

Response ID ANON-9T2U-8Z2Y-H

Submitted to Display of Flags and Emblems - Call for Evidence
Submitted on 2026-08-15 17:20:01

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 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:

Duty should be assigned to a specify government body with clear guidance that can be followed and used to support decisions made in the public interest.

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:

Shared public services should be free from intimidation or segregation. Public spaces should remain neutral

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:

I would welcome a clear method to report concerns. It should be user friendly and underlying procedures put in place to ensure reports are processed consistently, in accordance with the guidance and in a reasonable time frame.

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:

Whilst 18 months seems a long time to enact a long overdue process, defining a timeframe would keep structure to the process. Budgetary matters should also be outlined to avoid overrun, as often happens with long term or start/stop projects.

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:

There should be serious implications for impeding the Department to deal with these matters. Anything short of that would keep NI stuck in time, and a time that none of us would like to revisit.

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:

If the support of the police is required then there should be sufficient structures to enable the PSNI to respond appropriately. This will be a contentious matter in most cases and consideration should be given to how the bill could address issues to best avoid an increase in the threats that the police already face.

Clause 7: Interpretation

18 Do you agree with Clause 7 of the Bill?

Yes

19 Please provide information to support your answer here

Accessible:

Anything that enhances the clarity of the Bill, and prevent grey areas or subjectivity would be a positive inclusion in the Bill

Clause 8: Commencement

20 Do you agree with Clause 8 of the Bill?

Unsure

21 Please provide information to support your answer here

Accessible:

Whilst I appreciate that this will take some time to ensure the Bill is robust and fit for purpose, I would be worried that a long deadline would leave room for things to be derailed. I would be very disappointed if it led to any use of veto in Stormont by any parties

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: