

## Padraig Power (ELC)

**From:** The Electoral Commission <noreply@electoralcommission.eu>  
**Sent:** Wednesday 3 January 2024 20:01  
**To:** ELC Research  
**Subject:** New submission from Research Form

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### **1. What is your view on the five proposed research strands? Are there amendments or additions you would suggest?**

There is a lack of reference to migrant populations in the programme. Given the growing number of immigrants now residing in Ireland and their lack of representation in public office, the research programme should explore how to include immigrants in the electoral process and expand their current voting rights. An example of this would include examining other electoral systems, such as that of the UK whereby voting rights are on residency rather than citizenship. In addition, expansion of voting rights to Irish citizens not residing in Ireland could be time-bound, whereby emigrants could vote in Irish embassies provided they have proof of residency in Ireland in the past 18 months.

### **2. Which of the research questions under section 4 would you consider most important and why?**

Strand D - Inclusion. Expanding voting rights to migrant populations, to recent Irish emigrants to complete votes in Irish embassies, and lowering the voting age. Improvements in each area would improve representation and inclusion among voters

### **3. Are there additional research projects that you consider important to promote and enhance Ireland's democracy and electoral events? If yes, please specify?**

Expanding voting rights to include migrant populations residing in Ireland

### **4. Are there any other comments or observations that you wish to make regarding An Coimisiún's research programme?**

N/A

#### **Name**

Niall Mac Dhonnagáin

#### **Email**

[REDACTED]

#### **Are you replying as an Individual or representing an Organisation?**

I am responding as an Individual