

Response ID ANON-3A5J-4D6Y-T

Submitted to Display of Flags and Emblems - Call for Evidence
Submitted on 2026-07-17 00:53:07

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:

I live in a mixed residential area flanked by 2 predominately loyalist estates. No private houses in my street display flags on their personal property. However there are lots of flags erected on entrance to both estates. Its intimidating for visitors . I have advised my overseas colleagues to avoid living in areas with painted kerbs or where lots of flags are flying. If we had viewed our house in lead up to July I certainly would have been put off by the paramilitary and sectarian flags

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:

I dont think flags should be erected anywhere near public amenities. It just feels very territorial. I have no issues with union flags flying from city hall or government buildings. There is never any need for display of flags anywhere else

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:

I think this is a good idea provided the public using portal can remain anonymous. I would worry about retribution

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:

This will provide reassurance for the public. It means we will feel that our concerns are being listened to. It should strengthen relations between PSNI and nationalist and minority communities

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:

Definitely there needs to be consequences for those individuals who take pleasure in intimidating others. At the moment it feels like the paramilitaries are in charge of some communities.

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:

There will be fears of repercussion amongst council workers when taking down flags. The support of PSNI would help provide some security for the workers

Clause 7: Interpretation

18 Do you agree with Clause 7 of the Bill?

Yes

19 Please provide information to support your answer here

Accessible:

I think the terms used are straightforward, but given our history there will be the usual twisting and turning and misinterpretation of the clauses so this is essential.

Clause 8: Commencement

20 Do you agree with Clause 8 of the Bill?

Unsure

21 Please provide information to support your answer here

Accessible:

Why is it taking so long??

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:

No comment