

Response ID ANON-8H4T-2H8W-H

Submitted to Display of Flags and Emblems - Call for Evidence
Submitted on 2026-07-10 16:04:46

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:

Northern Ireland must have legislation around flags, there must be guidelines and boundaries. I cannot see why anyone would disagree if they are certain they are only placing flags where they are wanted and appropriate.

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:

While I fully and completely support everyone's right to celebrate their culture I fully condemn the current stance of forcing those celebrations on others.

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:

Community opinions are vital and for those communities who would like flags then other communities should have no issues - collating information from local residents must surely be a vital part of this bill. I also think it will be beneficial for members of the public to have a process in which to report the addition of flags as currently we feel isolated and unsupported. It does not feel like we live in a democracy, it feels like we live in a land where intimidation supersedes all else. It is shameful but also residents are fearful - large groups of men erecting flags in areas they do not live in sends a very clear message and one many people are understandably reluctant to ignore.

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?

Yes

15 Please provide information to support your answer here

Accessible:

I am not sure what a level 3 on the standard scale is but not only does there need to be repercussions for obstructing the removal, we need to provide real support to the PSNI throughout the process. Naturally and thankfully the PSNI are trying to protect the peace but it is not peace if it is driven by intimidation, it is only fear. There is so much hatred, so much fear from all corners of the community - erecting flags in areas they are unwanted is not

furthering a cause, it is damaging it. I am unashamedly pro union but I do not feel that flags of any nature represent me - I therefore should not be forced to have them flying outside my house. If they do however represent another person I have no issues with flags flying on their home - that is their right just like it is my right to not display them.

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:

I do not envy any officer tasked to do this but I do think we need to take a stand, we need to drown out the intimidation with reason, fairness and clarity. We cannot continue to live somewhere where the threat of violence is so prevalent and powerful. The only organisation equipped to help create change that I am aware of is the PSNI.

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:

Please help us. My family and I have lived in our home for 21 years and purposely searched for our home at the time of year where seasonal celebration paraphernalia would be present so we could avoid it. We have now been forced by people who do not live in our community but who are more threatening than us to live with multiple flags. Two of my neighbours are selling their homes, I do not want to sell but I feel completely alone and unsupported. I cannot stress how much I am not suggesting that there are no flags anywhere in Northern Ireland - fly your flags, enjoy every second of your celebrations but it is unacceptable to enforce that on others. We contribute to our community, we are law abiding yet we have no voice, no choice - it is the saddest thing. I love this country, it is my home but until we stop letting those who think that bullying and intimidating people into being supportive of the union call the shots the hate will just fester and grow. Please help us.

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: