

Submitted to Display of Flags and Emblems - Call for Evidence
Submitted on 2026-09-03 21:13:04

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:

I agree that the Department should be the decision makers when reviewing whether or not a flag/emblem should be removed. The list of criteria set out in the draft bill seems comprehensive and will take into account most, if not all, likely situations where illegal or unwanted flags and banners are erected. It would be very useful to have a time limit on the decision making process and eventual outcome to avoid any potential delays if the flags have the potential to cause issue.

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:

From my own personal experience re new housing development: in the area where I reside, the [REDACTED] a significant amount of illegal flags and banners were erected (June 2026) without permission or buy in from the local residents. This sparked widespread frustration and fear in some cases where residents felt genuinely intimidated. Correspondence from both the Department for Infrastructure and the PSNI (via the local MLA) made it clear that the laws around illegal street furniture are not applied in removing these illegal emblems. I would hope that this Clause can remedy this situation.

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:

This seems like a reasonable approach to hearing arguments from both sides of the debate.

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:

This clause is key to allowing the department to do their job properly without fear of reprisal. If the penalty for obstructing removal of illegal material is significant then the likelihood that it will happen is decreased.

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:

If PSNI assistance is needed in removing material from a sensitive area then this option should be given to the department.

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?

Unsure

21 Please provide information to support your answer here

Accessible:

I would like it to be quicker, however, I understand the drafting and enactment of legislation is a slow process.

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: