

Response ID ANON-5T2E-6N5K-4

Submitted to Display of Flags and Emblems - Call for Evidence
Submitted on 2026-09-12 10:43:23

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:

N/a

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 have lived in Dromore, county Down for 7 years now. I live in a private housing development. I grew up in a place where flags were used as a form of intimidation. One of the reasons I moved to Dromore was to escape this.

In the last 7 years of living in Dromore, County Down, I have noticed the use of flags increasing and extending well out of the town centre, including at the entrance to private housing developments like my own, the flags have increased in size and they have been put up from beginning of June to September (approx 1/3 of the calendar year).

Not only do I feel very nervous when they put them up on the lamp posts at the top of the private housing development that I live in, I also feel very intimidated and at times have felt not welcome as I believe these flags are a form of intent to create division amongst Dromore.

When I first arrived home to Dromore and seen them erected this year right at the top of the housing development I live in, I began to take panic attacks. It made me feel like we had went back in time and I re experienced all the horrible memories that these flags were used for during my childhood.

I do not want this for my two children. I moved to Dromore thinking that it would provide a better more inclusive and welcoming community.

I am really disappointed that this situation is increasing year after year in the past 7 years and I would very much feel a huge sense of relief knowing that something is being done about it.

Many thanks.

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:

I have stopped going in to my local village square while the arch and flags are out because I feel I am unwelcome. The flags are used as a form of intimidation. I feel unwelcome and don't feel safe going in to Dromore square, county Down or to Hillsborough to do shopping or support the small local businesses which all the flags are up. I spend my money elsewhere during these summer months.

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 would be a positive step in the right direction. I am already really worried about next years flag display in Dromore, county Down. I have considered putting the house up for sale because of the mental distress it caused me this year.

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:

This will keep it all in line and keep the rules the same for everywhere so that it can be more closely monitored.

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 was a paramilitary flag two lamp posts up from the top of the the private housing development that I live in. Although I did contact the police to inform them of this, it did take them a significant amount of time to arrange to get it removed. This would reduce the stress and pressure of the police having to deal with these calls and the stress and time involved for the complainant.

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:

I had this issue over the summer where the police had to be contacted regarding a paramilitary flag. It took a significant amount of time to go through the whole process of phoning the police, reporting then subsequent phonecalls asking for an update as it required significant time to be dealt with due to the pressures that the psni are dealing with.

Clause 7: Interpretation

18 Do you agree with Clause 7 of the Bill?

Yes

19 Please provide information to support your answer here

Accessible:

This keeps it easy to understand and the same across the board.

Clause 8: Commencement

20 Do you agree with Clause 8 of the Bill?

Yes

21 Please provide information to support your answer here

Accessible:

I agrre with this

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:

Accurate amd precise.