

Response ID ANON-2U4T-2H3U-H

Submitted to Display of Flags and Emblems - Call for Evidence
Submitted on 2026-07-13 09:29:47

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:

Flags become a dominant feature of a locality. They also represent a specific identity. That means one identity is predominant. This does not facilitate the creation of an open, inclusive community that is respectful of difference

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:

When flags are flown in sensitive areas, we can conclude that those who put up the flags have done so in a provocative manner intent on causing unease, unrest and a public slight on those they oppose. Free speech (expression) is not curtailed by this Clause. You can express your views but not in a way that is designed to create conflict.

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:

The opportunity for the public to give their views on the erection of flags in a particular location is to be welcomed. The flying of a flag in public is a public gesture, and the wider community has a right to be heard also. The wider public opinion on the flags reveals the impact on the whole community of doing so. As communities often reflect a diversity of opinions, it is important that the diversity is made known and minorities feel they have a say, rather than being marginalised.

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:

This is necessary so that the intention behind this bill is followed through. Consultation with the NI Human Rights Commission, the Equality Commission for NNI and PSNI is essential

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:

The Bill must have powers of implementation. Those erecting flags can't overcome the view of local communities and the law that protects their rights by force or threat

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:

Yes. Any breach of the peace is a matter of serious concern.

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: