

Response ID ANON-3D4T-2A7W-Z

Submitted to Display of Flags and Emblems - Call for Evidence
Submitted on 2026-09-08 11:56:50

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:

Flags and emblems on public infrastructure are rarely put there for any purpose other than territory marking. They are displayed as "keep out" or "keep your head down" signs to anyone not of the psection of society represented by that flag. Sadly, this includes all the national flags which have been hijacked by extreme elements and have come to be seen as threatening, no matter which colour the flag is, especially to people of colour.

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:

No flags should be permitted to remain flying from public infrastructure such as lamp posts etc without authorisation from the relevant authority especially on arterial roads and close to shared communal spaces.

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 think what you're suggesting is a method to report flags and request their removal? If so, yes I support that.
You might also be suggesting a method to easily request authorisation to put flags up? I'd sort that, too, provided any authorisation was time limited and placed responsibilities upon the applicant to maintain the flag(s) for the duration and to hang them in a safe manner.

Clause 4: Code of Practice

12 Do you agree with Clause 4 of the Bill?

Unsure

13 Please provide information to support your answer here

Accessible:

A code of practice implies that it would be acceptable to hang flags from public infrastructure provided one followed the code.

The only way this could work, in my opinion, is if the code required prior authorisation from the council to hang the flags in the first place and that the authorisation would place responsibility on the applicant to hang the flags for a fixed duration only, to maintain the flags for that duration and to hang them in a safe and approved manner.

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:

Clause 7: Interpretation

18 Do you agree with Clause 7 of the Bill?

Unsure

19 Please provide information to support your answer here

Accessible:

Clause 8: Commencement

20 Do you agree with Clause 8 of the Bill?

No

21 Please provide information to support your answer here

Accessible:

Make it 2027
Get the flags down.

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: