

Response ID ANON-7A6A-2Y4Y-7

Submitted to Display of Flags and Emblems - Call for Evidence
Submitted on 2026-07-16 21:57:07

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:

Because the flags portrayed are done to mark territory and to intimidate other from moving into that area so we will eventually end up with enclaves based on political ideologies and society will never learn to integrate.

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:

Flags and emblems can create a situation were a member of the public is afraid to use a facility that they have paid to use through their rates, thus creating a situation were one section of the community is confident of using a public service to the exclusion of all other communities.

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:

By having to disagree with a flag or emblem online a member of the public could be afraid that they would be identified and then targeted. Better a clear policy that is black and white. Democracy does not trump the fear that a minority might feel in having to deal with a certain flag or emblem. The fear will result in creating enclaves of a particular grouping thus creating housing and other issues.

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:

The policy must be continually reviewed and the bodies consulted may need to change as circumstances may change.

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:

A fine is too light a punishment, if we are really serious about this the deterrent must be effective. There must be consequences for breaking the law. In some cases the flags or emblem could be seen as racist or sectarian or bigoted. Plus they could be regarded as intimidating and a fine isn't going to stop

this as those doing it will just use under 18's to attach the flags or emblem and those under 18's won't be able to pay a fine.

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:

Simply because without the PSNI protection no company or individual would feel safe removing these from say lampposts.

Clause 7: Interpretation

18 Do you agree with Clause 7 of the Bill?

No

19 Please provide information to support your answer here

Accessible:

There must not be any wiggle room because once the policy isn't clear then it will be misused and face legal challenges. Everything in this country must be black and white without exceptions to avoid bias, once it becomes grey it will become unenforceable as everybody will have different interpretations, there cannot be a fudge on Racism, sectarianism or bigotry.

Clause 8: Commencement

20 Do you agree with Clause 8 of the Bill?

Yes

21 Please provide information to support your answer here

Accessible:

That means organisations and communities gave time to object.

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:

A short, clearly understood message os better.