

Response ID ANON-7H4P-3D8U-7

Submitted to Display of Flags and Emblems - Call for Evidence
Submitted on 2026-08-29 12:19:10

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:
Niamh Scullion

3 What is your email address?

Email:

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 am content for my information, including details of my name and organisation, to be published in the survey results.

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:

When I moved into a mixed area that was traditionally loyalist, after a few years I asked my neighbours to please not put a flag on the flagpole outside my house because it was causing a strobe effect in my daughter's bedroom, and the noise of it flapping was disturbing her sleep. They then put up 3 flags, sent me death threats, threatened my landlord if he didn't make me move out, and I lived in fear for several years. Then when I moved, to another mixed but traditionally loyalist area - for financial reasons - I moved close to a relative of my ex neighbour responsible for the flags - unknowingly. My welcome to the neighbourhood was that every window of my car was smashed in, and my boyfriend's car windows too and he was assaulted and threatened with a hammer attack. Then there were flags all over my new street. That was all 6 years ago, and things have settled now and there are no flags on my street anymore, but I wanted to share the story to highlight the intimidation and violence that goes along with flags. It is certainly all about marking territory and intimidation and for these people to mark public areas and structures as controlled by one community, and one paramilitary group, with British and UVF flags, shows a tolerance of paramilitary intimidation, ignoring the needs of the community, that our government needs to put a stop to. When these people are able to illegally put up flags etc, they are emboldened to think they control the area, they control who lives there, they can burn people out, smash their windows, riot on the street, burn buses. They need to be reminded they have to share their neighbourhoods and be good neighbours rather than allowing them to bully vulnerable people unchecked.

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:

I agree. Flags are almost always contentious, and should be removed from common areas where there is any chance they could be seen as imposing contentious views, and territorialism on others.

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:

People should safely be able to voice their opinions of flags that may be imposed on them in the public spaces they use.

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:

Yes, flag removal should be protected as there have been too many incidents of officials removing flags being assaulted or threatened.

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:

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: