

Response ID ANON-7B3M-7G5E-H

Submitted to Display of Flags and Emblems - Call for Evidence
Submitted on 2026-09-16 08:37:07

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:

Not all residents wish to have flags displayed on the lampposts in their area. Shared public spaces such as lampposts belong to the whole community and should remain free from symbols and flags.

The annual erection of flags detracts from the appearance of the area, discourages potential buyers and visitors, and has a negative impact on the desirability and value of our properties. It also causes a divide between the community which a lot of us wish to move on from and build stronger community bonds.

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:

Shared spaces such as that mentioned in the clause should not have flags erected. They can cause people from different backgrounds to feel intimidated if they are attending any venues within that area and can actually put people off supporting that business or attending appointments in an area that they are uncomfortable with.

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:

This would give both for and against the opportunity to raise their views/concerns. Currently (especially in my area) a lot of the residents don't even get a say about the flags. They are put up without any consideration for the community or the people who live there. It's only by chance if you see them being put up you can try and ask them not to be. However it is very intimidating to even try and approach the people erecting the flags, and for some, when asked that the flag does not go outside their house they are told it's going up regardless and sometimes with a few swear words thrown in. This clause would give people the opportunity to hopefully address the issue of flags without being in fear of intimidation. It may also allow for negotiation that if they are going up that they aren't left up for months on end.

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 would agree with this as I would understand that anyone that is tasked to remove flags may feel intimidated also and therefore would give them support to hopefully prevent anyone obstructing them removing the flags.

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:

I agree that the support of the police is required. Especially if flags are to be removed in areas where tensions can become high. I would hope that it didn't get to that, however I understand that not everyone wants to have the flags removed and in doing so could cause some controversy

Clause 7: Interpretation

18 Do you agree with Clause 7 of the Bill?

Unsure

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:

To be honest Jan 28 is a long time to wait especially with another year of flag season before then. However I understand that this bill will take time and need to be ironed out and agreed

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: