

## Response ID ANON-3A5J-4M7S-X

Submitted to Display of Flags and Emblems - Call for Evidence  
Submitted on 2026-07-26 10:24:36

### 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:

### 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:

Communal spaces and places providing public services should feel accessible, welcoming and inclusive to all. Many members of the community find flags unwelcoming and intimidating, particularly after the pogroms and anti immigration which have largely been led by unionists and taken place in loyalist areas. Public spaces should feel neutral and be free from demarkation of any kind.

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

10 Do you agree with Clause 3 of the Bill?

Unsure

11 Please provide information to support your answer here

Accessible:

I'm unsure whether this is an effective approach or whether it will be open to abuse, what measures would there be to prevent false information being entered or individuals submitting multiple responses. Perhaps it could work if mitigations were in place and it was factored in as one part of a wider process/policy.

### 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:

Timelines are crucial, this has been discussed for years with no accountability or progress.

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

14 Do you agree with Clause 5 of the Bill?

Unsure

15 Please provide information to support your answer here

Accessible:

Not sure that a fine is enough of a deterrent or how easily enforceable that will be. If fines are unpaid what happens? If an individual is a repeat offender is there further action? If they are being violent how likely are PSNI to engage to get their details for a fine to be issued?

### 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 should absolutely be a cross organisation approach. There should be a dedicated team from the Department and PSNI who attend to areas to remove flags as appropriate.

However, my understanding is that there is already a joint protocol in place which doesn't appear to be enforced. Between Department staff refusing to conduct the task and PSNI regularly deeming the removal of flags as too much of a risk - how would this bill be different?

## 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:

Seems slow given that this has been in discussion for decades and a joint protocol is already in place.

## 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: