

Response ID ANON-5Q8K-8K3M-C

Submitted to Display of Flags and Emblems - Call for Evidence

Submitted on 2026-07-30 14:19:10

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:

Michael O'Neill

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 am content for my information, including details of my name and organisation, to be published in the survey results.

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:

Ultimately someone must be responsible for the upkeep and maintenance of our local areas, it makes sense that the Dept holds this responsibility, rather than other unelected organisations. And as the Department represents the community, it must, by law, consider all pertinent outcomes in relation to removing, or not, such flags and emblems.

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:

No side must have the "right" to impose their will and views on anyone. And as we are a mixed society, we must keep certain places clear of any contentious emblems. This allows all people in our society to feel safe in areas where people have the need, and right, to go about their lives without fear.

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:

Again some areas could be considered to be contentious, and a democratic way to check if such emblems are wanted gives those who live and access that area a say in the erecting, or not, of such flags and emblems.

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:

There must be a code. However, it's not going to be any good if no-one adheres to it. And if broken, what penalty would there be, what action can be taken, and who enforces the code.

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:

This is just common sense. Otherwise it becomes a box-ticking exercise .

This must be seen by everyone to be an opportunity for a locally acceptable outcome for their local areas in this regard.

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:

Has to happen. No matter the area or emblem involved. Compromise is the order of the day. So we must have the ability to enforce such regulations.

Clause 7: Interpretation

18 Do you agree with Clause 7 of the Bill?

Yes

19 Please provide information to support your answer here

Accessible:

Legal definition sometimes seems illogical, and impractical, but we must go out and state our needs in a legal way, and this needs to be defined within the laws it pertains to the task.

Clause 8: Commencement

20 Do you agree with Clause 8 of the Bill?

Yes

21 Please provide information to support your answer here

Accessible:

Time allowed for debate, clarification etc is always a good thing. And the timescale would give plenty of notice and opportunity to people proposing to erect such emblems for such clarification needed in specific areas and circumstances.

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. Does what it says on the box. No need for further embellishments or confusing phraseology.