

Submitted to Display of Flags and Emblems - Call for Evidence
Submitted on 2026-09-16 21:59:41

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:

Flags are often used by paramilitary groups as a way of marking out the territory they want to control. By their very nature they do not encourage political or cultural diversity and they aim to silence those within the community who wish to live in a more inclusive and tolerant society.

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:

Public buildings should be politically and culturally neutral . Flags close to schools suggest that the school is only welcoming to a particular community or are erected as a form of intimidation if the school is seen as not belonging to a particular community. Most primary schools I have worked in are actively working toward inclusivity and regard the us and them mentally as something that should belong in the past.

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:

It provides a safe way for the public to air their views.

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's important that everyone is clear on what is acceptable or unacceptable

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:

Actions should have consequences. There is little point in having legislation particularly in regard to paramilitary flags if it's not enforced. Not enforcing the legislation suggests to the community that it is the paramilitary organisations who are ultimately in control of our society.

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:

Those removing the flags need to know they have back up and that they can remove the flags without fear of physical violence.

Clause 7: Interpretation

18 Do you agree with Clause 7 of the Bill?

Yes

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: