

Response ID ANON-9M7W-2M8V-1

Submitted to Display of Flags and Emblems - Call for Evidence
Submitted on 2026-09-14 17:41:24

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

7 Please provide information to support your answer here

Accessible:

As per the statement in this website's Overview, I agree that the ongoing misuse of public property for the display of flags or emblems witnessed in Northern Ireland - primarily done by the Protestant / Unionist / Loyalist (PUL) community, is intended to exclude, intimidate, or assert control. I believe it is essential to establish a clear and fair legal framework governing when and how flags or emblems may be displayed, balancing respect for cultural expression with the need to prevent intimidation, territorial marking, and the coercive use of symbols in shared public spaces. How can anyone in their right mind believe it is acceptable for every street light for roughly a mile on the dual carriageway on the main approach into Bangor from Belfast to have a PUL associated flag hanging off it?

I'm aware there is currently a lack of clarity about whether or not placing a flag or emblem in a public place and/or on public street furniture (e.g. lighting columns etc.) is illegal / an offence. I strongly urge that the contents of this Bill do clarify that it is an offence to place a flag or emblem in / on a public place without relevant permissions being obtained. It should also be clarified that the Police have a duty to act when such an offence is carried out. It is essential the UK Government provides specific and adequate additional funding to the Police and legal system to ensure the enforcement of this Bill is adequately resourced.

Lastly, its enraging to me as a moderate person that works and pays his taxes, that unelected, unrepresentative people have been allowed to impose their intimidation and territorial marking on the 'mixed' area where I live. These people are a hangover of the bad old days and everyone knows they are connected to proscribed paramilitary groups who seek to exert control and fear over the area through the use of flags. Its no way to live and for the sake of all our futures must be confronted robustly and stopped. As a (non-practicing) Catholic I've had to put up with this intimidation all my life - it has to stop now. I'm therefore very grateful for the efforts being made through this Bill to end this cancer in our society.

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:

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:

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?

Yes

15 Please provide information to support your answer here

Accessible:

I assume Clause 5 does not prevent the Police from bringing other charges against an individual who attempts to prevent the removal of flags or emblems by violence?

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:

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: