

Response ID ANON-3D4T-2X8U-P

Submitted to Display of Flags and Emblems - Call for Evidence
Submitted on 2026-07-23 09:53:22

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

6 Do you agree with Clause 1 of the Bill?

Yes, Unsure

7 Please provide information to support your answer here

Accessible:

I am concerned about the ramifications from different communities when decisions are made about removing flags or emblems from public places, when people in the community have different views about whether they should stay or go?"

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:

Town centres for mixed communities are not the places for loyalist and heavy weighted flag propaganda

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:

The online portal should not become a loophole that allows any flag to be displayed simply by submitting a form. The Department must still have the power to assess the display and refuse or remove it where necessary

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:

The sooner the better please.

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

14 Do you agree with Clause 5 of the Bill?

No

15 Please provide information to support your answer here

Accessible:

A fine of this size is unlikely to deter anyone determined to obstruct the removal of a flag. Those involved may simply treat it as a minor cost of doing business, and there is a real concern that any penalty could be absorbed through legal support or other public funding rather than creating a meaningful consequence

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:

The police ought not to be required simply to remove flags from lamp posts in 2026. However, the concern is that those erecting the flags may act in an intimidating way, which makes removal more difficult and can discourage others from challenging them

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?

No

21 Please provide information to support your answer here

Accessible:

Two and a half years of more intimidating flags up and down our mixed community high st. That's very slow

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: