

Introduction

1 Confirmation of having read the Northern Ireland Assembly Committee's Privacy Notice.

I confirm that I have read the privacy notice.

2 What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

3 What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

4 If you are providing a submission on behalf of an organisation or business, please state its name.

Organisation:

Not Applicable

5 The Committee for Infrastructure has agreed to publish all responses as part of the survey results. If you would like to have your survey results anonymised and for us not to publish your name or organisation, please indicate so here.

I would like my views to be anonymous and understand that my name and organisation details will be withheld, along with any identifiers in the response, but my views will still be published.

Clause 1: Removal of flags or emblems in the public interest

6 Do you agree with Clause 1 of the Bill?

Yes

7 Please provide information to support your answer here

Accessible:

Given our history and the impact that the removal of flags had in stirring trouble in the past it is important that all sides have a clear understanding of that this legal duty exists. Its existence will significantly reduce the display of such flags and emblems.

Clause 2: Sensitive places

8 Do you agree with Clause 2 of the Bill?

Yes

9 Please provide information to support your answer here

Accessible:

If we do not build a shared community that respects each other then we are doomed to relive the failings of the past.

Clause 3: Procedure for / notification of, or giving views on, flags or emblems

10 Do you agree with Clause 3 of the Bill?

Yes

11 Please provide information to support your answer here

Accessible:

It is very important that the process is open and inclusive and seen to be such. This clause ensures that anyone can raise a complaint, not just a privileged few.

Clause 4: Code of Practice

12 Do you agree with Clause 4 of the Bill?

Yes

13 Please provide information to support your answer here

Accessible:

Again, this is important to ensure that the law is both open and seen to be open. It will ensure that those groups responsible for erecting flags/ emblems are clearly aware of both their responsibilities and the consequences of not complying with them.

Clause 5: Offence of obstructing the Department in removal of flag or emblem

14 Do you agree with Clause 5 of the Bill?

Yes

15 Please provide information to support your answer here

Accessible:

It is important that the legal obligation has teeth, otherwise it will be ignored. The penalty must also be proportionate, otherwise it will undermine public faith in the law. This provision meets those requirements.

Clause 6: Request for assistance from police

16 Do you agree with Clause 6 of the Bill?

Yes

17 Please provide information to support your answer here

Accessible:

Again, it is essential that the law has teeth- that it can be effectively enforced.

Clause 7: Interpretation

18 Do you agree with Clause 7 of the Bill?

Yes

19 Please provide information to support your answer here

Accessible:

For clarity in relation to the obligations imposed on the regulator and the regulated.

Clause 8: Commencement

20 Do you agree with Clause 8 of the Bill?

Unsure

21 Please provide information to support your answer here

Accessible:

Clearly there needs to be a published commencement date - to ensure awareness. However, it would also be important to ensure that the active elements of the Act, imposing legal obligations on third parties, only took effect after the code of practice had been published. I'm not clear that the timeline suggested above would do so. It would be important to review the dates to ensure they dovetailed in this way.

Clause 9: Short title

22 Do you agree with Clause 9 of the Bill?

Yes

23 Please provide information to support your answer here

Accessible:

It is succinct and clear.