

Flag Flying

There are two flagpoles on Council owned buildings in Borough, located at Dunedin House and Town Hall, Stockton-on-Tees.

This policy on flying flags follows the Department of Digital, Culture, Media and Sport's (DCMS) guidelines for flag flying on UK government buildings, which can be found on the following website <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/designated-days-for-union-flag-flying>

Department of Digital, Culture, Media and Sport's Guidelines

The guidelines state designated days for when the Union Flag be flown. These dates are:

9 April	His Majesty The King's Wedding Anniversary
6 May	Coronation Day
14 June	Official Birthday of His Majesty The King
21 June	Birthday of HRH The Prince of Wales
17 July	Birthday of Her Majesty The Queen
8 September	His Majesty The Kings Accession
9 November	Remembrance Day (second Sunday in November)
14 November	Birthday of His Majesty The King

However, UK government buildings are encouraged to fly the Union Flag all year round.

Where buildings only have one flagpole other flags may be flown, including but not limited to:

- the national flags of the constituent nations of the United Kingdom
- the Armed Forces flag
- the Commonwealth flag
- county and other local flags
- other flags which may promote civic pride

DCMS may issue ad-hoc guidance encouraging UK government buildings to fly such flags throughout the year, alongside the Union Flag.

UK government building flagpoles should not remain empty – the default should be flying the Union Flag if no other flag is being flown.

There are three categories of flags that can be flown in the UK, subject to compliance with the standard conditions. These are:

(a) flags which can be flown without consent of the local planning authority.	1) Any country's national flag, civil ensign or civil air ensign 2) The flag of the Commonwealth, the United Nations or any other international organisation of which the United Kingdom is a member 3) A flag of any island, county, district, borough, burgh, parish, city, town or village within the United Kingdom 4) The flag of the Black Country, East Anglia, Wessex, any Part of Lincolnshire, any Riding of
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	Yorkshire or any historic county within the United Kingdom 5) The flag of Saint David 6) The flag of Saint Patrick 7) The flag of any administrative area within any country outside the United Kingdom 8) Any flag of His Majesty's forces 9) The Armed Forces Day flag The above flags or their flagpoles must not display any advertisement or subject matter additional to the design of the flag, but the Regulations now highlight that you can attach a black mourning ribbon to either the flag or flagpole where the flag cannot be flown at half mast, for example, when flying a flag on a flagpole projecting at an angle from the side of a building. The use of the word "country" in (1) and (7) of the list above, includes any of the Channel Islands, the Isle of Man and any British Overseas Territory. The flags of St George and St Andrew are recognised as the national flags of England and Scotland, but the flags of St David and St Patrick are listed separately as they do not necessarily fall into the category of a country's national flag. Two flags can also be flown from the same flagpole without the need for consent if: (i) both flags are within the list above; or (ii) one flag is within the list above and the other is within the categories of flag set out under (b) below. In either case, if one of the flags is the Union Flag, it must be flown in the superior position. Following the UK's departure from the European Union, the flag of the European Union is no longer included in the list of flags that do not require consent.
(b) flags which do not need consent provided they comply with further restrictions regarding the size of the flag, the size of characters on the flag, and the number and location of the flags(referred to as "deemed consent" in the Regulations).	- house flag – flag is allowed to display the name, emblem, device or trademark of the company (or person) occupying the building, or can refer to a specific event of limited duration that is taking place in the building from which the flag is flown - any sports club (but cannot include sponsorship logos)

	- the Rainbow flag (six horizontal equal stripes of red, orange, yellow, green, blue and violet). - specified award schemes – Eco-Schools, King’s Awards for Enterprise and Investors in People - the NHS flag. - certain environmental awards. The restrictions on flying this second category of flag relate to where the flagpole is located on a building or within the grounds of a building. When flying a flag on vertical flagpole from the roof of a building there are no restrictions on the size of flag. There are also no restrictions on the size of any character or symbol displayed on the flag, except where a flag is flown within an area of outstanding natural beauty, area of special control, the Broads, conservation area or a National Park (referred to elsewhere as “controlled areas”) where the characters may be no more than 0.75 metre in height (0.3 metre in height in an area of special control).
(c) flags which require consent (“express consent”)	All other flags

Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council Policy

To adhere to the above guidance, the Union flag will be flown every day on the Dunedin House flagpole.

The Union Flag will also be flown on the Town Hall, with the exception of designated days for other flags noted in the DCMS guidelines as outlined below:

March (second Monday in March)	Commonwealth Day	Commonwealth Flag
23 April	St George’s Day	St George’s Flag
End of June (fly for one week) (these dates change each year)	Armed Forces Week	Armed Forces Week flag
June (Flown the first weekend of June to mark the start of Pride month)	Pride	Rainbow Flag
June/July (these dates change each year)	Mayor’s Sunday	Borough Flag
3 September	Merchant Navy Day	Red Ensign
15 September	Battle of Britain Day	Royal Air Force Flag

The Borough Flag will be flown at half-mast from the Town Hall on the death of the Mayor or Freeman from the day of the death until sunset on the day of the funeral. If a councillor dies in service, or on the death on an ex-Mayor, the Borough Flag will be flown at half-mast from Town Hall on the day of the funeral.

The flag flying schedule is complemented on the days listed below by our memorial lighting scheme which is agreed annually and runs January to December. It includes lighting of Newport Bridge and Town Centre lighting columns and fountain lights:

2026 Schedule

Date	Event	Lighting Colour
Tuesday 27 January	Holocaust Memorial Day	Purple
Sunday 1 February	LGBT+ History Month	Multi
Wednesday 4 February	World Cancer Day	Orange
Sunday 8 March	International Women's Day	Purple
Sunday 8 March	National Day of Reflection	Yellow
Saturday 28 March	Earth Hour (8.30pm to 9.30pm)	Switched off
Thursday 2 April	Autism Acceptance Day	Gold
Thursday 23 April	St George's Day	Red and white
Monday 18 May	National Dementia Action Week	Purple
Monday 1 June	National Volunteers Week	Red and purple
Monday 8 June	National Carers Week	Blue
TBC	Shared Lives Week	Purple
Saturday 27 June	Armed Forces Day	Red, white and blue
Friday 4 September	World Sexual Health Awareness Day	Orange and blue
Monday 21 September	Fairtrade Fortnight	Blue and green
Saturday 26 September	Organ Donation Week	Purple
Thursday 1 October	Stoptober (Stop Smoking Campaign)	Red
Friday 9 October	Baby Loss Awareness Week	Pink and blue
Saturday 10 October	World Mental Health Day	Purple
Friday 16 October	Show Racism the Red Card	Red
Sunday 1 November	National Care Leavers Month	Blue
Wednesday 11 November	Remembrance Day	Red
Saturday 14 November	World Diabetes Day	Blue
Wednesday 25 November	International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women	Orange

In addition, Pride month is marked by changing the logo on corporate social media to multi coloured.

All flags currently flown from Stockton Town Hall and Dunedin House are in categories (a) flags that do not need consent and (b) those that can be flown without consent so long as they comply with restrictions (Rainbow Flag). Restrictions relate to where a flagpole is located, and due to the Rainbow Flag being flown from a vertical pole on the Town Hall there are no restrictions.

The list of dates for flags to be flown with instructions for when to raise the flag and when to take it down will be shared with Facilities Management at the beginning of each year. Reminders will be sent nearer the date of each designated flag flying day. Flags will be raised as early as possible on the day until as early as possible the following day. Flags on a weekend will be raised all weekend.

Civic office will check the DCMS website on a regular basis for other days and instructions for flying the flag (i.e. funerals/memorial services for ex-prime ministers).

In addition to the flags flown on external flag poles at Stockton Town Hall and Dunedin House, the Union Flag will also be flown in reception areas and in reception areas at libraries and Customer Service Centres.