

Response ID ANON-7K6N-3N6U-J

Submitted to Display of Flags and Emblems - Call for Evidence
Submitted on 2026-07-22 22:56:20

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:

Removing flags from public lampposts is a necessary step toward building a genuinely mixed, shared society in Belfast — streets belong to everyone, not to one side, and public spaces should be owned collectively by people from both communities rather than marked out as the territory of either. Some of what's displayed isn't cultural expression at all: certain flags are tied to paramilitary or terrorist organisations, and others represent regimes accused of genocide or mass atrocities abroad, meaning they carry no peaceful message whatsoever — their function is to intimidate, exclude, and reinforce division rather than to celebrate identity, and removing them where it's in the public interest is a reasonable step toward making shared spaces feel safe and open to all.

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:

Removing flags from sensitive places is a necessary step toward building a genuinely mixed, shared society in Belfast — streets belong to everyone, not to one side, and public spaces should be owned collectively by people from both communities rather than marked out as the territory of either. Some of what's displayed isn't cultural expression at all: certain flags are tied to paramilitary or terrorist organisations, and others represent regimes accused of genocide or mass atrocities abroad, meaning they carry no peaceful message whatsoever — their function is to intimidate, exclude, and reinforce division rather than to celebrate identity, and removing them where it's in the public interest is a reasonable step toward making shared spaces feel safe and open to all.

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:

If they are public or sensitive building they should be removed without question. The upkeep of these is paid for by the whole of the community not just one side so any political flag should be removed without question. An online portal will only be abused

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:

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: