

Response ID ANON-2U4T-2A3E-T

Submitted to Display of Flags and Emblems - Call for Evidence
Submitted on 2026-08-14 16:33:17

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:

I support this because flags are a divisive part of the landscape of NI. Currently flags are put up without any regard for local residents and we all have to live with these symbols of division. They are often large, stay up for months if not all year round and are inflammatory in nature. For everyone to have a fair say on the flags and emblems on our streets would mean a safer and more inclusive NI for everyone. There needs to be respect for everyone's views and currently there is only space for one which everyone else then has to live with. Flags and emblems exacerbate a culture of fear and discontent in society. They are a way to mark territory and intimidate and this does not match up to the modern NI the majority of citizens want to see. For the Department to recognise this and remove flags in an appropriate timeframe e.g. if flags really 'need' to be put up around the twelfth, this should be for a stated amount of time, for instance 7 days. After this, it should be a legal requirement to remove them from all public spaces.

Flags have been lining the Ormeau Road for the past 6 weeks with huge flags on the Annandale Embankment also. Both areas are incredibly diverse with people from all over the world living there and yet there is only one flag that continues to reign. It is not fair to residents and as a resident myself, I feel intimidated by the sight of these every day. You feel helpless as it feels that there is nothing that you can do to stop it.

This is a very exciting and promising new bill which has the potential to be generation defining and makes NI a much more appealing place to live and work and will show the next generation how to celebrate culture without disrespecting others.

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:

The fact that flags line communal spaces already is a sad reality of living in NI. I could not be more supportive of clause 2, it is a no brainer and there are absolutely no downsides to this.

No one should feel intimidating when entering a school, a park, an arterial road etc. I would also add churches to this list along with train stations and bus stations / stops.

All residents and visitors to NI should be able to enjoy communal spaces in a non-threatening manner and the removal of flags will only help this.

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:

There have been flags lining the Ormeau Road and huge flags on the Annandale Embankment for 6 weeks now with no sign of them being taken down. This is a safe, diverse area so only a small amount of people must support the erection of these. For a portal to exist where people can formally complain and for these complaints to be taken seriously would be truly generation defining for NI and its residents. Where people are trying to build lives and bring up children to be non-sectarian, inclusive young people and then they are faced with intimidation in the form of flags when they are going about their daily lives is disgraceful and there absolutely needs to be actions so people aren't left feeling helpless.

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:

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:

I see no reason why this couldn't be higher but ultimately, I am in agreement

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:

Clause 8: Commencement

20 Do you agree with Clause 8 of the Bill?

Yes

21 Please provide information to support your answer here

Accessible:

I am agreeing here as I understand these things can take a long time to pass but would very much be in support of an as soon as possible timeline for all 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: