# JCNF 2023-02 UCU P3 - Provision of sanitary products in toilets across University’s buildings

Like toilet paper, water or soap, sanitary items are essential to the personal hygiene and wellbeing for everyone who menstruates. No one is expected to carry with them toilet paper or soap for their personal hygiene when going to the toilet, and neither should this be expected for sanitary items, not least because of how unpredictable their need can be.

We are aware that staff and students would welcome the simple positive measure of providing free sanitary items in toilets across the University. We are aware that some Schools (e.g. Computer Science) have already taken the initiative of providing such products and other employers, including other Universities (e.g. Imperial College London), as well as many services and cafes are also already adhering to free period products schemes.

While tampons and pads can be relatively expensive for individual consumers, it is cheaper for a company buying them in bulk. This means that without a significant cost to the University, this measure will ease the financial burden that, unlike for soap or toilet paper, is currently resting on individual staff and students adding to the well-known layers of gender inequality. Furthermore, by providing plastic-free environmentally friendly sanitary products that are bought in bulk, the University could also have a positive impact in its overall environmental footprint.

Hence, UCU requests for sanitary products to be provided to staff and students in toilets across University’s buildings.