

Response ID ANON-9J9C-3S4C-V

Submitted to Display of Flags and Emblems - Call for Evidence
Submitted on 2026-08-22 10:18:32

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:
Paddy Adams

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.

Clause 1: Removal of flags or emblems in the public interest

6 Do you agree with Clause 1 of the Bill?

No

7 Please provide information to support your answer here

Accessible:

Flags represent freedom of expression, whether they are deemed offensive is completely subjective and the removal of flags some are proud of for the benefit of some who are offended puts the offended opinion above the proud opinion. The act of taking a flag down in favour of one opinion for another is government over reach and would be met with hostility from whichever member of the community had them erected.

Clause 2: Sensitive places

8 Do you agree with Clause 2 of the Bill?

No

9 Please provide information to support your answer here

Accessible:

The idea that a flag of any kind can cause so much harm that one cannot enter a sensitive place is outrageous and a clear backdoor for an alternative political agenda that seeks to wash over the shared history of this country and force people into a place where they are told that expressing a memory of the past through the erection of memorial flags or flags of local organisations which once acted as the barrier between communities being ransacked and attacked by another is unallowed because members of the public who do not agree with their life experience are priorities. Further marginalising working class people in favour of the middle-upper class voters.

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:

Public consultation is always important if this bill was to be passed, it should be on the communities to decide what is welcome in the places they live. However this should be carefully considered and only be open to verified residents of the areas and should be localised to the point of post codes or even estates as it would be very easy for marginalised communities to be forced into a position where expression of one's identity is unallowed while expression of the opposite is.

Clause 4: Code of Practice

12 Do you agree with Clause 4 of the Bill?

No

13 Please provide information to support your answer here

Accessible:

A code of practice should not include government agencies with agendas that lean towards a middle class viewpoint. Working class communities are too often forgotten in consultations and local meetings in community centres open to all residents with clear representation of all who live in the area absolutely necessary as to not push through the opinions and interests of one particular part of the community.

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:

The community must always have the last say and clear opposition to the removal of flags being a punishable offence even by way of fine is unacceptable and leaves room for even more government mistrust and again targets working class communities who may not have the means to pay fines.

Clause 6: Request for assistance from police

16 Do you agree with Clause 6 of the Bill?

No

17 Please provide information to support your answer here

Accessible:

Involving the PSNI would further deteriorate tensions within communities towards the police. The police should not be used as a bully force used to push forward a political agenda. Actions like this are comparable to private security forces working for an agenda rather than public servants.

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?

No

21 Please provide information to support your answer here

Accessible:

The commencement of this Bill in any way will only cause more public and community tensions between the political classes and the ordinary people of this country.

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: