

MORAY COUNCIL – STATEMENT OF INTENT FOR THE PERIOD PRODUCTS (FREE PROVISION) (SCOTLAND) ACT 2021

Accessing Free Period Products in the community and
schools within Moray
July 2022

Introduction

The Period Products (Free Provision) (Scotland) Act 2021 requires local authorities to make period products freely available to anyone who menstruates. A reasonable range of products must be easily accessible and comfortable for individuals to access, without embarrassment, and in a way that respects a person's dignity.

Under the 2021 Period Products Act, each local authority across Scotland is required to undertake specific duties. This document fulfils the duty (Section 6) to produce a Statement of Intent, outlining how the Council has met or plans to meet these legal obligations.

This document is the Moray Council statement for community, education and Council premises provision.

The following sections outline each of the duties in the Act and how Moray Council has met or seeks to meet them.

Consultation

Responsibility

Under Section 7 of the Act, each local authority is required to undertake a public consultation to determine:

- which premises individuals would like to see free period products stocked
- where within these premises they would like to have access to these products
- how they would like to access these products
- the types of products they would like to have access to

Method

Moray Council, with support from Moray Food Plus, undertook a public consultation in 2019 to establish the most desirable points of provision and the preferred product types. The consultation was conducted online, due to COVID-19 restrictions. In addition to this consultation, all school premises have encouraged ongoing feedback from pupils.

In July of this year (2022) Moray Council again undertook another specific public consultation in which the questions addressed the required information in order to meet our consultation responsibility.

Reviewing current provision to reflect consultation feedback

Responsibility

The consultation feedback provides useful insight into what people want from this provision. The existing provision and arrangements in Moray meet the expectations highlighted in the feedback relatively well, suggesting that there is a reasonable foundation from which to develop and expand the provision of free period products in the area. The following headings in this section explain how Moray Council will do this in different contexts.

Community settings (Section 1 of the Act)

The following eight actions have been identified to address provision of free period products in community settings as a result of the consultation:

1. Identify gaps in provision geographically and by type of premises.
2. Increase the number of premises supplying free period products in Moray, targeting additional venue types highlighted within the feedback.
3. Cooperate with current and future premises to identify appropriate spaces in their venue where period products can be easily accessed whilst protecting an individual's dignity.
4. Expand provision of products (both quantity and range) in premises, with a focus on ensuring all communities have some provision available.
5. Encourage and identify options to increase the supply of reusable products.
6. Investigate a system for postal delivery for the hardest to reach geographies/users.
7. Provide communities with publicity material so that the public are aware of the availability of the products.
8. Make additional arrangements for those who experience barriers to accessing free period products.

School settings (Section 2 of the Act)

The following three actions have been identified to address provision of free period products in school settings as a result of the ongoing schools consultation:

1. Expand provision of products (both quantity and range) in schools, with a focus on ensuring options in a choice of toilet facilities in schools where possible including single use and reusable provision available.
2. Continue to cooperate with schools to identify appropriate spaces where period products can be easily accessed without embarrassment.
3. Provide all schools with appropriate publicity material so that pupils are aware of the availability of the products.

Council premises (Section 3 of the Act)

The following five actions have been identified to address provision of free period products in Council premises as a result of the consultation:

1. Identify gaps in provision and contact each premise to organise supply.
2. Expand provision of products (both quantity and range) in premises, with a focus on ensuring all bathrooms have both single use and reusable provision available.
3. Cooperate with premises to identify appropriate spaces where period products can be easily accessed without embarrassment.
4. Provide all premises with appropriate publicity material so that Council staff and visitors are aware of the availability of the products.

Educational / Awareness Raising

Responsibility

Each local authority must provide information on how and where free period products can be accessed in their area by launching an educational and awareness raising campaign. As part of this, Moray Council will add all venues where free period products can be accessed to the national 'PickUpMyPeriod' Mobile application and website.

Campaign Priorities

Survey participants were clear that education and awareness raising was very important in taking the free period products initiative forward. Given that the survey feedback included requests to highlight how and where free period products can be accessed, The Moray Council will launch an educational and awareness raising campaign that includes the following priorities for community, education and Council premises. We will:

- Promote how and where free period products can be accessed in Moray.
- Link with national campaigns and material to promote information aimed at changing attitudes towards periods so that they become easier to talk about and less of a taboo and to
 - Raise awareness that the scheme is for everyone, not just for those in poverty.
 - Educate people on reusable products with the aim to expand the use of reusable products.
 - Expand the quality and quantity of information on periods and make this information accessible to everyone, including men – what to expect, how to prepare, how you can support those around you who menstruate, hygiene and health information.
 - Raise awareness on the need for transgender men and non-binary people to have access to products.
- Review provision and arrangements annually to ensure we are meeting the needs and requirements that were voiced by participants in the consultation.

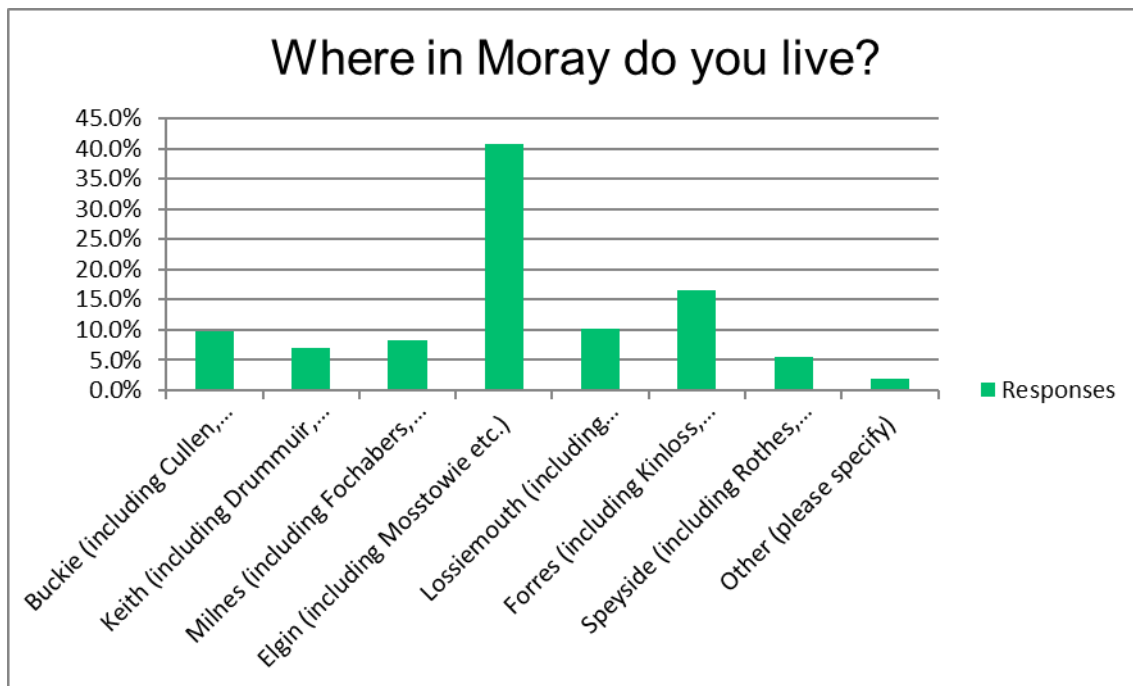
Period Products Free Provision July 2022 Survey Responses (In summary)

Responses

The survey received 255 responses.

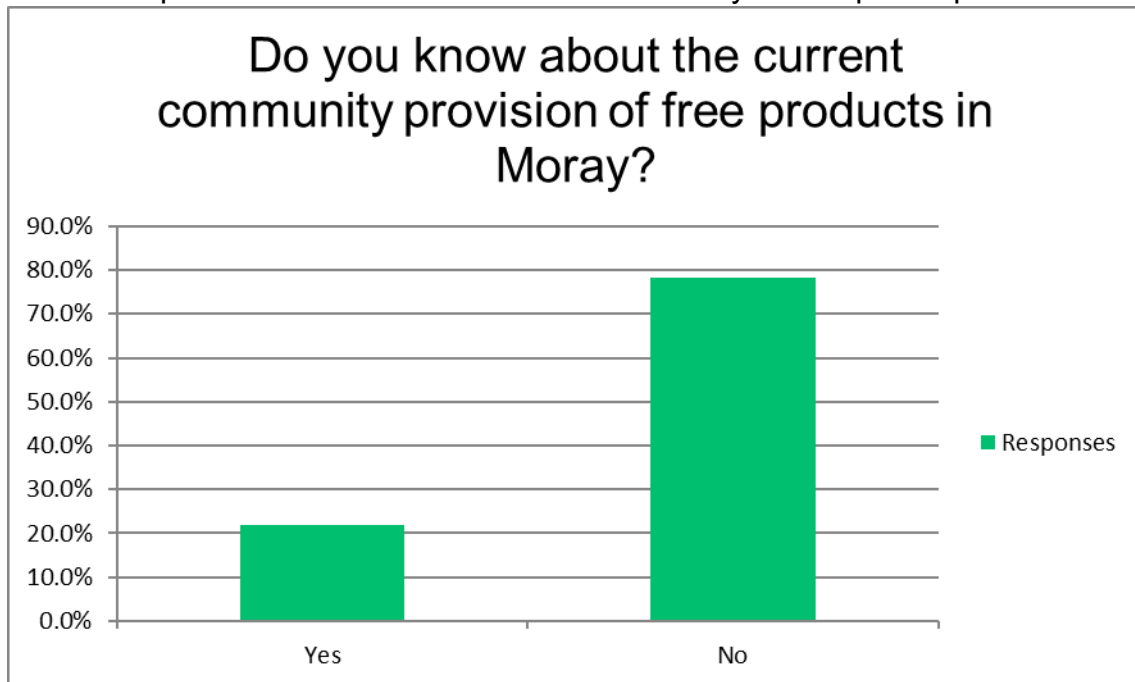
Location

Just under 41% of respondents lived within the main population centre of Elgin.



Existing Awareness

78% of respondents were unaware of the availability of free period products.



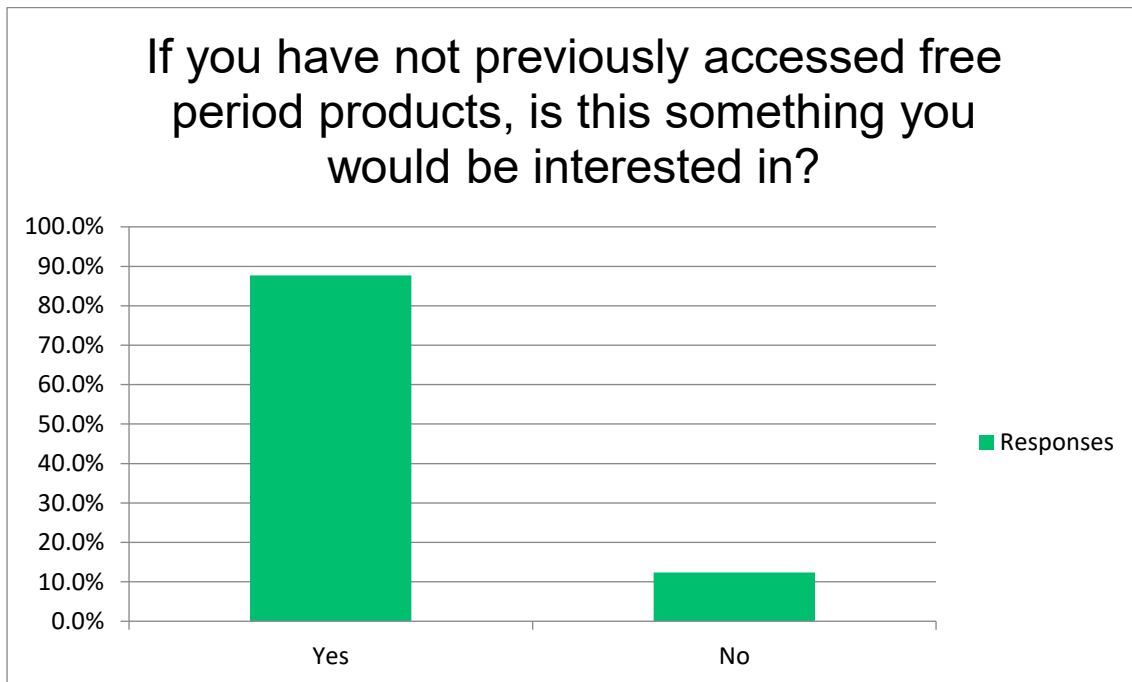
Current Users

9% of respondents have previously accessed free products.



Future Users

Nearly 88% of respondents would be interested in accessing free products in the future.



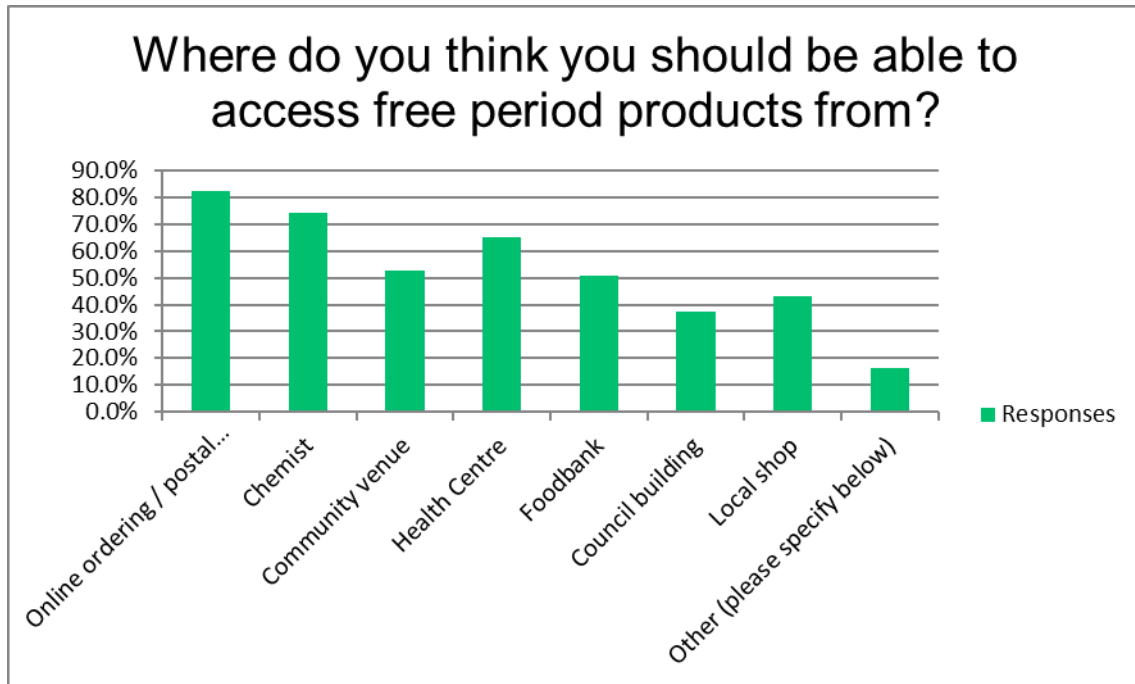
Product Types

Breakdown of free period products requested



Suggested Venues

Venues suggested by respondents



Period Dignity – Venue arrangements

Respondent's preferences for product placement.

