

Response ID ANON-2Y9B-6H2D-T

Submitted to Tree Protection Bill - Call for Evidence
Submitted on 2026-09-04 12:17:22

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.:

3 What is your email address?

Please provide information to support your answer.:

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.:

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 - 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:

We must do all we can in Northern Ireland to protect the vital ancient trees that we are custodians of.

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:

We should be erring on the side of caution when it comes to protecting trees. If there is no good reason why it should not be protected, then this should automatically be the case and not lapse after six months.

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:

We must deter all those who seek to go against a TPO. It is not enough to simply not be the person who causes the damage to a protected tree themselves.

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:

We must ensure there are significant enough consequences for those that go against a TPO. We must also ensure that the burden of fixing it falls on the correct persons.

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:

We must ensure that the correct procedures are in place to ensure that trees, including replacements, are truly protected by a TPO and not only in theory.

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:

We must strengthen the ability of councils to carry out replacement work, and hold those accountable who ignore TPOs.

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:

We must make as much information about TPOs available to the public as possible - with an online system being an easy to access and use option.

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:

We all have an obligation to stop any activity that threatens Northern Ireland's most ecologically significant trees and woodlands. That is beneficial to everyone - due to the environmental significance of ancient woodlands and trees, and the benefits they bring us, including some we may not even be aware of yet.

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:

Removing automatic permission for any development that would harm ancient or long-established woodland should be a given - and is something most people would assume is already in place. We should at least investigate the activity fairly.

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:

We should be issuing TPOs for than simply practical reasons so it is necessary to extend the needed powers to councils to protect trees and woodlands on ecological and societal grounds.

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:

We should be using definitions of ancient trees and woodlands that are up-to-date, and in-line with expertise advice.

Clause 12 - Interpretation: 2015 Order

28 Do you agree with Clause 12 of the Bill?

Yes

29 Please provide information to support your answer here

Accessible:

It is important we are using up-to-date and relevant definitions, inline with expert opinion.

Clause 13 - Interpretation: general

30 Do you agree with Clause 13 of the Bill?

Yes

31 Please provide information to support your answer here

Accessible:

We must make interpretation as clear as possible.

Clause 14 - Commencement

32 Do you agree with Clause 14 of the Bill?

Yes

33 Please provide information to support your answer here

Accessible:

We should ensure that the Act is in place as soon as possible.