

Response ID ANON-7P3V-5K2T-P

Submitted to Display of Flags and Emblems - Call for Evidence
Submitted on 2026-08-07 11:56:52

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:
Pádraig Stiobhard

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:

Flags and bunting erected in neutral areas (for example, Lurgan town centre) should be removed immediately.

It is not in the public interest to have Loyalist trappings (including terrorist paraphernalia) erected and left for months at a time; especially not in a town where the most recent census suggests that only 26% of the population are actually from a Protestant/Unionist background.

In this instance, the Department should be proactive in maintaining a neutral and welcoming environment for 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:

Again, it is in the public interest to nurture and maintain neutral and welcoming relations. Part of that is to remove flags that have been erected to demarcate territory and intimidate one section of the population.

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:

Flags are part of Unionist/Loyalist culture and in many districts cause little or no offence. It is important however for different views both for/against to be platformed.

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?

Unsure

15 Please provide information to support your answer here

Accessible:

It should be a criminal offence to obstruct the removal of a flag or emblem; including erection of flags or emblems in place of ones that have already been removed.

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:

The PSNI itself should be proactive in the removal of offensive flags/emblems, without Department involvement.

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?

No

21 Please provide information to support your answer here

Accessible:

All clauses should commence as soon as is practicably possible.

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: