and our student association promote options and availability.

Product range, distribution, and promotion

Products are promoted and made available to students in a variety of ways which can depend on where students are located within SRUC. As well as being available in toilets and residencies across our estate, products (single use, reusable and bulk orders) can be collected or ordered:

- Using the mySRUC app
- through student welfare services
- as part of SRUC's welcome week
- at the SRUCSA (student association) office
- via a QR code on posters
- at wider local or council pick up points.

Products are accessible throughout the year except when buildings are closed for public holidays.

Students can choose from a range of products to best suit their needs. These products are on display in campus areas to help raise awareness and spark conversations, as well as full information being available through our student online space.

Consultation and Engagement

We consulted with our student community, and we have taken into account the results of the results which showed that students wanted access to resources to be flexible in a way that is dignified and accessible. Specifically, the consultation told us that students want products to be available:

- On campus in all toilets (including gender neutral loos)
- Via online ordering and delivered
- Through funds credited to their account

SRUC will continue to work creatively and thoughtfully with our student body in promoting period dignity across our campuses.