

Response ID ANON-6Z2U-8Y4Y-N

Submitted to Display of Flags and Emblems - Call for Evidence
Submitted on 2026-08-28 16:04:27

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?

No

7 Please provide information to support your answer here

Accessible:

There are three problems with this:-

1) The first which is my main concern with this bill is who gets to interpret what is appropriate or not. I have concerns that this act will be abused by those just seeking to antagonise the other side by objecting to their flags being erected. The authorities in NI have a habit of deciding things on sectarian lines with arbitrary rules and judgements e.g. changing street signs to dual language with minimal support in areas. I do not trust politicians in NI to make judgments regarding flags sensibly. Indeed the perception is that they often stoke sectarian hate just to get votes.

2) This obligation to remove every flag objected to contains no provision for public interest or safety. Removing certain flags could trigger riots and the benefit of removing them may not outweigh the cost.

3) There will be a financial cost in removing flags. The executive is failing to deliver basic services, cover its existing budget and to clean up Lough Neagh. No additional spending should be approved until existing costs can be met by raising taxes or cutting expenditure.

Clause 2: Sensitive places

8 Do you agree with Clause 2 of the Bill?

Unsure

9 Please provide information to support your answer here

Accessible:

Not in the definition per se but some public parks contain other sectarian symbols e.g. the Bobby Sands statue. Some parks are also named after terrorists which is offensive to victims and the other side of the community. There is inconsistency in saying some symbols should be removed but others can stay.

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:

Again there is cost associated with this. Is maintaining such a system the best use of limited public resources.

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:

No objection to this section though see comments to clause 1

Clause 5: Offence of obstructing the Department in removal of flag or emblem

14 Do you agree with Clause 5 of the Bill?

Unsure

15 Please provide information to support your answer here

Accessible:

Again is there value in criminalising people over flying flags

Clause 6: Request for assistance from police

16 Do you agree with Clause 6 of the Bill?

No

17 Please provide information to support your answer here

Accessible:

Again this wastes further limited resources taking the police away from more serious crimes as well as putting officers at risk needlessly

Clause 7: Interpretation

18 Do you agree with Clause 7 of the Bill?

No

19 Please provide information to support your answer here

Accessible:

The terms ignore statues, names of parks and dual language signs erected to stir hate.

Dual (or triple if including Ulster Scots) language signs should either be made universal or not used. At present they are being used to mark territory. While I view the expense of them becoming universal as a waste of money in the current financial climate that would be much better than what we have now with repeated the antagonising of one section of the community.

Clause 8: Commencement

20 Do you agree with Clause 8 of the Bill?

Unsure

21 Please provide information to support your answer here

Accessible:

No objection to this section though see comments to clause 1

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:

No objection to this section though see comments to clause 1