

Response ID ANON-6E9C-3G8Z-3

Submitted to Display of Flags and Emblems - Call for Evidence

Submitted on 2026-08-24 20:00:19

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:

1 (3) b (ii) is the most obvious concern. Not just in respect of demarcating an area as being the sole territory of one mindset but by also affecting those who have to transit through or undertake work within that area.

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 our "culture" are not neutral. They have no place in neutral and shared service provision. Arterial roads are a particular eyesore and potential irritant in this respect. Those who genuinely respect flags and emblems would tend not to leave them zip tied to street furniture 24/7 until they hang in tatters.

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:

A named person or group should be associated with and assigned the task of subsequent removal of 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:

4 (5) is the essence of the matter. Mutual respect, respect for the flags themselves and agreement on how long they should be displayed. It's like leaving Christmas trees up until Easter as things stand.

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:

A national flag shouldn't be the equivalent of a scent marker. If mutual respect towards the flags and emblems of our cultural jigsaw can be agreed, this clause ought to be redundant. But as there'll be excitable outliers, the clause is necessary.

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:

Last resort, as the police have enough to deal with, but because some people enjoy testing the boundaries, some sanction is needed. The big question is whether our medley of politicians can lead rather than weaponise. Hmmmmm!

Clause 7: Interpretation

18 Do you agree with Clause 7 of the Bill?

Unsure

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:

Allows time for dialogue. Or agitation and protests!

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:

Succinct title