

Response ID ANON-4W3M-7S2T-U

Submitted to Display of Flags and Emblems - Call for Evidence
Submitted on 2026-08-18 22:32:02

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 are hardly used here as sectarianism emblems not as cultural symbols - placement of these emblems across urban areas is intimidatory and marks out territory! Emblems should not be affixed to items owned by the public such as lamp posts or sitting kerbs as these are paid for the tax payer ie not in my name'

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:

Shared and sensitive space should be free from emblems and flags for example outside churches and places of worship - a sensitive place could also be described as places of any kind where the flags and emblems are heart to be intimidatory - for example down streets whole streets where there is a mixed population or a majority of one side but nevertheless flags appear from the other rude for months on end

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:

Today I walked within the boundary of ballybeen estate in east Belfast - all along the main arterial route within that estate every flagpole has a British flag or a loyalist flag including UDA flags - while these UDA is flying within a loyalist area such flags should not be tolerated in a modern society - where in the world would a paramilitary organisation with a terrorist past be allowed to openly use public property to 'proudly' display their flag. In 2026 if there isn't a mechanism to rid society of such emblems then society locally has no future. The sooner public representatives of all shades are mature enough to stand up openly and back removal if such flags the better society cohesion will be locally !

Clause 4: Code of Practice

12 Do you agree with Clause 4 of the Bill?

No

13 Please provide information to support your answer here

Accessible:

This should not take 12 months to progress and certainly not 18 to be enforceable ! What other bills require should a lead in time - this strikes me as a tail wagging the dog - some notion that the majority in society here owe it to those that have been flying flags illegally on public property to have more time. I see no valid reason for any more delay !

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:

While a fine is applicable the level

Three will not act as a deterrent and local areas will certainly be able to find £ 1000 fine whereas a level 4 fine at £2,500 would be harder to find locally

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:

Police sadly should be required to attend flag incidents

Myself passed the roundabout at the ice bowl in Dundonald last week and men with ladders were erecting flags 'as they owned the poles and public roads' and police should be required to support removal - balanced with a higher deterrent in fines and support by politicians that issues around flags must change if our society locally is to mature with respect for everyone

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:

Yes this is a highly contentious area and all words associated with clauses need to be tightly defined to assist the courts, police and individuals and organisations to interpret rights and responsibilities.

Clause 8: Commencement

20 Do you agree with Clause 8 of the Bill?

No

21 Please provide information to support your answer here

Accessible:

There should be no delay in getting all parts of this bill onto the statute books - this sends the wrong signal to potential offenders that society here is fed up with flags and emblems nuisance and their use to mark out territory and intimidate.

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: