

Response ID ANON-6F3V-5B2H-P

Submitted to Display of Flags and Emblems - Call for Evidence
Submitted on 2026-07-20 19:19:20

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:

The department should have the ability to remove a flag or emblem if the public request they do so.

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:

In agreement with the proposed clause as flags and emblems should not be displayed in public shared spaces, even less so in or around sensitive spaces as defined within the bill

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:

Reporting needs to be efficient, managed effectively and the process needs to be transparent and accessible for members of the public. An online portal that facilitates these processes is the right approach but needs to be transparent, crucially on decisions taken by the department whether to proceed with removals or not

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 think timelines should be brought forward and would not be unachievable to do so. Documents such as these already exist in some form so updating to reflect this specific bill should not be dragged into a lengthy and drawn out process

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:

I would anticipate that for more serious cases of obstruction that stray into physical violence that they would be dealt with appropriately via criminal prosecution. The definition of obstruction also needs to be made clear and the thresholds which exceed obstruction

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 believe in some cases there will unfortunately be resistance in the form of disorder as has been demonstrated over numerous years and PSNI assistance where required needs to be provided

Clause 7: Interpretation

18 Do you agree with Clause 7 of the Bill?

Yes

19 Please provide information to support your answer here

Accessible:

I think these need to be absolutely clear and the thresholds identified so there can be no ambiguity if in the process of removal there are obstructions and breaches of the peace

Clause 8: Commencement

20 Do you agree with Clause 8 of the Bill?

No

21 Please provide information to support your answer here

Accessible:

I believe all clauses need to come into operation simultaneously otherwise the application will not be comprehensive and gaps will be exposed

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:

Pending conclusion of this process and amendments within the bill as a result, an title that is short and to the point is appropriate