

Free Periods

Passed: 17/11/15

The Union believes:

1. Periods are a natural part of a woman's everyday life and should not be described as embarrassing or disgraceful.
2. Following the recent vote in Parliament, the Government has reaffirmed its commitment to classing sanitary products such as tampons as 'luxury non-essential items' and therefore taxes them at 5% VAT.
3. Many other products are seen as essential and are therefore free from VAT. These include food, prescriptions and children's clothes.
4. Students spend a lot of time on campus and therefore they need easy access to sanitary products. If they can't get hold of sanitary products they may need to leave and miss lectures.
5. It is unethical to charge for the upkeep of a natural bodily function, let alone ask people to give a contribution to the government each time.
6. Some students have even been known to take the contraceptive pill continuously and without a break in order to avoid the cost of their period. This is extremely dangerous.
7. Statistically over 2000 students at Salford are on their period right now.
8. The cost of sanitary products is an unfair burden and it disproportionately affects women.

The Union resolves:

1. To absorb the cost of the VAT on sanitary products sold in the Union shops so students do not have to pay it.
2. To sell all sanitary products in the union shops at cost price so we do not profit from the sale.
3. To have a supply of free sanitary products at the Info Point for students to collect if they are on campus and don't have the money to buy some from the shop.