

Response ID ANON-6H2D-4Y4C-R

Submitted to Tree Protection Bill - Call for Evidence
Submitted on 2026-08-18 22:33:32

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?

Please provide information to support your answer.:
Patricia Neill

3 What is your email address?

Please provide information to support your answer.:
[REDACTED]

4 If you are providing a submission on behalf of an organisation or business, please state its name.

Please provide information to support your answer.:

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 - Tree preservation orders: councils

6 Do you agree with Clause 1 of the Bill?

Yes

7 Please provide information to support your answer here:

Accessible:

Planning permission has been given for the destruction of mature trees at Swinley Bay in Bangor. This is to facilitate the erection of three large glass fronted detached houses. There is also evidence of the felling of trees on the coastal path and a public right of way being closed to those who have used it for 80 years.

At present a developer has plans to completely flatten the Marine Gardens and replace it with a car park. Another Bangor utter disaster against the wishes of at least 6000 people who signed a petition and sent letters objecting.

Please look into this. Time is running out.

You might also consider the threat of felling mature trees in Groomsport, co Down

Thank you and best wishes for your very worthwhile efforts in the Assembly.

Clause 2 - Provisional tree preservation orders

8 Do you agree with Clause 2 of the Bill?

Yes

9 Please provide information to support your answer here

Accessible:

It is a time saver without putting the trees at risk

Clause 3 - Penalties for contravention of tree preservation orders

10 Do you agree with Clause 3 of the Bill?

Yes

11 Please provide information to support your answer here

Accessible:

Planning permission for large properties is given by a council and objections are overlooked. We have proof of this in Swinley Bay in Bangor. No members of the public were aware of this until the work commenced over a weekend and trees were felled and the area including mature trees, shrubs etc totally destroyed over a short period of time. This was to facilitate the building of three large glass fronted expensive houses with a view over a popular bay. Apparently planning permission was granted some years ago for an address which was not clear as to where the building was to take place. People who live in the area were unaware of what was happening. Objections were raised months ago but no result. Further along the coastal path trees have been felled and a public right of way has been removed by a developer. Again, objections have been overlooked or put on hold by the Council. The right of way has existed for over 80 years

Clause 4 - Replacement of trees

12 Do you agree with Clause 4 of the Bill?

Yes

13 Please provide information to support your answer here

Accessible:

Mature trees and shrubs were destroyed in the Queens Parade redevelopment. Several were replaced by very young trees. Little thought has been given to the wildlife etc in the area.

Clause 5 - Council to inspect replacement trees

14 Do you agree with Clause 5 of the Bill?

Yes

15 Please provide information to support your answer here

Accessible:

This is long overdue and must be welcomed.

Clause 6 - Enforcement of duties as to replacement of trees

16 Do you agree with Clause 6 of the Bill?

Yes

17 Please provide information to support your answer here

Accessible:

This will make developers think twice before felling tree .
The council will have to rethink their lax attitude regarding tree preservation.

Clause 7 - Tree Protection Map

18 Do you agree with Clause 7 of the Bill?

Yes

19 Please provide information to support your answer here

Accessible:

I am not in a position to make a comment as I would not be qualified to do so but I will always support anything which protects our trees.

Clause 8 - Determination of planning applications

20 Do you agree with Clause 8 of the Bill?

Yes

21 Please provide information to support your answer here

Accessible:

Clause 9 - Permitted Development

22 Do you agree with Clause 9 of the Bill?

Yes

23 Please provide information to support your answer here

Accessible:

A case in question would be Ards & North Down Council who have agreed to permit a developer to totally destroy Bangor Marine Gardens, a crown. Property in order to build a carpark for 81 vehicles. Thousands of people objected by petition and hundreds by letter but th. Council backed the developer and the case is still ongoing. New plans have been suggested to try and save this area of mature trees, wildlife, bats etc. It would be a great loss. The trees are very old and include fruit trees. 7

Clause 10 - Ecosystem services

24 Do you agree with Clause 10 of the Bill?

Yes

25 Please provide information to support your answer here

Accessible:

This has to be welcomed and, as a tree lover, I hope you succeed. I'm sorry I have no great knowledge or helpful suggestions to offer but I can support an effort to preserve our trees

Clause 11 - Interpretation: 2011 Act

26 Do you agree with Clause 11 of the Bill?

Yes

27 Please provide information to support your answer here

Accessible:

Reading this I would agree as it sounds reasonable. I have no real knowledge which would allow me to voice an opinion

Clause 13 - Interpretation: general

30 Do you agree with Clause 13 of the Bill?

Unsure

31 Please provide information to support your answer here

Accessible:

I know nothing on this subject to allow me to contribute anything worthwhile.

Clause 14 - Commencement

32 Do you agree with Clause 14 of the Bill?

Yes

33 Please provide information to support your answer here

Accessible:

I have no reason to disagree with the Act. I support it based on. my interpretation of the Act and the hope that the current lack of respect for trees will be overcome.