

Response ID ANON-3S4Z-8U7Y-H

Submitted to Tree Protection Bill - Call for Evidence
Submitted on 2026-09-15 22:23:13

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.:

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:

I want to see more protection for trees to safeguard our environment, facilitate nature recovery, combat climate change, and improve amenity of public spaces.

This clause will enable councils to take more proactive action in that regard.

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:

I want to see more protection for trees to safeguard our environment, facilitate nature recovery, combat climate change, and improve amenity of public spaces.

This clause will support councils to take action in that regard.

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:

I believe strengthening the range of conduct that constitutes an offence is proportionate and will help protect trees in line with the aims of this Bill.

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:

It is essential to boosting our tree cover that we replace trees that are lost. The approach in this clause is a sensible to ensuring breaches of TPOs are rectified.

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:

It is reasonable to expect councils to follow up to ensure replacement trees are in order.

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:

Strengthening council ability to enforce tree replacements is consistent with the aims of the bill.

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:

A tree protection map would be useful to help the public identify gaps and breaches of TPOs.

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:

Planning law should do more to protect trees and nature more generally. This clause is therefore a welcome change.

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:

Planning law should do more to protect trees and nature more generally. This clause is therefore a welcome change.

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:

Providing councils more reasons to introduce TPOs will help protect the trees we have. I am therefore supportive of this clause.

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:

This clause appears to provide sensible definitions of an ancient tree, ancient woodland etc.

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:

A consistent approach to definitions avoids contradiction and ambiguity.

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:

I agree.

Clause 14 - Commencement

32 Do you agree with Clause 14 of the Bill?

Yes

33 Please provide information to support your answer here

Accessible: