

Response ID ANON-3A5J-4K6B-A

Submitted to Display of Flags and Emblems - Call for Evidence
Submitted on 2026-08-27 19:30:18

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:

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:

Important to have a legally binding responsibility for pro active action on behalf of a designated Government Department. Currently the defacto position is not to remove flags and emblems rather than having a responsibility to assess and take action.

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:

Based on Good Friday Agreement the recognition of NI citizens to have British or Irish citizenship is fundamental and consequently the flying of flags and emblems in these shared spaces of either tradition can cause anxiety, fear and alienation for citizens.

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:

This provides checks and balances for citizens to endorse or raise concern about flags and emblems.

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:

Important to ensure stakeholder engagement and seek feedback.

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:

Use of force to resist or oppose removal of offensive flags and emblems where through the legislation justifies removal enables a culture of fear of unrepresentative actors. Legal action against individuals preventing or threatening those removing flags and emblems following proper process is important.

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:

Too easy for PSNI to justify not taking action due to Perceived public disorder risk - important to enforce actions agreed though the processes outlined in the draft bill

Clause 7: Interpretation

18 Do you agree with Clause 7 of the Bill?

Yes

19 Please provide information to support your answer here

Accessible:

Clause 8: Commencement

20 Do you agree with Clause 8 of the Bill?

Yes

21 Please provide information to support your answer here

Accessible:

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: