

Response ID ANON-9J9C-3G5R-Z

Submitted to Display of Flags and Emblems - Call for Evidence
Submitted on 2026-09-12 23:29:50

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:

N/A

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, No

7 Please provide information to support your answer here

Accessible:

I agree with parts of the bill but think there should be further clarification on what is deemed a public place and what is deemed offensive. In it's current state the bill could applied more harshly towards one community (which doesn't generally riot or retaliate) more than another. It also might not be brought into effect in the traditionally loyalist area I live in as an Irish person. If the department can just decide the flag isn't offensive, or their decision can be overruled by the loudest people in an area, is there really any point to the bill becoming statute? Will this be applied during cultural events like St Patrick's Day, The Fleadh, a Royal Visit or The Twelfth of July? I think this would be a mistake. Will wearing an Irish or British flag be included in the bill? Will this bill disproportionately affect supporters of Palestine Action? Will this bill actually be used to reduce the number of loyalist paramilitary flags in areas and will this apply to flags hanging from private residences?

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:

This would make me feel more comfortable accessing services in different parts of the city.

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:

As long as there is some vetting process to ensure one person doesn't submit 100 positive feedback forms on flags in an area using different email addresses.

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:

Depending on the actions taken during the "obstruction" I believe there should be a custodial or probationary option for sentencing. What if the people removing the flag are assaulted in their duties? Would that be a separate charge or would the staff just deem it too dangerous to remove flags from areas of contention?

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:

Clause 7: Interpretation

18 Do you agree with Clause 7 of the Bill?

Yes

19 Please provide information to support your answer here

Accessible:

However, I think flags of prescribed organisations should also be banned from hanging outside/from private residences. If the public can see it, it should be removable by the department.

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?

Yes

23 Please provide information to support your answer here

Accessible: