

Response ID ANON-2U4T-2Q7Q-T

Submitted to Display of Flags and Emblems - Call for Evidence
Submitted on 2026-08-09 14:06:52

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:
Ann O'Dwyer

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:

Clause 1 appears to be substantially sound, but I think there must be some time constraint on how long any flag can be in situ. We have situations where flags are flown for the most part of the year and do not weather, and end up looking a disgrace. I consider there should be a start date and end date for the display of any flags or emblems.

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:

The level of detail outlined in the bill appears adequate.
But how does the bill address situations where flags / emblems have been placed on bonfires?

Clause 3: Procedure for / notification of, or giving views on, flags or emblems

10 Do you agree with Clause 3 of the Bill?

Unsure

11 Please provide information to support your answer here

Accessible:

Individuals / organisations should timeline when the flags / emblems will be erected and when removed under 3 a.
Is there a need for insurance cover when erecting the flags / emblems? If the Department give "permission" in advance, do they need to have sight of this.

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:

Responsibility for the taking down of the flag / emblem must be left with those that put up the same. Again, in a timely manner, and I actually think the bill should state clearly what is a timely manner, ie, two weeks / four weeks, otherwise this issue is left out in the "long grass" to become problematic for another individual / organisation to address, and one will end up having meetings about meetings.

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:

Level 3 is max £1000, but it may cost a lot more for the flag / emblem to be removed, if a number of persons / vehicles / equipment are required to do so. I think the situation may warrant higher than this.

Clause 6: Request for assistance from police

16 Do you agree with Clause 6 of the Bill?

Not Answered

17 Please provide information to support your answer here

Accessible:

Concerned there may be a "cat and mouse" situation if police are involved.
Can we include the role of local community and political leaders and their responsibilities?

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?

Unsure

21 Please provide information to support your answer here

Accessible:

Above states 2028 and Bill states 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: