

UHI Inverness Statement on Exercise of Functions: Period Products (Free Provision) (Scotland) Act 2021

UHI Inverness embraces the provision of free period products for our students. The below outlines how we exercise our functions under the Act.

Consultation

Consultation on our provision was undertaken in our Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion committee where staff feedback was sought. Student members were also on this committee. In addition, student focus groups were also held to gain feedback.

Provision

Following consultation and an options appraisal, [Hey Girls](#) was chosen as our provider. Hey Girls is a Scottish-based social enterprise committed in its ethos and practice to ending period poverty. Hey Girls also uses 100% certified organic cotton, sustainable bamboo and chemical-free products which are biodegradable or recyclable. Hey Girls also has a long-term goal of becoming 100% carbon neutral, supporting Forestry and Landscape Scotland to offset their carbon footprint, as well as donating 10% of all profits to help restore degraded habitats. In addition, Hey Girls has signed up to the UN's Sustainable Development Goals and is one of the UK's 'Business Climate Leaders', pledging to halve its carbon emissions by 2030 and become net-zero by 2050. The ethos and ambitions of Hey Girls therefore aligned to the UHI Inverness strategic objectives on sustainability.

Availability

Students can access a range of single use sustainable products or reusable sanitary products on campus in every toilet, in the on-campus shop, or through ordering products online for delivery straight to their door. Students are made aware of provision through various channels including at induction. A wide variety of products are available and full information is on the Hey Girls webpage for our students.

Equality of Access

Our on campus and online provision means that a discrete service is provided for all students, and in particular avoids our fully online students from missing out on accessing products. The availability of our products on campus results in them also being freely available for members of the public who use our public building. Through our consultation we took the decision for products to be made available in our gender-neutral toilets to maximise equality of accessibility.