

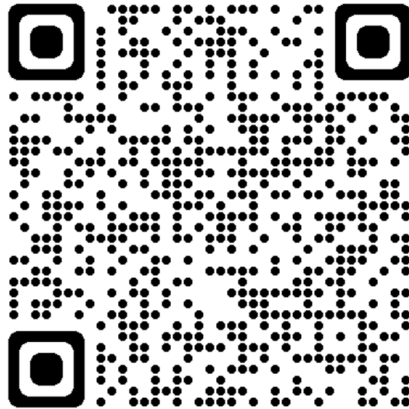


## **Midlothian Council – Statement of Community-Based Provision for the ‘Period Products (Free Provision) (Scotland) Act 2021’.**

**August 15th 2022**

**Period Product Locator App**

**PickUpMyPeriod – Quick Response Code:**



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## 1. Introduction

The Period Products (Free Provision) (Scotland) Act 2021 was passed in November 2020 and came into effect from 15 August 2022. It is the world's first legislation to support the provision of free products for those who have a period. The Act requires local authorities to provide period products free of charge to anyone who needs them. The Act specifies that local authorities must make products reasonably easy to obtain, respect dignity and offer a reasonable choice of types of period products.

There are two parts to the Act:

**Section 1** requires local authorities to ensure that anyone within their local area who requires period products can obtain them free of charge, in sufficient quantities to meet their needs. This includes those living, working or visiting the local authority area.

**Section 2** requires all education providers to make period products obtainable free of charge on their premises for pupils and students during term time. Products should be available in at least one location in every building normally used by pupils in both primary and secondary schools.

Each responsible body must, as soon as reasonably practicable, prepare a written statement describing the plans for provision. The statement must be prepared in consultation with relevant individuals, groups and organisations.

The consultation must seek information to inform decisions about:

- The way products may be made available
- The types of products required
- The premises where the products will be available
- The location of products in those premises

## **Midlothian Council Statement of Community-Based Provision.**

On the basis of funding being made available by the Scottish Government:

***“We will strive to ensure that everyone in Midlothian Council who has a period will have convenient access to appropriate products free of charge, as and when they are required.”***

We will do this by:

- consulting with those people in our communities and schools who will require the products, this is to determine the breadth of product requirement;
- engaging with organisations working with groups and individuals representing a range of equalities groups to ensure the broadest range of access is achieved;
- working with strategic partners in the Midlothian Community Planning Partnership to identify premises and distribution methods for providing access in a way that maintains the dignity of those seeking access to period products;
- liaising with community groups to identify where products are placed and distribution methods to ensure we maintain the dignity of those seeking access to period products;
- reviewing the levels of demand and supply to establish the strongest possible match between the two;
- providing information about what period products are available, where and how they can be obtained.

## **2. Consultation**

### **Method**

Before preparing the statement we consulted those groups of people identified in the Scottish Government Guidance about period products, and other organisations and individuals we thought were appropriate.

### **Who we had to consult:**

- People that use period products who live or are otherwise likely to be present in the Midlothian area.
- People who may want to collect period products on behalf of product users;
- People facing additional barriers to access;
- Young people within our education settings – primary, secondary and special schools.

### What we had to ask about:

- ways in which people could obtain period products free of charge
- dignity and ease of access
- the required choice of period products that should be available
- how we educate our young people in Midlothian on periods and how to use the relevant products

In order to reach as many people who live or work in Midlothian, the quickest and most effective tool we had available was an on-line survey via the council website.

We also held pupil focus groups with young people attending different schools and settings across Midlothian.

### The Survey

The on-line survey consisted of twelve questions and was carried out throughout June 2022 and was open to anyone who wished to participate. We received 562 responses with further input from targeted organisations in May 2022. These consultation findings will be published on our website. The survey questions are in **Appendix 2**.

## 3. Consultation Key Messages

### Existing Provision

The first few questions asked about the existing provision.

- Two thirds of respondents did not know about free period products in Midlothian (67%).
- The majority of respondents (79%) have not used period products that have been made freely available.
- Almost all (93%) of respondents are interested in accessing free products
- At the pupil focus groups most commented on the poor quality and selection of products available at school.

### Summary of existing provision questions

The survey clearly demonstrates that while Midlothian Council has put period products at a variety of locations across the locality, most people are not aware of this provision. However almost all of the respondents would be keen to access free products.

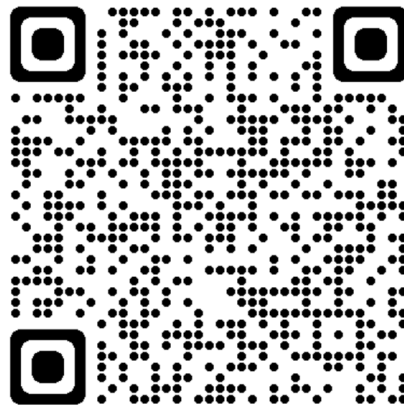
### In response Midlothian will:

- Work alongside the wider Council on an awareness raising campaign, both in schools and in other community facilities, to promote the products we have available and how they can be accessed; increase understanding and reduce the stigma associated with accessing products that are available for all.

The most up to date list of venues is provided in **Appendix 1**. This list will be reviewed on a bi annual basis and will be the source of information that is included in the 'Quick Response' (QR) Locator App.

The PickUpMyPeriod Locator website and app contains information on the availability of products in Midlothian. This can be accessed by taking a photograph of the code on your smartphone. This will open the PickUpMyPeriod information page and service users will be guided on how to obtain the relevant information. There is also an app available for Apple and Android.

**The PickUpMyPeriod QR code is:**



### Future provision

The next set of questions were designed to gather information on preferences so that the provision can be aligned to preference.

**Question 5** asked which type of free products they would use. **Question 6** asked respondents who they would require products for.

The main type of free products that would be utilised if offered are (respondents could select more than one type):

- Disposable products got the highest response rates: Period pads (81%) followed by tampons (58%) and liners (39%).
- Reusable products were less popular: period pants (35%), then pads, cups and liners (20-14%).

The majority of respondents would obtain the products for their own use (81%), with a majority also obtaining them for a family member (51%).

**Question 7** asked what the best places/method would be to obtain products and **Question 8** asked about the preferred locations in buildings for obtaining products.

- Nearly four fifths (78%) of respondents said online ordering would be the best method
- A range of physical locations also received a high rate of responses: GP surgery/Health Centre (69%); school (67%); community venues (62%)

- Local shops/high street (50%), Midlothian Community Hospital (45%) and Midlothian Council offices (25%) were the other options

When asked where products should be made available in buildings, within the toilets was the most preferred location (81%), followed by in a discreet location (62%).

On a display stand (28%) and at a reception (24%) were less popular.

**Question 9** sought information about how often the respondents would utilise the free products.

- 43% said as and when I need it
- 34% said every month through subscription
- 20% said only if they happened to be in a public toilet and found themselves in need of a sanitary product
- Other responses were below 3%

**Question 10** sought information on the usage of a mobile app called 'PickUpMyPeriod' listing current locations and availability of free period products.

- 84% answered "yes" to interest in using the app
- 16% answered "no" to using the app

**Responses to Question 11** provide some information about the respondents to the survey. The highest responses were:

- 38% do not use free period products now but will in the future
- 31% are on low income
- 19% do not use period products but access them for someone else
- 15% use free period products now

**Question 12** seeks to quantify the ethnic diversity of Midlothian constituents who took part in this survey

- 94.09% identified as white
- 2.69% identified as Asian
- 3.22% identified as other

### Summary of future provision

Many respondents will use free products in the future, and are in favour of on-line and broader community access. Disposable products were favoured over reusable.

### In response Midlothian will:

- Pilot a home delivery service that allows people to order products, including reusable products, online. The costs of delivering this service is high, so we have set aside a portion of our budget to pilot this scheme to ascertain usage and effectiveness of a home delivery scheme. Any long-term implementation will depend on budget and delivery costs.

The home delivery pilot is available using the link below:

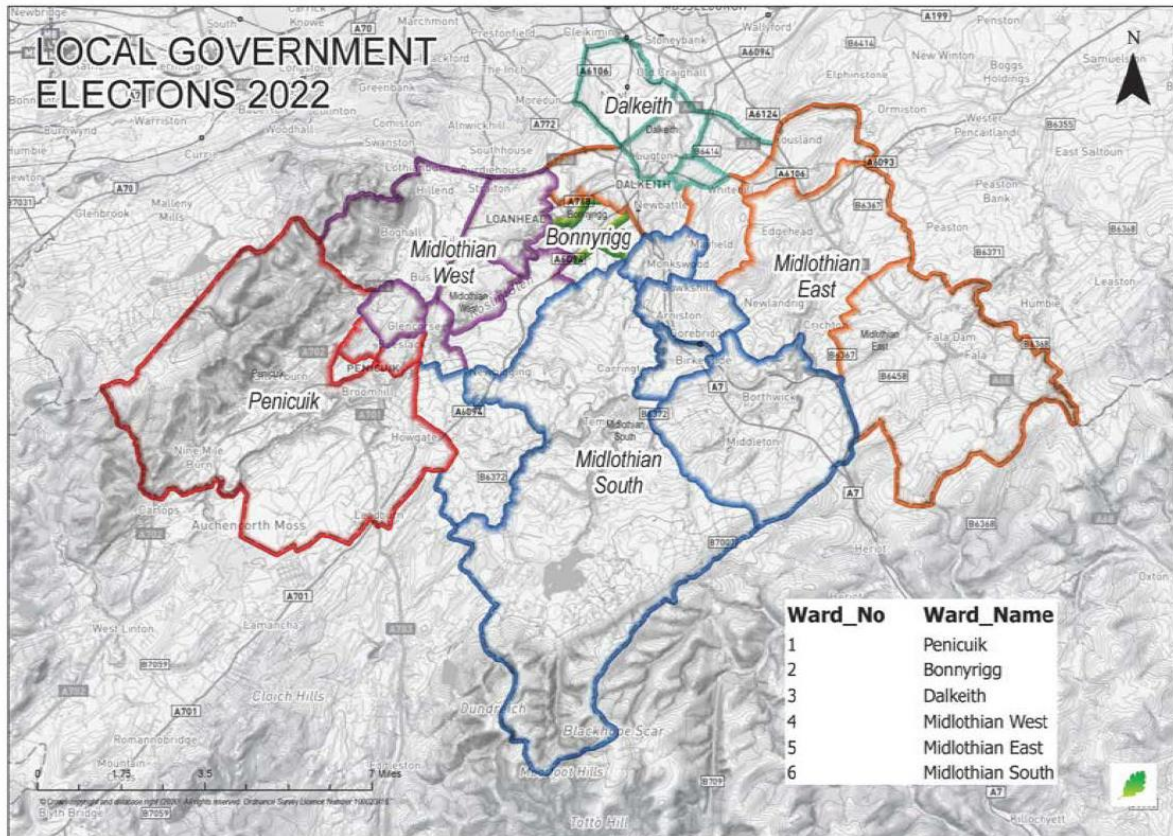
[Midlothian Home Packs - Hey Girls](#)

- Raise awareness of reusable products
- Continue to connect and discuss product provision with individuals and organisations supporting people identified within Equalities legislation.
- Review and renew the service consultation annually and use this to inform future provision.



# Appendix 1: Public Access Points for Period Products in Midlothian

## Midlothian Multi Member Ward Map



**Table 1: Product Availability in Penicuik**

<b>Multi Member Ward</b>	<b>Premises Location</b>	<b>Address</b>	<b>Postcode</b>	<b>Types of Product</b>	<b>Location in Premises</b>
Penicuik	Penicuik Library/ Penicuik Leisure Centre	39a Carlops Road, Penicuik	EH26 9EP	Disposable Pads/Tampons	Toilets
Penicuik	Penicuik Town Hall	33 High Street, Penicuik	EH26 8HS	Disposable Pads/Tampons	Toilets

**Table 2: Product Availability in Bonnyrigg**

<b>Multi Member Ward</b>	<b>Premises Location</b>	<b>Address</b>	<b>Postcode</b>	<b>Types of Product</b>	<b>Location in Premises</b>
Bonnyrigg	The Lasswade Library/Lasswade Centre	19 Eskdale Drive, Bonnyrigg	EH19 2LA	Disposable Pads/Tampons	Toilets
Bonnyrigg	Cherry Road Resource Centre	4 Cherry Road, Bonnyrigg	EH19 3ED	Disposable Pads/Tampons	Ladies/Accessible Toilets

**Table 3: Product Availability in Dalkeith**

<b>Multi Member Ward</b>	<b>Premises Location</b>	<b>Address</b>	<b>Postcode</b>	<b>Types of Product</b>	<b>Location in Premises</b>
Dalkeith	Danderhall Community Hub/ Leisure Centre	Danderhall Community Hub 59 Edmonstone Road Danderhall	EH22 1QL	Disposable Pads/Tampons	Toilets
Dalkeith	Dalkeith Library and Arts Centre	2 White Hart Street Dalkeith	EH22 1AE	Disposable Pads/Tampons	Toilets
Dalkeith	Croft Street Community Support	20 Croft Street. Dalkeith	EH22 3BA	Disposable Pads/Tampons	Ground Floor Toilet
Dalkeith	Midlothian Children and Families Centre	7 Eskdail Court, Dalkeith	EH22 1AG	Disposable Pads/Tampons	Accessible Toilet Ground Floor
Dalkeith	No. 11	11 St Andrews Street. Dalkeith	EH22 1AL	Disposable Pads/Tampons	Toilets
Dalkeith	Midlothian House	40 Buccleuch Street, Dalkeith	EH22 1DN	Disposable Pads/Tampons	Toilets

**Table 4: Product Availability in Midlothian West**

Multi Member Ward	Premises Location	Address	Postcode	Types of Product	Location in Premises
Midlothian West	Loanhead Library/Loanhead Centre	The Loanhead Centre, George Avenue, Loanhead	EH20 9LA	Disposable Pads/Tampons	Toilets
Midlothian West	Roslin Library	9a Main Street, Roslin	EH25 9LD	Disposable Pads/Tampons	Toilets
Midlothian West	Midlothian Snowsports Centre	Biggar Road, Hillend	EH10 7DU	Disposable Pads/Tampons	Toilets

**Table 5: Product Availability in Midlothian East**

Multi Member Ward	Premises Location	Address	Postcode	Types of Product	Location in Premises
Midlothian East	Newbattle Library/Newbattle Community Campus	Newbattle Community Campus, Newbattle Way, Easthouses	EH22 4SX	Disposable Pads/Tampons	Toilets
Midlothian East	Vogie Country Park Vogie Mansionhouse	Vogie Estate, Gorebridge	EH23 4NU	Disposable Pads/Tampons	Toilets

**Table 6: Product Availability in Midlothian South**

<b>Multi Member Ward</b>	<b>Premises Location</b>	<b>Address</b>	<b>Postcode</b>	<b>Types of Product</b>	<b>Location in Premises</b>
Midlothian South	Gorebridge Leisure Centre	Hunterfield Road, Gorebridge	EH23 4TX	Disposable Pads/Tampons	Toilets
Midlothian South	Newtongrange Leisure Centre	Main Street, Newtongrange	EH22 4PG	Disposable Pads/Tampons	Toilets
Midlothian South	Gorebridge Library	98 Hunterfield Road Gorebridge	EH23 4TT	Disposable Pads/Tampons	Toilets
Midlothian South	Newtongrange Library	St Davids Newtongrange	EH22 4LG	Disposable Pads/Tampons	Toilets
Midlothian South	Newbattle Community Learning Centre	67 Gardiner Place, Newtongrange	EH22 4RT	Disposable Pads/Tampons	Accessible Toilets & Reception

## Appendix 2: Consultation Questions

1. What is your postcode?
2. Are you aware of the current availability of free period products in Midlothian?
3. Have you previously used period products that have been made freely available?
4. If you haven't previously accessed free period products, is this something you would be interested in?
5. Which type of free period products would you use? (please select as many as appropriate)
6. Who would you require these products for? (Please select as many as appropriate)
7. Moving forward, where do you think would be the best place to access free period products in Midlothian? (Please select as many as appropriate)
8. Where would you like to access free period products in these buildings? (Please select as many as appropriate)
9. How often would you utilise the free products?
10. We are promoting use of a mobile app called 'PickUpMyPeriod' which shows the current locations and availability of free period products within Midlothian for all residents and visitors. Would you use the app to access free period products?
11. To ensure we are reaching a varied audience within the community, please tell us a little more about yourself. Please note that this will remain anonymous. (Please select as many as appropriate)
12. What is your ethnicity?