

Response ID ANON-3P2R-4Q4D-4

Submitted to Display of Flags and Emblems - Call for Evidence
Submitted on 2026-07-30 17:38:31

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:

Generally I would support any clause that reduces the number of flags up for any purpose. As soon as one sees men putting flags up in the neighbourhood, the shoulders go up, the tension starts, and it just feels threatening - and intentionally so. These men never ask if anyone minds, they behave with absolute entitlement to put flags wherever they want and it's nothing but an ugly show of thug power. I don't want ANY flags in my neighbourhood ever. I don't care about the orange or the green. I'd rather leave both behind us in the dust.

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:

See previous answer. Do what you like on your own home, but stop flags altogether in shared spaces - we all know it's not about expressing joy, it's about expressing thug power over an area. No more orange or green can we just have a normal life without all that nonsense.

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:

Anything that gives residents a greater say in what flags or emblems appear in their neighbourhoods is great. However, I would hope these mechanisms protect identities of those opposed from those for and vice versa. I would also hope that such a clause would encourage community leaders to consider quality over quantity - one flag in one place, flags flying on one specific day, are all options that would be a lot more palatable than flags everywhere all summer long. Because in a one off circumstance, it does feel more like celebrating an occasion, rather than exercising intimidation / marking territory.

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:

Great to have a code of practice and a framework to operate within to ensure the law is applied fairly and according to published due process. But I can't offer support for this when a Code of Practice hasn't been written yet. It will need to be enforceable, and not subject to policing strategy decisions over which battles to fight.

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

14 Do you agree with Clause 5 of the Bill?

Unsure

15 Please provide information to support your answer here

Accessible:

No information about what 'level 3 on the standard scale' equates to, which is disappointing in a public consultation. Feels like you may just be going through the motions?

Let's be clear: I fully support substantial and enforceable penalties for anyone obstructing the removal of flags or emblems that the community in any shared space objects to. I would also support escalating penalties for repeat offences.

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:

Again, good to have a clause that makes sure all terms are clearly defined to avoid doubt and / or loopholes, but without seeing what those definitions are, you're not really offering an informed option for the public to consult on.

Clause 8: Commencement

20 Do you agree with Clause 8 of the Bill?

Yes

21 Please provide information to support your answer here

Accessible:

Honestly the sooner the better.

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:

Tell me what the short title is and I'll tell you if I agree with it - again, this feels like lip service to public consultation.