

Response ID ANON-6G6Z-7M3S-Q

Submitted to Display of Flags and Emblems - Call for Evidence
Submitted on 2026-09-14 10:39:18

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:
Alexander Johnston

3 What is your email address?

Email:


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?

Yes

7 Please provide information to support your answer here

Accessible:

In June 2026, flags were erected on Drumnagoon Road in order to antagonise and intimidate a mixed community. The PSNI said no crime had been committed and would not act while the DfI disagreed with police advice that it would be safe for their staff to remove them and has refused to take action. The Clause is much needed to codify the Department's responsibility to protect community cohesion and uphold the shared public space for all residents regardless of background.

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:

Clear statutory definitions remove subjective debate about where flags can fly. Classifying shared infrastructure and public amenity zones as sensitive places gives public bodies unambiguous authority to intervene promptly before tensions escalate.

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 an excellent way to delineate between flags and banners being erected for genuine cultural celebrations and those being used for nefarious reasons such as Drumnagoon Road.

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:

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:

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:

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:

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: