

Response ID ANON-8A9X-7A6R-A

Submitted to Display of Flags and Emblems - Call for Evidence
Submitted on 2026-08-20 01:27:33

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?

Unsure

7 Please provide information to support your answer here

Accessible:

I think there needs to be more clarity around what is considered to be inappropriate. We have seen in England how people have been accused of racism for displaying their national flag. Patriotism is not Racism. Flags of other nations can also be divisive. Displaying the Flag of the Republic of Ireland in the country of Northern Ireland for example, can be seen as intimidatory towards Protestants, who wish to remain British in the country of their birth. Then when it comes to commemoration, many people wish to honour those who died in the first world war and would have relatives who died in the 36th Ulster Division, which rose from Carsons UVF. This is not the same as supporting the rightfully prescribed organisation that uses the same name. This area must be carefully considered.

Clause 2: Sensitive places

8 Do you agree with Clause 2 of the Bill?

Unsure

9 Please provide information to support your answer here

Accessible:

Arterial roads should not be included in this. Where does the line get drawn as to what is and isn't an arterial route. Many arterial routes have traditionally displayed flags as majorities of certain communities live along those roads. It could be too easy for an opposingly biased council to declare a road arterial and thusly remove all cultural identity from that road. Chipping away like the divisive introduction of street name signs where 85% of residents may be against the introduction of those signs. Can councils be trusted to not try to eradicate the cultural identity of an area because 15% don't like a particular flag. Thresholds need to be democratic and be 51% or above in favour of the action.

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:

It would be absurd to require people to submit an application to display a flag. However, it does make sense that a process like this would be available to lodge objections to flags or emblems. Again, a democratic majority should be considered before taking any action.

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:

A code of practice must be extremely well thought out however, with democratic majority consideration before any action. The PSNI view must be heavily considered before any and all action, to ensure the issue of the removal of flags does not waste police resources from where they might better be utilised

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:

This would only be appropriate if there was an assurance that the removal of any flag would not be seen as divisive in itself if against the desires of a majority of residents in the area.

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:

There is the potential for the PSNI to be inundated and overwhelmed by requests for assistance to remove flags, creating a much bigger problem and wasting police resources

Clause 7: Interpretation

18 Do you agree with Clause 7 of the Bill?

Unsure

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:

No objection

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: