

Response ID ANON-8N5H-9P6M-F

Submitted to Display of Flags and Emblems - Call for Evidence
Submitted on 2026-07-20 16:52:20

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:

Fundamentally, we are talking about public property and the use of public property for the display of emblems is therefore a matter of public interest. No one group gets to dictate.

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:

Yes, this is entirely consistent with definitions in other legislation.

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:

Yes, it is very wise that this is left optional - but the question may then legitimately be asked that, if someone is putting up flags without being willing to say why, should those flags be displayed at all?

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:

Yes, such a Code should be based on FICT 11.48.

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:

This is much in line with obstructing a police officer in the line of duty, and rightly so.

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:

This rightly implies that the police itself has not been remotely strong enough on this matter, for whatever reason. There should also be no delay in removing flags and emblems displayed in breach of the Terrorism Act.

Clause 7: Interpretation

18 Do you agree with Clause 7 of the Bill?

Yes

19 Please provide information to support your answer here

Accessible:

These are entirely consistent with existing legislation.

Clause 8: Commencement

20 Do you agree with Clause 8 of the Bill?

Yes

21 Please provide information to support your answer here

Accessible:

It is understandable that the Act would come into effect on New Year's Day, rather than in the middle of the year.

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:

The terms are clarified in the text of the Bill.