

Kildare County Council Flag Policy



Kildare County Council
Flag Policy

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1.0 Policy Statement

This policy outlines the proposed council practice in relation to the flying of flags at all council owned public buildings, including the decision-making process for requests relating to same. This is in the context that flying of flags at council buildings may represent a statement of identity, image and values associated with the council and therefore requires a formal protocol and consistent management process. This policy has been prepared having regard to the Guidelines issued by the Department of Taoiseach and will be updated as required.

2.0 The Irish National Flag

The Irish National Flag (herein after referred to as the National Flag) will be flown on:

- (i) St. Patrick's Day (the National Holiday), Easter Sunday, and Easter Monday (in commemoration of the Rising of 1916) and the National Day of Commemoration (on the Sunday closest to 11 July, the date of the Anglo-Irish Truce in 1921).¹
- (ii) Council meeting days at Áras Chill Dara
- (iii) At all times at Áras Chill Dara and other council owned public buildings where suitable lighting is provided.

2.1 Guidelines in relation to the flying of the National Flag¹

2.1.1 When the National Flag is flown at a building or entrance along with other flags of equal height it should be first on the right (on an observer's left).

2.1.2 When the National Flag is flown with the flags of other nations, each flag should have the same width and should fly from a separate flagpole of the same height. Where one of these is a flag of the EU, it should be flown on the immediate right of the National Flag as seen by an observer.

2.1.3 Where a building has two or more flagpoles, the flag of Kildare may be flown in addition to the National Flag, but not in a superior position.

- 2.1.4** The National Flag may be flown at full mast all day with the exception of occasions where it is to be flown at half mast. (see Item 4)
- 2.1.5** The National Flag may be flown by night as well as by day as long as it is properly illuminated at all times, preferably by spotlight.
- 2.1.6** When displayed on a platform, the National Flag should be above and behind the speaker's desk.
- 2.1.7** On occasion an instruction may issue from Central Government to fly the National Flag.
- 2.1.8** When raising and lowering the National Flag, the flag must not be allowed to touch the ground.
- 2.1.9** Where the National Flag has become worn and frayed, it is no longer fit for display and should not be used in any manner implying disrespect.



1 https://www.taoiseach.gov.ie/eng/Historical_Information/The_National_Flag/The_National_Flag.pdf

3.0 Days on which Kildare County Council fly other flags

The following are the flags that can also be considered under this policy.

3.1 Kildare County Council Flag

- 3.1.1** The Kildare County Council flag may fly at Áras Chill Dara in advance of Kildare Teams participating in significant sporting occasions.
- 3.1.2** The Kildare County Council flag may fly at Áras Chill Dara to mark sporting achievements by Kildare Teams participating in significant sporting occasions.



3.2 European Union Flag

- 3.2.1** The European Union flag is flown on occasions where there is a representative of the European Union visiting or where there is a function connected to a project which has received funding from the European Union.



3.3 Rainbow Flag

3.3.1 The Rainbow Flag will fly every year in support of the Pride Movement and to demonstrate the council's commitment to equality and the inclusion of all its citizens. Pride month usually occurs during June but should be checked in advance with the Pride organisers. When the date has been confirmed, the Rainbow Flag will fly for one week during Pride month.



3.4 Other Flags

3.4.1 Flags of provinces or towns that Kildare County Council is twinned with may be flown as appropriate, i.e. to mark the visit by a visiting dignitary or deputation, or a significant event relating to a twinning.

3.4.2 Kildare County Council may also fly flags or banners that promote particular events or services which are within the mandate of Local Government

4.0 Occasions on which the National Flag is to be flown at half-mast

The National Flag is frequently flown at half-mast on the death of a national or international figure, on council buildings equipped with a flagpole. The council occasionally receives such requests from Central Government Departments to fly the National Flag at half-mast as a mark of respect for victims of national or international tragedies.

4.1 The death of a prominent local figure may also be marked locally by the National Flag being flown at half-mast.

- 4.2** The decision to fly the National Flag at half-mast will be decided by the Mayor, the chair of the Protocol Committee and the Chief Executive.
- 4.3** Half-mast means the flag is flown two-thirds of the way up the flagpole, with at least the height of the flag between the top of the flag and the top of the flagpole.
- 4.4** If another flag is normally flown beside the National Flag, this flag should not be flown at all whilst the National Flag is at half-mast.

5.0 Requests and Assessing requests outside the Flag Policy

Any other request from an elected member to fly a flag, other than those specifically listed in this Flag Policy, shall be submitted to the Corporate Services Department (email: meetings@kildarecoco.ie) in order to be considered by the Mayor, the Chair of the Protocol Committee and the Chief Executive.

6.0 Decision Making Process

The primary guiding principle when assessing requests to fly flags is to ensure the opportunity aligns with Kildare County Council's values of equality and respect for all and such a request enhances the image and identity of Kildare County Council.

7.0 Protocol Non-Compliance

The council reserve the right to revoke any flag arrangement that has not been approved in accordance with this Policy.

8.0 Policy Review

This Flag Policy will be reviewed by the Protocol Committee periodically, or as required to ensure fitness for purpose.