

---

**From:** The Electoral Commission <noreply@electoralcommission.eu>  
**Sent:** Wednesday 10 January 2024 13:33  
**To:** ELC Research  
**Subject:** New submission from Research Form

**CAUTION:** This eMail originated from outside your organisation and the BTS Managed Desktop service. Do not click on any links or open any attachments unless you recognise the sender or are expecting the email and know that the content is safe. If you are in any doubt, please contact the OGCIO IT Service Desk.

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

The inclusion of the lowering the voting age to 16 is important. Over a decade ago, after the Constitutional Convention, the government proposed to have a referendum on the matter. Voting at 16 has existed for decades in Nicaragua and Brazil, as well as more recent enfranchisements in Austria, Argentina and Malta. Several jurisdictions allow voting at 17, including Greece and Indonesia. There are a range of examples to examine which demonstrate that young people aged 16 have the necessary capacities to be members of the electorate. Voting at 16 should be examined in the context of Ireland's obligations under the Convention on the Rights of the Child, in particular Article 12.

**Name**

Richard Scriven

**Email**

[REDACTED]

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

I am responding as an Individual