

Response ID ANON-2T9C-3S9E-6

Submitted to Display of Flags and Emblems - Call for Evidence
Submitted on 2026-08-03 11:23:26

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?

Unsure

7 Please provide information to support your answer here

Accessible:

Vague.

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:

Detailing flag removal by location seems unnecessary, most people don't have complaints about flags being flown from specific places, they complain about flags that support dangerous or hateful institutions. This branch of the legislation would prevent a library from celebrating pride month, or from showing it's support for trans identities. There are better ways to judge the intentions of flag flying that are less likely to be misused.

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:

These are susceptible to "review bombing" type practices and malicious movements trying to overwhelm the system to force change. Is a handy tool, but should not be viewed as honest and accurate public opinion.

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:

18 months is a bit much, when these issues are being aggressively used to divide communities as we speak.

I do not trust the PSNI's stance on these issues, as the PSNI's current stance has been to allow intimidating flags to fly so long as those flags are flown by protestant paramilitaries. I spoke to an officer regarding the erection of multiple israeli flags after the most recent race riots here, and he informed me the PSNI believed taking them down would "raise community tensions" which is a cop out answer as the erection of them raised community tensions for large quantities of the community, taking them down would only raise tensions for the aggressive protestant paramilitary branches that put them up in the first place. The psni are not a unbiased review of community interests. Shown by their make up and by their biased policing statistics. Their involvement would be welcoming that bias into these decisions.

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:

I don't see the need to punish people for this kind of behaviour, it can simply be worked around if it comes to it. A ruling like this will very quickly get used unfairly and inconsistently. Fines are not a helpful punishment either as wealthy antagonists will happily take the fine, or as we have seen, paramilitaries will force young folks into the line of punishment on their behalf.

Clause 6: Request for assistance from police

16 Do you agree with Clause 6 of the Bill?

Unsure

17 Please provide information to support your answer here

Accessible:

The PSNI are not shown to be good at de-escalating situations, and they have been shown to have biased interests towards protestant paramilitaries

Clause 7: Interpretation

18 Do you agree with Clause 7 of the Bill?

No

19 Please provide information to support your answer here

Accessible:

Proscribed organisations is a key point of disagreement, as we have already seen the illegal proscription of palestine action, that has been rightfully and successfully challenged, and yet their proscription was used to justify mass arrests and harrasment of folks simply publically opposing genocide, meanwhile active paramilitary members and paramilitary activity that NI has a deep history with has been allowed to grow and flourish under PSNI policing that gives them a pass.

I think we should look to the actual actions behind the institution of flown flags, and judge if they are antagonistic based on those, combined with public opinion, rather than proscriptions. It is more complicated and involves the northern irish government taking stands for or against certain things, in line with ni public opinion, but I believe this legislation falls apart and is meaningless or dangerous if we don't approach it on a case by case basis

Clause 8: Commencement

20 Do you agree with Clause 8 of the Bill?

No

21 Please provide information to support your answer here

Accessible:

Bit slow. There are UDA and UVF paramilitary flags flying on my street as we speak. You're giving them years of leeway to push their agenda and consolidate their influence. Israel has killed 17,000 children in two years. Will you allow their flags to fly in Northern Ireland while they kill children for another 2 years? What a helpless organisation you are to your people.

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:

Unimportant