

Response ID ANON-5C2U-8Y3U-R

Submitted to Display of Flags and Emblems - Call for Evidence
Submitted on 2026-08-11 20:37:11

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 placed in public spaces are too often used to intimidate members of the public who are not from a specific part of the community or who do not agree with a particular belief/ cultural identity/etc. In addition, members of the public living in these areas as minorities should be allowed to live without fear or intimidation

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:

People should be able to access public services without having flags and/or emblems surrounding them that may cause fear and/or intimidation. Public services are for all members of the community and areas where public services are being provided should not be 'marked' as belonging to a particular section of society

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:

It is important that people have a suitable form through which they can raise concerns in relation to flags or emblems. In addition, having a place where notification of the placing of flags or emblems will be sent allows due consideration by the relevant authorities to determine whether the flag or emblem causes fear or intimidation before any such incident arises and encourages proactive dialogue rather than reactive steps that may cause frustrations or anger by those placing the flags/ emblems

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 agree with the concept but I wonder if the time frame could be shortened. 18 months before a code is even established feels like a long time when these are matters that we've been facing for decades already

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 agree with the concept but i would suggest that level 3 may be too low. Level 4 fines are not common but given the cost of living, inflation, increases to wages, level 4 may have more of a deterrent effect

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:

Fully agree with this. There needs to be an avenue for the relevant authorities to request support from the PSNI when removing such flags/ emblems if this legislation is going to be effective

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?

Unsure

21 Please provide information to support your answer here

Accessible:

This feels like a long time (please also check the legislation, it says 1st January 2029 whereas this question refers to 1st January 2028). In any event, both dates are a long time from now and ideally would be enforceable before then

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:

Agreed