

Response ID ANON-4Y5H-9A8G-3

Submitted to Display of Flags and Emblems - Call for Evidence
Submitted on 2026-07-14 20:46:32

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 should NOT be erected in areas or locations in which there are mixed communities. This is intimidation, as the flags and emblems are often territorial so located close to houses or premises that do not align with the message and representation of these flags and emblems. It does not align to their identity.

If flags and emblems are erected in accordance with this proposed legislation, then there must be a time period for the erection of such flags and emblems and a time period for the removal of these flags and emblems, as it is acknowledged people should celebrate their own culture. However, again I emphasise, these should not be in places in which there are mixed communities or in communities which do not align to the message related to the flag or emblem.

Also, as this proposed legislation outcome

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:

This must be the case. These sensitive places must be protected for all flags and emblems.

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:

There should be a portal to facilitate the public to notify the display of a flag or emblem as a method to support the reporting of the adherence to this proposed legislation, otherwise, those responsible will not be held accountable for not adhering to this legislation.

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:

The move to the development of a Code of Practice within this realistic time line is important to ensure the public are clear on the delivery of this legislation.

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:

A fine not exceeding level 3 is appropriate at this stage of attempting to introduce legislation, but this must be reviewed to ensure this penalty is appropriate for this offence, particularly for multiple offences related to this legislation.

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:

The Department must have the support and assistance of the PSNI to support the enforcement of this legislation.

Clause 7: Interpretation

18 Do you agree with Clause 7 of the Bill?

Yes

19 Please provide information to support your answer here

Accessible:

This clarity is required.

Clause 8: Commencement

20 Do you agree with Clause 8 of the Bill?

Yes

21 Please provide information to support your answer here

Accessible:

A timeline is crucial to ensure the process moves forward and those involved in the development of the Bill have the necessary support to adhere to the timeline. Although the other clauses are working towards a twelve month deadline after 1 January 2028, I am a little concerned about the addendum of 'as soon as is practicable after this date' as this allows for other priorities to compete with this important Bill. I do, however, recognise this may be the standard protocol.

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:

A title that demonstrates truncation and brevity is welcomed.