

Response ID ANON-6Y6N-3J4F-A

Submitted to Display of Flags and Emblems - Call for Evidence
Submitted on 2026-08-06 23:23:10

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:

N/A

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:

The flags erected for the 12th of July are left up far too long. They are dirty and ripped. Friends from Great Britain who visit are appalled at the state of the flag of their nation on the streets of the north. As they should be. It's disgusting and it makes areas look unkempt.

A method for reporting such flags so they can be removed would be most helpful. I have neighbours who feel very intimidated by flags being placed on lampposts outside their homes. Often the men who come to do it are not members of the local community and can be verbally aggressive or physically intimidating whenever they are confronted. It does nothing to build community in our local area. Our neighbours who are first or second generation immigrants (who gives so much to our local community) are intimidated by such displays, especially in light of the recent riots in Belfast that made national news.

I have noticed a complete lack of interest from the PSNI regarding this matter and so legislation that will make clear when a flag should be removed would be most helpful.

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:

Such areas are not places for people to erect sectarian symbols. If the north is to progress in any manner then these symbols must be stamped out and there should be a zero tolerance policy on such symbols being flown in prominent areas.

I note that year on year, loyalist communities are determined to place loyalist symbols in places to cause hurt and distress around the 12th of July. The destruction and damage that festival does physically, and also the recent social media posts on the likes of Al Jazeera has only highlighted more how

backwards this tradition and festival is.

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:

Far too often a small minority of bigots have the loudest voices whenever it comes to issues like this. They are intimidating and wreckless. An online platform for reporting such problems would be most helpful.

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:

This would be most helpful in reducing the numbers of flags and effigies erected in the north.

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:

This will prevent intimidation for communities and police to ensure flags are removed properly.

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:

The PSNI need to be more present on this issue.

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 it would be beneficial that it is as clear as possible to ensure the rules are followed appropriately.

Clause 8: Commencement

20 Do you agree with Clause 8 of the Bill?

Yes

21 Please provide information to support your answer here

Accessible:

The sooner these can come into place the better.

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:

I think my issue with the flags that are flown are the specific group with connotations of traditionalism, loyalism and sectarianism.

Pride flags should be flown year round and highlight inclusive spaces for LGBTQIA+ people. Similarly flags of international cultures could provide community hubs for immigrants and those wishing to explore new cultures.

It is obvious that this bill is targeting loyalist and sectarian flags (as it should). But I worry the broad naming of the flag would allow bigots to report flags that are flown to show inclusion and diversity. Something I believe the north is currently lacking.