

Response ID ANON-4W3M-7Y4R-1

Submitted to Display of Flags and Emblems - Call for Evidence
Submitted on 2026-07-23 14:24:35

Clause 1: Removal of flags or emblems in the public interest

6 Do you agree with Clause 1 of the Bill?

No

7 Please provide information to support your answer here

Accessible:

The description of flag and emblem is insufficient as it does not cover the painting of structures in tribal colours or illegally erected structures (with similar intent as flags) without planning permission.

Clause 2: Sensitive places

8 Do you agree with Clause 2 of the Bill?

No

9 Please provide information to support your answer here

Accessible:

Where flags emblems etc are erected the process of removal needs to be agreed with the local population in a democratic process based on 50:50 in accordance with timeframes. There is also a concern that the term sensitive places will wrongly impinge on private facilities and be applied in a broad brush approach. Private property in predominantly public spaces still needs exemption.

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

10 Do you agree with Clause 3 of the Bill?

No

11 Please provide information to support your answer here

Accessible:

Confidence in public process and voluntary system is very low, open to manipulation. The 15% requirements for dual language signs is an example , ignoring the democratic 50:50.

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:

Agree if the flags and emblems cop includes a wider range of paraphernalia including illegal monuments statues and paintings of structures in tribal colours.

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:

The fine needs to be set without a min or max. Needs to be equal for all and not dependent on the judge or circumstance.

Clause 6: Request for assistance from police

16 Do you agree with Clause 6 of the Bill?

No

17 Please provide information to support your answer here

Accessible:

The PSNI should not be brought into this situation and abused. The blame must not fall on the PSNI if decisions are made by faceless civil servants. Enforcement officers smiler to HSE or EHOs need to receive the correct powers.

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?

Yes

21 Please provide information to support your answer here

Accessible:

Clause 9: Short title

22 Do you agree with Clause 9 of the Bill?

No

23 Please provide information to support your answer here

Accessible:

Needs to be extended to cover a wider range of paraphernalia including illegal structures and painted structures and graffiti.