

Response ID ANON-3K5H-9Q8M-A

Submitted to Display of Flags and Emblems - Call for Evidence
Submitted on 2026-07-18 09:41:19

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 clear guidance about when/where flags can be put up and when they will be removed. If they are not removed in that time frame they will be taken down by the council. Flags left to intimidate and become tattered rags should not be permitted.

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 flag should be allowed in areas where it is mixed and public. The British, Irish, NI, paramilitary, Israel Palestine etc should never be allowed in public areas.

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:

Unfortunately most people are afraid to speak up against flags put up on their street or in their community because of the threat of violence that is the result of a complaint. We have not been shown that the council, psni or government will support the residents' if a complaint or question about a flag is raised.

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:

If a timeframe is not given, then nothing will change.

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:

We have been told that the PSNI will not remove flags because of the fear of the offending community and their threats of violence. This needs to be dealt with rather than letting out communities be intimidated into submission.

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 PSNI need to support communities in upholding the law and if flags are put up where and when not permitted then the police need to stand up and support the law and those who do not want the flags. They also need to take seriously the threats and violence that is the result of opposition to the flags.

Clause 7: Interpretation

18 Do you agree with Clause 7 of the Bill?

Unsure

19 Please provide information to support your answer here

Accessible:

Interpretation seems to be a word used to let everyone decide for themselves what the law means. There should be no room for interpretation, especially if it's just a way to get around the law so that the flags can be put up anyway.

Clause 8: Commencement

20 Do you agree with Clause 8 of the Bill?

Yes

21 Please provide information to support your answer here

Accessible:

It seems long a long time to wait to have any change made but it is better to have a time frame than not to have one.

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:

The title needs to be short and clear for all.