

Response ID ANON-9C5J-4D3Z-Z

Submitted to Display of Flags and Emblems - Call for Evidence
Submitted on 2026-07-26 15:21:18

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 believe it is the responsibility of the department and the PSNI to remove flags and emblems where they are unwanted by the majority of residents in the area.

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:

Sensitive places should also include places of worship, sports grounds, places of natural beauty or places where any particular community/minority can be targeted.

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:

It's important that any online portal for voluntarily notifying the display of flag(s) and/or emblem(s) is fully confidential. I believe flag(s) and/or emblem(s) should be immediately removed on receipt of the first complaint - that one person who is offended/intimidated enough to make the report, should be taken seriously and action taken.

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?

No

15 Please provide information to support your answer here

Accessible:

It is my belief that most flags or emblems raised in N.Ireland are raised to intimidate and incite hate rather than celebrate the relevant entity. There should be no minimum fine for obstructing the removal of a flag or emblem. A maximum fine of Level 3 or £1,000 is not enough to deter those bent on dividing communities. I believe the fine for obstructing the removal of a flag or emblem should be a minimum of £5,000.

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 believe it is fully and only the responsibility of the PSNI to remove all flags and emblems which are reported as offensive. I do not believe it is the responsibility of the Department to perform this function in any circumstance.

Clause 7: Interpretation

18 Do you agree with Clause 7 of the Bill?

Yes

19 Please provide information to support your answer here

Accessible:

I believe interpretations are essential to ensure the bill is understood by, and applies to all communities.

Clause 8: Commencement

20 Do you agree with Clause 8 of the Bill?

Yes

21 Please provide information to support your answer here

Accessible:

The sooner the better.

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:

I don't understand the question as it does not lay out the short title.