

Response ID ANON-7K6N-3R5C-3

Submitted to Display of Flags and Emblems - Call for Evidence
Submitted on 2026-08-28 20:17:21

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:

We have lived here for more than 15 years and initially regarded flags as expressions of cultural heritage. After a recent incident in 2025, however, flags have been used to mark territory or to intimidate, including in mixed communities with no sectarian involvement.

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:

We strongly support Clause 2 of the Bill. We have observed flags being raised outside a Catholic primary school, an act that can reasonably be seen as intimidation. We have also noticed flags used in an intimidating way at new housing developments.

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:

We support Clause 3. The proposed process will allow communities that support flying flags to celebrate their cultural heritage, while safeguarding other communities and sensitive sites. We accept that administering the scheme will incur costs, but consider them money well spent.

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:

While we would prefer faster action, we understand that public consultation and legislative processes take time.

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:

We support the intent of the Clause. However, given the example of illegal bonfire removals, we are not confident the PSNI will act on requests. The Clause currently leaves the PSNI's response open to interpretation; we believe it should explicitly require the PSNI to take action.

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:

Note: The online version of the bill refers to 1 January 2029.

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: