**Statement of Exercise of Functions for the Period Products (Free Provision) (Scotland) Act 2021**

1. **Introduction**

The Period Products (Free Provision) (Scotland) Act 2021 was passed by the Scottish Parliament on 24th November 2020 and became an Act on 12th January 2021. This Act places a duty on the University to provide period products free of charge to students on our premises during term time who need them. A range of period products should be made available in order to provide choice and should be easy to access, in order to maintain dignity.

The University is required to produce and communicate a Statement on Exercise of Functions to outline how we intend to meet the requirements of the Act to meet our legal duties.

This statement sets out Glasgow Caledonian University’s commitment to free period product provision and details how we intend to do this.

1. **Our commitment**

On the basis of funding provided by the Scottish Government, Glasgow Caledonian University is committed to providing period products free of charge for those who may need them. The University’s period products are provided by social enterprise Hey Girls to offer a wide range of sustainable products to students.

We will:

* Ensure products are easy to access
* Ensure products are free of charge
* Offer a choice of products
* Communicate clearly the availability and location of products
* Consider those who may face additional barriers to accessing products that they need
* Consult with our student community
* Monitor and review how we are providing the products to ensure we are doing this efficiently
1. **Consultation**

Consultation with our student community was carried out by our Student Experience Committee and our Students’ Association, in order to determine what provision of period products our students would like to see, and how those should be provided. The feedback indicated some preference for reusable products, in addition to those preferring traditional products. The majority of feedback indicated a preference for a discreet method of obtaining the product. We have taken all of that feedback on board in implementing the product provision.

We will continue to consult with our students on an ongoing basis.

1. **Current Provision/Availability**

Products are made available in a way which respects the dignity of the individual. In considering both accessibility requirements and logistics, the University have placed products in all female and accessible/gender neutral toilets throughout the Estate at ground floor. Within the Students’ Association, products are available on ground and first floor female and accessible/gender neutral toilets. Within the Alex Ferguson Library, products are available in all female and accessible/gender neutral toilets on all levels. There is additional provision within Caledonian Court residences at high footfall areas. The Students’ Association Advice Hub is the distribution point for all reusable products.

There is no restriction on how many products someone can take.

Products are available throughout the year when the University buildings are open. Students who are working remotely or not on campus can also access free period products by using the PickUpMyPeriod App to find out where their nearest provision point is.

1. **Communication**

Information about our free period products is available online on the University website and intranet. We also use social media, plasma screens and leaflets to promote availability.

1. **Further information**

Glasgow Caledonian University is committed to providing appropriate products and will continue to work with our students to provide for their needs. We will continue to monitor, evaluate and build on service provision to ensure we meet the needs of our student body.

For further information or if you have any questions related to free period product provision at the University, please contact Facilities Helpdesk - facilitieshelp@gcu.ac.uk