

Response ID ANON-7B3M-7G6A-E

Submitted to Display of Flags and Emblems - Call for Evidence
Submitted on 2026-09-15 20:47:12

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:

The unauthorized display of flags and emblems is very divisive and often intimidating. It's also illegal but that is meaningless if no action is taken to enforce the Roads Order.

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:

These spaces are public and shared and need to be protected from territorial markings that make people feel unwelcome, uncomfortable or intimidated.

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:

At the minute, all displays are illegal but none are removed. The views of residents are ignored and the will of others is imposed.

It makes sense to facilitate short-term celebrations that local people support, but also to remove displays which local residents oppose.

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:

These issues have been discussed for many years and the tendency is to kick the can down the road. This strikes a balance between giving time to get it right and ensuring it actually happens.

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:

This seems reasonable: it's important that the law can be upheld and obstruction should be treated seriously.

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:

We know that the most common reason for inaction on these issues is the threat of retaliation or violence: if there is no risk, flags would be treated like every other illegal item attached to street furniture. If police assistance is required to enforce the law, then it should be available. The alternative is that threat of violence overrides the law which is mob rule.

Clause 7: Interpretation

18 Do you agree with Clause 7 of the Bill?

Yes

19 Please provide information to support your answer here

Accessible:

The definitions seem clear and reasonable.

Clause 8: Commencement

20 Do you agree with Clause 8 of the Bill?

Yes

21 Please provide information to support your answer here

Accessible:

See previous comments

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:

No comment