

Response ID ANON-8N5H-9S7H-E

Submitted to Display of Flags and Emblems - Call for Evidence
Submitted on 2026-08-26 18:10:47

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 am content for my information, including details of my name and organisation, to be published in the survey results., 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 think it is important that any public space remain neutral regardless of the particular area as by allowing flags up - it reinforces and legitimises the idea that parts of Northern Ireland are "for" certain communities. This must be applied rigorously and equally in both communities.

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:

These sensitive areas must not be seen to have any affiliation with either community, especially as they are predominantly paid for with public money. They are intended as places where both communities can interact and enjoy the common good, and ensuring that flags or other emblems are not allowed within their vicinity would help to ensure that they remain so.

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:

This is a useful mechanism for better enforcement and to ensure that people have the opportunity to apply for putting up flags and emblems appropriately and is overall a good idea. I would be concerned over which office would have the responsibility to do judge the appropriateness over erecting flags and it would be important that the criteria is publically available and decisions are clearly communicated

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?

Unsure

15 Please provide information to support your answer here

Accessible:

I am unsure of whether a fine is an appropriate deterrant, it might be appropriate for community work to be an alternate penalty within their own community to ensure that opposition to this law isn't punitive, and instead redirects it to positive community action.

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:

Government departments have been left in a precarious situation in terms of similar actions surrounding bombfires in both communities, and without PSNI support it has created a sense that threats of violence can supersede legal requirements and communities' overall wishes. The PSNI should be seen as a non-political actor, and by refusing to have a role in policing this issue, they are inadvertently giving the appearance that they are taking a political side.

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:

Clause 9: Short title

22 Do you agree with Clause 9 of the Bill?

Unsure

23 Please provide information to support your answer here

Accessible: