

Response ID ANON-6Z2U-8U3H-Y

Submitted to Display of Flags and Emblems - Call for Evidence
Submitted on 2026-08-07 11:49:36

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:
Robert James Dowey

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:
Robert Dowey

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 particular the Loyalist community have attached flags to lamp posts, what are public property and it seems reasonable to assume that some of this is to intimidate those of a non-Loyalist community.
Generally speaking these flags are never removed from the property and are allowed to rot, which dishonours the flag and those who purport to be promoting loyalism.

The erection of these flags can also bring about a tit-for-tat reaction from the other side, who will erect Irish flags or Palestinian flags as a reaction

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:

This clause 2 is effectively a get-out clause and there should be the removal of flags or emblems from all places which are public property other than the designated days and sites previously specified.

Clause 3: Procedure for / notification of, or giving views on, flags or emblems

10 Do you agree with Clause 3 of the Bill?

No

11 Please provide information to support your answer here

Accessible:

Because Clause 2 is a get-out clause, it means Clause 3 is required. If Clause 2 was more comprehensive, there would be no need for Clause 3

Clause 4: Code of Practice

12 Do you agree with Clause 4 of the Bill?

Unsure

13 Please provide information to support your answer here

Accessible:

Probably a little better than doing nothing

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:

The quickest way to get the legislation implemented is to have severe fines not a rap on the knuckles. When the fine hits people's pockets, it makes them think before taking action.

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?

Yes

19 Please provide information to support your answer here

Accessible:

Provided that this interpretation has some support to have it if it is not used by the civil service as an excuse to do nothing, what's regrettably is a regular occurrence

Clause 8: Commencement

20 Do you agree with Clause 8 of the Bill?

No

21 Please provide information to support your answer here

Accessible:

See my previous comments in respect of clauses

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: