

Response ID ANON-2Q6Z-6T2J-S

Submitted to Display of Flags and Emblems - Call for Evidence

Submitted on 2026-08-08 17:15:50

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:

Joel Davison

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 am content for my information, including details of my name and organisation, to be published in the survey results.

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:

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:

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:

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:

The severity of the obstruction is in question. If the safety of the removal team is threatened there should harsher punishment. These people are only doing their job, and their safety should be top priority.

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 will be crucial for the removal of flags in certain areas around NI. To call upon them should not be a question, more a necessary precaution.

Clause 7: Interpretation

18 Do you agree with Clause 7 of the Bill?

Yes

19 Please provide information to support your answer here

Accessible:

I agree for the most part. The removal of flags which incite hate and fear around communities is an essential step forward for Northern Ireland. However the organisations which raise these flags bring about certain safety concerns. It is not a case of a team from the council walking into estates and neighbourhoods and simply taking them down. Even if we can ensure the safety of the teams removing flags, the consequences of the removal may bring about unity and anger in certain organisations, which may be dangerous. While I believe the flags have no place in our society, it must be a very careful process which has the full backing of the PSNI.

Clause 8: Commencement

20 Do you agree with Clause 8 of the Bill?

Yes

21 Please provide information to support your answer here

Accessible:

Clause 9: Short title

22 Do you agree with Clause 9 of the Bill?

Not Answered

23 Please provide information to support your answer here

Accessible:

Shared Spaces (Flags and Symbols) Act