

London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham

Flag Flying Policy

This H&F Council Policy sets out an agreed flag flying protocol and lists the flags that will be flown at the Council's main administrative centre, Hammersmith Town Hall, along with the relevant dates for them being flown.

The flying of flags on Council buildings has been decided by H&F Council in accordance with the guidance issued by the UK Government and this Policy aims to standardise current arrangements.

Flying of flags of different nations or of flags supporting significant causes and marking events demonstrates the unity and diversity of the borough and symbolises the values associated with the Council.

The Union Flag

The Union Flag will be flown full mast on the centre flagpole on all days throughout the year with the exception of dates when it is flown at half mast (see below). *The St George's Cross, may be flown in addition to the Union Flag, but not in a superior position.*

Residents, businesses and other organisations who wish to fly the Union Flag on their own premises are requested to comply with local planning requirements.

The Union Flag will be flown at half mast on the death / funeral of the Sovereign, a senior member of the Royal Family, the Prime Minister or any other dignitary as advised by the UK Government.

The Union Flag will also be flown half mast on the death / funeral of a resident who was a member of the Armed Forces in active service or the death / funeral of an individual who has made a significant contribution to the borough as decided by the Leader of the Council and Cabinet Members.

If any other flags are being flown whilst the Union Flag is at half mast, they should all be flown at half mast.

The English National Flag and the Flags of Other Nations in the UK

The English National Flag, the St George's Cross, and the flags of other nations in the UK will be flown accordingly on their respective days of national importance. The English National Flag may also be flown to support our national sports men and women during international tournaments as decided by the Leader of the Council and Cabinet Members.

The Armed Forces Flag

The Armed Forces Flag will fly for one week every year in support of the nation's armed forces to coincide with Armed Forces Week between 20th to 27th June.

The Disablement Flag

The Disablement Flag will be flown each year in support of Disabled People's rights and to demonstrate the Council's commitment to social inclusion. The Flag will be flown on International Day of Disability on 3rd December.

The Rainbow Flag

The Rainbow Flag will fly every year in solidarity with the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, & Transgender Plus (LGBT+) community and to highlight the Council's commitment to equalities and social inclusion. The Flag will be flown at the start of the Pride Festival until London Pride Weekend during the announced dates in June each year.

European, Commonwealth & Other National Flags

The flags of other nations, representing the country of origin of the borough's largest foreign-born communities (France, Ireland and Australia) may be flown on their national days, or other days of national celebration in those countries for up to 3 days, as decided by the Leader of the Council and Cabinet Members.

The Leader of the Council and Cabinet Members may also decide to fly flags from European nations, the Commonwealth or elsewhere (e.g. the USA) at half mast during times of international mourning or other exceptional occasions. The severity and scale of the incident, aligned with the connection of the country's citizens with Hammersmith & Fulham, should inform the decision by the Leader and Cabinet Members as to which flags should be flown and for how long on any occasions of international mourning.

Additionally, the Leader of the Council has the discretion to fly national flags at full or half mast as deemed appropriate.

Policy Review

The Policy will be reviewed bi-annually to ensure fitness for purpose.

National Guidelines

UK Government:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/15438/flying_flags_guide.pdf

The Flag Institute:

<http://www.flaginstitute.org/wp/>