

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:

Someone must take responsibility for the removal of flags, it is a blight on our society.

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 are a method of intimidation and bullying and should definitely not be permitted in sensitive places.

Clause 3: Procedure for / notification of, or giving views on, flags or emblems

10 Do you agree with Clause 3 of the Bill?

Unsure

11 Please provide information to support your answer here

Accessible:

The part I'm unsure about is the anonymity of those objecting. I lived [REDACTED] Dungannon for 10 years with my family and had to leave due to intimidation and harassment through the use of flags. Throughout that time no one would ever take responsibility for flags being removed even though, in the end, they were up for 12 months of the year. I was too afraid that me and my family would be targeted with violence if it was publicly known that I wanted the flags removed (one was on a lamppost right outside my house). I contacted PSNI, local counsellors and the management company for the

development none of which had any interest in helping me. As I say we moved house but our house sold for a much lower price due to the flags and people knowing that catholics were not welcome.

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:

I believe flags should definitely be a consideration for the human rights and equality commissions. My family was fundamentally put out of our home because of our religion which goes against any of the standards and expectations of our society. How could I explain to my 7 and 10 year olds what the flags meant and why we had to move? They were traumatised by the move and we now live in a house no where near as nice as the one we moved from but we had no choice.

In [REDACTED] since that time (2021) and I believe to this day there is a sign near the chapel which says 'GAA - sporting wing of the IRA'. This is a blatant hate crime but yet it has been ignored all this time and the people who put it up (same as those who put up the flags) are allowed to bully and intimidate.

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:

There should definitely be implications for those obstructing removal of flags, it is the only way matters will improve.

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:

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: