

Response ID ANON-4R6A-5D7T-1

Submitted to Display of Flags and Emblems - Call for Evidence
Submitted on 2026-09-11 18:15:39

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 and emblems in public places can be intimidating for certain sections of the community and can be very divisive. Flags representing one section of the community are regularly displayed in areas where other sections of the community live and which therefore do not represent their allegiance. Also, in recent times, Flags have become much much bigger than in the past and this serves only to amplify their divisiveness and intimidating nature.

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:

On the Ormeau road area where my mother lives, there are unionist flags around much of the upper Ormeau road area. We are forced to pass these flags when accompanying my 98 year old mother on visits to her health centre. Both she, myself and my siblings feel alienated in what should be a safe, shared space. The flags are a statement that we don't belong. They make me and my mother feel like strangers in our home area.

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:

For too long, unionist flags have flown in what is a very mixed area, where my mother and siblings live, on the upper Ormeau road. I feel very strongly that if the government or police were to remove the flags, certain members of the community would replace the flags, without fear of any punishment/ fine. If it was made a punishable offence to replace a flag deemed offensive to the other community, then this would be an effective means of making the offenders think twice about placing divisive flags and emblems in mixed areas.

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:

Clause 8: Commencement

20 Do you agree with Clause 8 of the Bill?

Not Answered

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: