

Response ID ANON-8A9X-7H2T-F

Submitted to Display of Flags and Emblems - Call for Evidence
Submitted on 2026-07-24 12:23:39

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:

Whilst I agree with the sentiment of the clause I think the wording here of it being 'in the public interest' and when it is considered to be 'appropriate' to remove a flag will inevitable lead to flags not being removed as it will be argued constantly over what is in the public interest and what is appropriate. For example the flags that are currently flying on Holywood high street, which in previous years were not there were put up without any consultation, and now the dept of infrastructure street lighting team won't remove them for fear of reprisals against their staff so they cannot guarantee their safety. This clause does not guard against people and groups that claims they are community groups and representatives saying its not in the public interest or quietly threatening those who seek the flags removal. The key issue really is that there is no process for seeking approval of the flags before they are put up and that people/groups are operating above the law.

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:

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:

Would also like to see something like the parades commission to say whether flags can be flown or not. Its one thing to say that flags have gone up and I do/ do not agree with that. But it would be useful to have a method of objecting to the flag flying before they go up and real people in the community having a right to object rather than them being put up and then people trying to get them taken down without success.

Clause 4: Code of Practice

12 Do you agree with Clause 4 of the Bill?

Unsure

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:

Agree with this but it would need to be enforced currently there appears to be a culture of fear in trying to get the flags/emblems 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:

having the PSNI onboard to stop flags going up unlawfully and to ensure their removal is key. As currently based on what the Dept of infrastructure have said they feel their workers are unprotected and the PSNI will not guarantee their safety

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: