

Response ID ANON-3B7W-2C6A-F

Submitted to Display of Flags and Emblems - Call for Evidence
Submitted on 2026-08-19 15:56:24

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:

I have always lived in traditionally unionist areas but I don't hold either unionist or republican ideals; this is a common trait amongst my wider family, friends and most of my work colleagues.

It is a stated objective of the NI Assembly to make NI "a more inclusive place to live, work, invest and visit."

The flying of divisive symbols in public spaces is counterproductive to meeting this objective and all viable solutions to eliminating this practice, which causes fear and distrust in all communities across all of NI.

These flags are attached to public street furniture and infrastructure and then left to rot. This is not done to celebrate, it is done to intimidate and leaves our streets looking dirty and disreputable when we are trying to market NI as a welcoming destination for tourists and overseas investment.

Clear policies and guidelines, which have specified actions delegated to specified branches of public bodies, need to be agreed, published and adhered to.

There should also be defined mandated penalties for anyone found putting up flags in public spaces.

NI belongs to all of its people, not just those stirring up division for criminal or authoritarian gain.

Clause 2: Sensitive places

8 Do you agree with Clause 2 of the Bill?

No

9 Please provide information to support your answer here

Accessible:

I believe that flags and emblems should not be allowed in public spaces with the exception of crown buildings and only on ceremonial occasions.

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:

Many people I know do not want flags and emblems in public places but are afraid of speaking out in case of retaliation. An online portal allows them to have their voices heard in safety.

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:

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:

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:

At present, there is a "pass the buck" mentality where removal of flags/emblems is concerned. There needs to be an agreed action plan to address this.

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:

The new bill needs to be brought into law as soon as possible.

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: