

Response ID ANON-2T9C-3V8T-Q

Submitted to Display of Flags and Emblems - Call for Evidence
Submitted on 2026-08-19 19:17:37

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:

Framework on flags should be in place throughout the north. Whilst I identify with a specific flag, I don't need them on lampposts which may intimidate my neighbours or visitors to the area. Presently, the lack of framework results in the continual intimidation that flags have in the north. We do not need flags for cultural identity.

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:

Shared spaces should be shared without fear of not feeling like you belong. In legislating that flags can be removed, this will make these spaces more welcoming. For example, I used to attend Antrim forum which is a great facility but often felt concerned I shouldn't be in that facility as someone who doesn't identify with the union flag.

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:

An online portal makes it accessible and convenient to report any requested removals. Giving the public a space to voice their opinions takes pressure of the likes of the PSNI who are often penalised for their lack of action.

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:

It is essential that all stakeholders are notified of the code of practice, particularly in a society built on sectarianism. This ensures that all cultures are protected

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 believe dependent on the flag and/or emblem, this should be a criminal offence that results in an arrest. For example, flags glorifying paramilitaries present hurt towards victims and therefore should carry a heavier offence than just a tricolour or union flag.

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:

PSNI should be involved in the removal regardless if the department feels there are threats. As community protectors; it's within the interest of the PSNI to protect both communities.

Clause 7: Interpretation

18 Do you agree with Clause 7 of the Bill?

No

19 Please provide information to support your answer here

Accessible:

Interpretations differ, this should not be the case for this type of legislation. We need concrete guidelines that apply outright and should not be interpreted as this can lead to inconsistencies and loopholes

Clause 8: Commencement

20 Do you agree with Clause 8 of the Bill?

No

21 Please provide information to support your answer here

Accessible:

Implementation of all clauses should ideally fall within the same date.

Clause 9: Short title

22 Do you agree with Clause 9 of the Bill?

Unsure

23 Please provide information to support your answer here

Accessible: