

Flag Days

1. Days for flying the Union Flag



The Union Flag will be flown on **all days** with the exception of those dates listed at Section 2 of this policy.

Notes:

1. Where a building has two or more flagpoles, the English National Flag, the St George's Cross, may be flown in addition to the Union Flag, but not in a superior position.
2. The Union Flag should be flown at Full Mast, all day.

Other Local Authorities, individuals and other organisations may fly the Union Flag on their own buildings, at their discretion, as long as they comply with Local Planning requirements.

2. Days on which Preston City Council flies other flags

2.1 Rainbow Flag



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. The date each year is agreed with the Lancashire LGBT Group to coincide with other national and/or local events.

2.2 Guild City Flag



The Guild City Flag will fly above the Town Hall entrance.

2.3 Commonwealth Flag



The Commonwealth Flag will fly on the second Monday of March each year in support of Commonwealth Day.

2.4 Armed Forces Flag



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

2.5 St Georges Day Flag



The St George's Day Flag will fly on 23rd April.

2.6 Lancashire Day



The Lancashire Day Flag will be flown on 27th November each year.

3. Occasions on which the Union Flag is to be flown at Half Mast

The Cabinet Member for Community and Environment will decide when the Union Flag is to be flown at half mast. Such occasions may include:-

- (i) On the announcement of the death of the Sovereign.
- (ii) The funeral of a member of the Royal Family.
- (iii) The funeral of a foreign ruler.
- (iv) The funeral of the Prime Minister or an ex-Prime Minister of the United Kingdom.
- (v) Other prominent individuals who have influenced the social, economic or cultural life in Preston.

Note: 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. If another flag is to be flown whilst the Union Flag is at Half Mast, they should both be flown at Half Mast, or the second flag shouldn't be flown at all.

4. Policy Review

The Policy will be reviewed periodically to ensure fitness for purpose.

NB: Any request to fly a flag, other than the flags listed above, will be considered and determined by the Cabinet Member for Community and the Environment.

APPENDIX A

Frequently Asked Questions

The questions are general and do not necessarily relate to Council Buildings.

1. What time of the day should the Union Flag be flown on a Council Building?
2. What is the superior position?
3. Which way round should the Union Flag be flown?
4. Do I need planning permission to erect a flagpole?
5. Do I need permission to fly the Union Flag?
6. Do I need permission to fly the European Union Flag?
7. Do I need permission to fly a foreign nation's flag?
8. What defines a Council Building?

Question 1.

What time of the day should the Union Flag be flown on a Council Building?

The Flag should be flown on Council Buildings from 8.00 am until sunset.

Question 2

What is the Superior Position?

The Union Flag must always be flown in a superior position which is:-

- (a) The highest flagpole
- (b) The centre flagpole where there is an odd number of poles of the same height
- (c) The left centre flagpole viewed from the front of the building, where there is an even number of flagpoles of the same height

Question 3

Which way round should the Union Flag be flown?

The Union Flag should be flown with the wider diagonal white stripe, that's above the diagonal red stripe, on the side of the flag nearest the flagpole.

Question 4:

Do I need planning permission to erect a flagpole?

Yes, you need planning permission, from your local Council, to erect a flagpole. Under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, flags come with the definition of 'advertisement'. Their display is controlled by the Town and Country Planning (Control of Advertisements) Regulations 1992.

However, under Schedule 2 of the Regulations, the national flag of any country, including the Union Flag, is exempt from advertisement control, provided each flag is flown from a single vertical flagpole and neither the flag or flagpole displays any advertisement additional to the design of the flag.

Question 5:

Do I need permission to fly the Union Flag?

Once permission to erect a flagpole has been received from your local Council, you do not need permission to fly the Union Flag.

Question 6:

Do I need permission to fly the European Union Flag?

Yes, the European Union Flag is not currently classified as a national flag under the Town and Country (Control of Advertisements) Regulations 1992 (see Question 4). You would need to contact your local Council's planning department, to establish how to obtain advertisement consent to fly the European Union Flag.

Question 7:

Do I need permission to fly a foreign nation's flag?

No, whether as a private individual, a private organisation or a Government/Council Building, you do not need to obtain permission to fly a foreign nation's flag.

Question 8:

What defines a Council Building?

For the purposes of this policy the definition of a Council building is widely accepted as a building that is owned or used by the Council as its 'Civic Centre'.

5. Miscellaneous Information

The regulations are circulated on her Majesty's command.

The Department for Culture, Media and Sport is responsible for issuing the rules, relating to flying the Union Flag on Government buildings.

The Department for Culture, Media and Sport advises of any other occasion, where Her Majesty has given a special command to fly the Union Flag.