

## Response ID ANON-4F2R-4P5T-B

Submitted to Display of Flags and Emblems - Call for Evidence  
Submitted on 2026-08-19 16:54:43

### 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:

There should be permission sought from the appropriate department before flags/ emblems are displayed in public spaces.

A description of what will be displayed, including size, should be submitted for approval.

The flags/posters etc. should be limited to specified areas and displayed for limited time periods for example if linked to a specific part of any community celebrating a specific event.

I want to live in a safe, inclusive, multicultural society and I want people to feel safe in our city.

I don't want to go back to the bad old days of sectarian division with an added racist dimension.

The increased proliferation of bigger flags over a wider area is intimidating, divisive, inflammatory and depressing.

I visited Orangefield park recently after avoiding it since a sectarian incident 20 years ago. I entered at the Bloomfield football club entrance and initially thought it would be a good park to walk in, use the outdoor gym that was signposted and to bring my granddaughter. However, as I walked towards the outdoor gym I saw that the path was hung with huge flags on the lampposts ( about 10 ) and had accompanying notices attached with cable ties on each of the posts.

This is completely unacceptable in a public park, it felt oppressive and intimidating. I was so annoyed that I contacted the Alliance party office, something I have never done before.

If council workers are too scared to remove unauthorised flags then it proves the point that these are hung there to intentionally threaten and intimidate and should therefore be illegal in public spaces. The PSNI should be enforcing and supporting the removal of illegal, divisive flags/emblems/signage.

### 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:

Please see my previous statement regarding a public park.

I agree that flags should not be erected on arterial routes which indicate you are now entering an area where a section of the community would exclude

people who they deem unwelcome due to race or religion.

[REDACTED] and there are more and bigger flags everywhere I go. The outer ring between Braniel and Clarawood estates is particularly bad. Ballyhackamore has the Catholic Church St. Colmcille's and St. Joseph's P.S. both of which have had flags erected nearby. There are also flags all round Connswater retail park, Hollywood Arches Health Centre and the 2 local libraries at Ballyhackamore and Hollywood Arches. The beautifully refurbished area of C.S. Lewis Square is also marred by all the flags. These all make me wary of visiting the amenities local to me and I have to hide my Irish identity in my own area. I can't wear anything Celtic designed ( hard C not the football team) and although I very much enjoyed the recent Fleadh in Belfast. None of my family could buy any of the T-shirts etc because we would not feel safe wearing them in East Belfast.

### 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:

Members of the public should have a right to go about their daily lives without intimidation.

Flags etc displayed in public spaces to celebrate particular seasons should be open to all, be previously agreed and be size, design and time limited.

By 'open to all' I mean communities who celebrate St. Patrick's Day, Pride, The Twelfth, Eid, Diwali etc for example.

Both the hanging of and timely removal of flags should be protected by the police service of Northern Ireland should the need arise.

### 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 wheels of progress move very slowly.

A widely distributed Code of Practice is absolutely necessary.

There also needs to be an easy way to report divide flags placed illegally in public spaces with a reasonable expectation that these would be swiftly removed.

### 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:

Just as the local community should not have to have divisive, illegal flags in public spaces, the people tasked with removal of said flags should have a reasonable expectation of personal safety and the protection under law of the police.

### 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 should definitely be ready to protect the workers whose job it is to remove flags. They should be notified before hand and be in surveillance nearby in case of obstruction but not be leading the charge from the front as this may spark a confrontation.

### Clause 7: Interpretation

18 Do you agree with Clause 7 of the Bill?

Unsure

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:

This is much too long!

Surely there is existing legislation which would begin to address the proliferation of huge flags in our public spaces?

The new Code of Practice should be developed and initiated in a more timely fashion

#### 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: