

Response ID ANON-7N8K-8K6W-R

Submitted to Display of Flags and Emblems - Call for Evidence
Submitted on 2026-08-20 04:25:41

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?

No

7 Please provide information to support your answer here

Accessible:

Under current freedom of expression laws, we should have a right to display flags emblems etc as we please. Putting the onus on the Department to remove such displays not only erodes this right to freedom of expression, but opens the system to abuse. It has already been seen that display of the country's Union Flag is unfairly maligned as causing offence, and this law will undoubtedly put us in the absolutely hilarious position of essentially outlawing the display of our very own national flag anywhere it can be seen in public.

Rather than pandering to this current climate of folk who are offended as a career, as this clause will promote, there should be greater protections and safeguards put in place to ensure that our right to expression of national pride is not undermined.

Clause 2: Sensitive places

8 Do you agree with Clause 2 of the Bill?

No

9 Please provide information to support your answer here

Accessible:

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:

Clause 4: Code of Practice

12 Do you agree with Clause 4 of the Bill?

No

13 Please provide information to support your answer here

Accessible:

This code of practice should be open to public consultation and placed under very intensive scrutiny, since it seems appallingly likely that it will be used as a stick to beat freedom of expression

Clause 5: Offence of obstructing the Department in removal of flag or emblem

14 Do you agree with Clause 5 of the Bill?

No

15 Please provide information to support your answer here

Accessible:

"displayed in a public place" is much too broad a language. Under this wording I would be guilty of an offence by preventing a department agent entering my house to remove a flag/emblem from my window. This is not only beyond ridiculous but a demonstrable overreach of this department.

Clause 6: Request for assistance from police

16 Do you agree with Clause 6 of the Bill?

No

17 Please provide information to support your answer here

Accessible:

If a "breach of the peace" is likely to occur as the result of the removal of a flag or emblem, perhaps this department needs to be reminded that it is here to answer the wishes of the people it governs, not to thrash them with it's own intents. I would strongly suggest that unrest resulting from the potential removal of a flag/emblem is by far the best indication of a lack of public support for it's removal, regardless of any potential "code of practice".

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 given are correct - although I would add "wall paintings/murals" and "statues to terrorist murderers erected on public land without permission" to the definition of "flags/emblems"

Clause 8: Commencement

20 Do you agree with Clause 8 of the Bill?

No

21 Please provide information to support your answer here

Accessible:

This bill must not come into effect without significant review & addition of safeguards, and the public must be consulted on the "code of practice" before it is signed into law.

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: