

Submitted to Display of Flags and Emblems - Call for Evidence
Submitted on 2026-08-17 15:33:36

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?

Unsure

7 Please provide information to support your answer here

Accessible:

I agree with the proposal to remove all flags and emblems from public places when they are intimidatory, threatening, stir up hatred, invite support for a prescribed organisation etc.

However, how and who in the department of infrastructure will make this judgement call and how will their perceptions of the above aspects be measured?

I am afraid there is no clear and detailed measurement of how these conclusions will be reached.

My recent personal experience of having such flags erected around my home (which caused all of the above unpleasant feelings and fears) was that when contacting public bodies for removal of the flags, their perceptions of the intimidatory nature of the flags did not match mine.

How will the department make these judgement calls to ensure removal and reduce fear and intimidation?

My feeling is that all flags and emblems which create such ill feelings in communities should not be displayed in public places at all. If individuals/ groups wish to display them on their own houses, halls or club houses then that should be permissible. However, other members of the public who do not support these organisations, should not have to put up with them on public property and around their homes when they do not wish them to be there.

Clause 2: Sensitive places

8 Do you agree with Clause 2 of the Bill?

Unsure

9 Please provide information to support your answer here

Accessible:

I agree with the notion of identification of sensitive areas. The many examples you have given are appropriate but I would also include public roads/dual carriageways etc where flags are currently being used to mark out areas where some members of the public are being made to feel less than welcome by the display of flags along the roads

Clause 3: Procedure for / notification of, or giving views on, flags or emblems

10 Do you agree with Clause 3 of the Bill?

Unsure

11 Please provide information to support your answer here

Accessible:

I feel that all flags and emblems should only be permitted to be displayed on private properties such as privately owned homes and privately owned club houses, halls etc by the people who support the views displayed on the flags or emblems. Other members of the public should not have to see them displayed in public areas.

If there is a notification procedure of a desire to display a flag or emblem how will a judgement on whether to give permission for such a display be made?

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:

My recent experience on flags being erected around my home was that there was little support available for members of the public to object. I contacted the equality commission for help only to be told that they could not support me on this matter. It appeared that there was no equality for people who did not want flags erected in their area. Therefore a code of practice which reflects the feelings of all the various members of our community would be very important. The inclusion of contacting key stakeholders would also be very beneficial.

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

14 Do you agree with Clause 5 of the Bill?

Not Answered

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?

Yes

17 Please provide information to support your answer here

Accessible:

Currently the police are not permitted by law to remove flags at the request of residents, who do not wish the flags to be erected in their roads. This makes these sections of the community feel that they are not supported by the law. This is an unacceptable position. So having support from the police would help to alleviate the current feeling of lack of support by the law.

Clause 7: Interpretation

18 Do you agree with Clause 7 of the Bill?

Not Answered

19 Please provide information to support your answer here

Accessible:

Clause 8: Commencement

20 Do you agree with Clause 8 of the Bill?

Unsure

21 Please provide information to support your answer here

Accessible:

I would like to see action on this matter as quickly as possible.

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: