

Response ID ANON-3A5J-4N3A-9

Submitted to Display of Flags and Emblems - Call for Evidence
Submitted on 2026-09-16 08:09:00

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:

3 What is your email address?

Email:

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:

There needs to be some oversight into how and when flags and emblems are displayed and by who.

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:

Given the long history of conflict in Northern Ireland, there are certain places where flags and emblems are put up with the intention of disturbing the peace or making people feel uncomfortable so there must be some control over this for the good of all the people of Northern Ireland not just the ones that want to erect flags and emblems.

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 broadly agree but I see that it is open to abuse. We have seen online hate campaigns mobilise people to vote down films, leave negative reviews on restaurant websites etc etc so some people with negative intentions could mobilise people to abuse the online portal. That being said, there needs to be

somewhere that people can say they are hanging a flag and for others to say they do not want that flag hung. There would need to be a lot of due diligence around the online portal.

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:

Without a code of practice people do not know what is allowable and what is not. Therefore a clear code of practice needs to be created and then adhered to.

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:

With the long history of violence in Northern Ireland prior to the Good Friday Agreement, there will always be some whose solution to every problem is violence and intimidation. There needs to be consequences to people acting in bad faith and refusing to honour the code of practice in regards to flags and emblems.

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:

Given the violent history of Northern Ireland prior to the Good Friday Agreement and the increase in masked vigilantes marching through the streets and causing disturbances designed to incite fear in the migrant community, the PSNI must be able to be called to assist in the removal of flags and emblems that do not adhere to the code of practice, especially where there are threats of violence.

Clause 7: Interpretation

18 Do you agree with Clause 7 of the Bill?

Unsure

19 Please provide information to support your answer here

Accessible:

I am not sure what this means

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: