

Response ID ANON-2R5J-4C5P-Y

Submitted to Display of Flags and Emblems - Call for Evidence
Submitted on 2026-07-23 09:57:20

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:

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:

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:

However, this needs to be a private communication to the Department. People's name and email address must not be public as people are afraid and intimidated and will not respond otherwise for fear of reprisal for simply giving one's opinion.

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:

However, if the DUP is in control of the Communities Portfolio they could bring a bill allowing flags to be flown everywhere - which would be counterproductive.

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

14 Do you agree with Clause 5 of the Bill?

No

15 Please provide information to support your answer here

Accessible:

It should be a heftier penalty and a criminal offence.

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:

There's no detail provided to enable a determination to be made

Clause 8: Commencement

20 Do you agree with Clause 8 of the Bill?

No

21 Please provide information to support your answer here

Accessible:

'As soon as is practicable' in NI terms could mean never

Also, the DUP will never agree with this and worse they could change the Bill to allow the flying of multiple flags if they have the Communities portfolio at the time the Bill is being introduced or at a later stage, even after it's been implemented

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:

Don't have the detail so cannot comment