

Response ID ANON-4G8K-8B8N-X

Submitted to Display of Flags and Emblems - Call for Evidence
Submitted on 2026-08-07 21:11:47

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:

Flags often represent an alliance or allegiance to a particular group whether it is a country, organisation, football team etc and of course can impart a sense of belonging and pride but here in Northern Ireland - oh what a can of worms.

Unfortunately flags here seem to signal that this area will welcome you if you are of a particular persuasion, marking a territory & denoting that others are not welcome. It appears that individuals/ groups / communities use flags under the guise of patriotism to mark a territory.

I don't think anyone with hand on heart can say that the official flag, the Union Jack is truly inclusive representing our diverse communities. I hear time & time again from political parties the importance of equality, cultural respect & inclusivity however, flags here so often indicate bias & rather than improving social cohesion I believe that they are so often divisive, intimidating, giving a sense of exclusion, bitterness & intolerance.

Although personally I object to the flying of all flags in this country I seem to remember a few years ago there was talk of a 'civic flag' - an interesting concept but not sure this amounted to anything.

In particular I object in to the flying of flags around the twelfth in terms of the number of flags flown in certain areas, the types of flags (paramilitary), flags attached to lampposts & that these seem to remain in place for weeks.

I was under the impression that there were regulations already in place regarding this but rarely enforced for various reasons.

Just for context, I was born & lived in England for many years before settling in Northern Ireland. My parents - 1 English, the other Northern Irish, one catholic the other Protestant. I have attended & loved both Protestant & Catholic schools. Yet neither the Union Jack nor the Irish Tricolour give me any sense of belonging or pride.

As It doesn't look like we will get a flag to unify our people anytime soon a structured approach to the flying of flags that is enforced would be welcome but would need political parties, community leaders & others to let go of their own agendas and engage in a positive meaningful way. Perhaps the other point I would like to make is regarding the use of resources - this must be a timely process that is mindful of our country's precious finances.

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 note.

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:

Clause 6: Request for assistance from police

16 Do you agree with Clause 6 of the Bill?

Not Answered

17 Please provide information to support your answer here

Accessible:

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?

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?

Yes

23 Please provide information to support your answer here

Accessible: