

Response ID ANON-6D8Q-5W4J-D

Submitted to Display of Flags and Emblems - Call for Evidence
Submitted on 2026-08-21 11:41:00

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:
Stephen Wilson

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?

No

7 Please provide information to support your answer here

Accessible:

The forced removal of flags, regardless of which faction has erected them, will present more problems than it will solve. They will be replaced as soon as they are removed, possibly even in greater numbers than before. We have seen this in the past. Attitudes will become more entrenched and hardened. There is always the possibility of violence, placing the PSNI in a position of danger.

Clause 2: Sensitive places

8 Do you agree with Clause 2 of the Bill?

No

9 Please provide information to support your answer here

Accessible:

I have never felt threatened or intimidated by a piece of material attached to a lamp post.

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

10 Do you agree with Clause 3 of the Bill?

No

11 Please provide information to support your answer here

Accessible:

Clause 4: Code of Practice

12 Do you agree with Clause 4 of the Bill?

No

13 Please provide information to support your answer here

Accessible:

This bill is a complete waste of time and money.

The imposition of Irish language street signs where there is no clear support for them should be addressed first.

Clause 5: Offence of obstructing the Department in removal of flag or emblem

14 Do you agree with Clause 5 of the Bill?

No

15 Please provide information to support your answer here

Accessible:

The people who erect flags are not worried about fines etc. Plus there will be no confidence the law will be applied equally across the board.

Clause 6: Request for assistance from police

16 Do you agree with Clause 6 of the Bill?

No

17 Please provide information to support your answer here

Accessible:

The police should not be used as cannon fodder in such a trivial matter.

If the flags can't be removed safely then leave them.

Clause 7: Interpretation

18 Do you agree with Clause 7 of the Bill?

No

19 Please provide information to support your answer here

Accessible:

Clause 8: Commencement

20 Do you agree with Clause 8 of the Bill?

No

21 Please provide information to support your answer here

Accessible:

As I have said, this bill is a waste of time and good money. It will create more divisions than heal.

Clause 9: Short title

22 Do you agree with Clause 9 of the Bill?

No

23 Please provide information to support your answer here

Accessible:

The title of the bill is neither here nor there.