

Response ID ANON-5C2U-8F2Q-Z

Submitted to Display of Flags and Emblems - Call for Evidence
Submitted on 2026-08-29 13:00:24

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:

It is important to ensure we live in a safe society that respects all of its people. Flags in areas can intimidate people from other cultural traditions and cause unnecessary conflict and division.

At present Flags go up regardless of what the community want, there is no way to challenge those who put the flags up for fear of intimidation or threat. This is not acceptable in today's society.

Sensitive areas area particularly concerning particularly new housing developments as it sends a stark message to potential home owners that they or or are now welcome based on their cultural background. This is not behaviour that can be tolerated in 2026.

Law enforcement should be able to stop this for taking place and those who erect flags should be prosecuted. Too long this country has been ruled by paramilitaries who threaten communities- this should not continue.

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:

Sensitive places should be free from intimidation and erecting flags in sensitive areas are for 1 reason only and that's to bully and intimidate. New Housing developments is of particular concern- we need to live in a society where more integration is the norm and where it is celebrated. Flags keep the awful history of past continuing - it has no place in 2026.

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:

I think it is important that if flags go up there is a process for this whereby an independent panel can agree and decide on the appropriateness and the impact. Similar to the parades commission an independent body can review requests. It's also appropriate that at times of celebration flags go up but there needs to be a ruling or mechanism whereby the flags then come down again.

Clause 4: Code of Practice

12 Do you agree with Clause 4 of the Bill?

Unsure

13 Please provide information to support your answer here

Accessible:

I do think that the equality commission the PSNI and the human rights commission take time to communicate the issues with the community and should be able to review it periodically.

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

14 Do you agree with Clause 5 of the Bill?

Unsure

15 Please provide information to support your answer here

Accessible:

I believe there should be a penalty for the obstruction of flag removal. I believe that perpetrators can display intimidation and aggressive behaviour which should be more severely punished.

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 police have a responsibility to protect those who are engaged in flag removal.

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?

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?

Yes

23 Please provide information to support your answer here

Accessible: