

Response ID ANON-3D4T-2H5E-K

Submitted to Display of Flags and Emblems - Call for Evidence
Submitted on 2026-07-24 11:19:23

Clause 1: Removal of flags or emblems in the public interest

6 Do you agree with Clause 1 of the Bill?

Unsure

7 Please provide information to support your answer here

Accessible:

I am not sure the department should be solely responsible for removing flags. Community organisations and individuals should also be held responsible. That may require financial consequences for groups etc that refuse.

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:

Shared spaces should only have shared flags or no flags, especially if children might be present .

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:

While I worry this portal might be taken advantage of it would help with keeping track of what flags are being put up

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:

Clear and unambiguous language is essential. As is availability and access for this code of practice. It has to be enforceable equally everywhere

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:

Penalties need to be explained clearly and right up front. I had to look up what a level 3 penalty was. Make it clear and explicit. Consequences will have to be applied equally and consistently. They'll have to be impactful or they will be ignored.

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:

I agree but the PSNI has repeatedly shown itself to be biased or skewed.

Clause 7: Interpretation

18 Do you agree with Clause 7 of the Bill?

Yes

19 Please provide information to support your answer here

Accessible:

Clear and unambiguous language should be used and this information should be easily accessed. Or try to make the bill clearer to understand. The legalese and sector specific language is a hinderance to equitable application of the bill across NI society.

Clause 8: Commencement

20 Do you agree with Clause 8 of the Bill?

Unsure

21 Please provide information to support your answer here

Accessible:

Long timescales probably won't be that beneficial because people will find ways around.

Clause 9: Short title

22 Do you agree with Clause 9 of the Bill?

Unsure

23 Please provide information to support your answer here

Accessible:

Explain short title for those of us who don't work in politics or law. I have a doctorate and still have to look this up.