

Response ID ANON-8K6A-5C6M-N

Submitted to Display of Flags and Emblems - Call for Evidence
Submitted on 2026-09-15 08:19:28

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?

Yes

7 Please provide information to support your answer here

Accessible:

I support Clause 1 and believe it is a positive and necessary step towards ensuring that public spaces feel shared, welcoming and representative of the whole community.

I respect the right of different communities and traditions to express their identity, including through the display of flags at particular times of the year. However, I think there is an important distinction between time limited displays associated with particular cultural occasions and large flags or emblems remaining prominently displayed on public property throughout the year.

In my own experience I have found it intimidating and territorial. I have also felt embarrassed when family or friends visit, as the scale and prominence of some displays can be very in your face and can create an impression of the area which does not reflect the community that I actually see around me.

For these reasons, I support giving the Department a clear responsibility to act where the continued display of a flag is not in the public interest.

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:

I support Clause 2 and particularly welcome the recognition that places such as schools, medical facilities, parks and other shared spaces should feel accessible and welcoming to everyone. People should be able to use public services and communal spaces without feeling that they are entering an area associated predominantly with one particular identity or tradition.

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:

An accessible online portal could encourage greater accountability and help ensure that decisions around flags and emblems reflect the views of the wider community.

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:

I particularly welcome the requirement to consult key stakeholders and to review the Code periodically so that it remains appropriate and effective.

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:

A penalty for deliberately preventing the lawful removal of a flag or emblem is reasonable.

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:

Yes I think that this is necessary if there is a risk of breach of peace.

Clause 7: Interpretation

18 Do you agree with Clause 7 of the Bill?

Yes

19 Please provide information to support your answer here

Accessible:

This is good and necessary

Clause 8: Commencement

20 Do you agree with Clause 8 of the Bill?

Yes

21 Please provide information to support your answer here

Accessible:

Great I agree and this is clear

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: