

Response ID ANON-5C2U-8F9M-3

Submitted to Display of Flags and Emblems - Call for Evidence
Submitted on 2026-08-27 11:44:33

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 believe that flags in public places should not be allowed at all, no matter what they are depicting. Flags can absolutely be flown on public buildings such as city hall, businesses, or private addresses but they should not be allowed on public streets, lampposts etc.

If you are marching or taking part in a parade etc then you can absolutely carry flags with you, and celebrate your culture to its fullest, but they should not be attached to our public streets.

The argument for flying them is that is a celebration of culture, and I have no problem with that. But sadly the majority of flags flown in my local area are not used for this purpose, and many of them contain hateful messaging or promote paramilitary organisations. Hate messages are not a celebration of one culture, they are a denigration of others and it shouldn't be allowed on our streets. Paramilitaries are not welcome in our society so why are promotional flags allowed to fly.

I also think the painting of curbs should be completely banned, the pavement belongs to the community not to any one person and you should not be allowed to paint the streets however you see fit

No person has any more right to our public spaces than another, and everyone in our society should feel safe and able to enjoy our public spaces. If we cannot celebrate one culture whilst being accepting and understanding of others then there should just be a blanket ban on all displaying of emblems and flags in public places.

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:

As previously I think that they shouldn't be allowed in any public space, but in the case of the sensitive spaces outlined I think it is especially important that they are removed. Public spaces are for the public, they should be safe and welcoming spaces for everyone and not visually dominated by the culture and beliefs of a few.

In the case of public parks if there is an event being held then by all means it can and should be decorated and people should be allowed to celebrate their culture to its fullest, but they should be removed when the event is done.

I would love for our country to be inclusive of everyone, and for everyone to feel safe and welcomed into all corners of our country - I think the least we can do is make sure our public places embody that.

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:

Yes in theory I think this is a good idea, as it allows for fair and transparent reasoning. I think the issue will be getting people to use it correctly, and policing it. Also there are many people with opinions on flags and emblems flying that are used to it now and will not seek out additional labour on their end to report them so it could give an unclear idea of what the general public think.

I understand that banning all flags is a lofty dream at this stage though, so I think it is a good first step to get public consensus on how their public spaces are being treated.

I do think however in the case of flags or emblems displaying hate messaging or promoting paramilitary groups there should be a blanket ruling that they are removed, as it is unacceptable to allow this to be the face of our communities

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:

Yes if this is how long it will take for a robust code of practice to be put in place then that is acceptable.

I think it is incredibly important to consult as many people as possible and be transparent with any information and opinions that have been collected, and by whom. We cannot allow ourselves to be bullied or coerced into decisions that are not in the public's best interest so transparency is key.

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:

Yes if someone is doing something illegal it should be fairly punished, and if someone is obstructing other people from carrying out their job and potentially putting them in harm's way for the sake of a flag then that is not acceptable.

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:

Yes I think that is fine, it is sad that in our country our police resources could be wasted on the removal of a flag, but if there is reasonable evidence to suspect a breach in the peace then the police should be allowed to protect it.

Clause 7: Interpretation

18 Do you agree with Clause 7 of the Bill?

Yes

19 Please provide information to support your answer here

Accessible:

Yes, but should also include painting of street curbs as an emblem

Clause 8: Commencement

20 Do you agree with Clause 8 of the Bill?

Yes

21 Please provide information to support your answer here

Accessible:

Ideally sooner, but if this is as long as it will take to ensure it is dealt with transparently and robustly then that is fine - however it should not take any longer than this. Deadlines need to be met in order to build public trust

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:

Yes