

Menstruation affects every woman. We have no choice in the matter.

And Period Poverty does exist – even in the ‘affluent’ Vale of Glamorgan.

To what extent is unclear, because surveys can only tell us so much. In many family groups, this topic is never discussed due to cultural or religious reasons. To many young women and girls, the admitting that they are even having their period is embarrassing enough, without having to confess that their family cannot afford to buy them the sanitary protection they need. The protection which allows them the right of dignity and wellbeing.

This fact is being underpinned every day by the increasing requests at our Foodbanks.

These Foodbanks whose existence is a literal lifeline for many – Yes, even in the Vale of Glamorgan!

Many secondary schools already have some facilities in place to help alleviate this problem, but this is money spent out of their already very tight budgets. We on this Committee are only too aware of this.

Junior schools, on the other hand, have to rely heavily on the generosity of staff members, or even in some cases, parents of some of the children, and the facilities available to the pupils for the discrete disposal of any sanitary products in these schools is virtually non-existent.

How much longer must young women and girls have to tolerate the indignity of what should be an automatic right to all.

I urge you to follow the lead of our neighbouring counties, and consider the request before you favourably.