

Response ID ANON-5Q8K-8E7E-2

Submitted to Display of Flags and Emblems - Call for Evidence
Submitted on 2026-07-18 14:49:53

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:

The display of polarising flags is a scourge on our society. Often, paramilitary groups coordinate the flying of flags to mark territory and few people who actually live in the areas actually support the flying of flags on public property.

Placing a mechanism by which flags can be removed from public places is critical to start to stop the toxic culture we have around flags.

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:

Flags in sensitive places can only ever be meant to intimidate opposing sides of a community. This needs to be stopped and those caught putting up flags in public places should be fined and prosecuted for vandalism of public facilities.

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:

This sounds like a sensible approach. There is no doubt that the majority of residents in specific areas would feel that their cultural identity would be impacted by the removal of flags so this clause could prevent these issues from happening.

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:

If passed, the bill must have deadlines to enable progress in implementation.

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:

The fine and consequences should escalate for individuals who continually reoffend.

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:

Many areas will need assistance from PSNI due to tensions/threats. There should be additional funding allocated to PSNI to account for the increased workload and to ensure other police activities are not impacted by this.

Clause 7: Interpretation

18 Do you agree with Clause 7 of the Bill?

Unsure

19 Please provide information to support your answer here

Accessible:

N/A

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 the sooner the better but I appreciate this bill will come up intense opposition from other parts of the community.

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: