

**Subject:** FW: New submission from Research Form

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**From:** The Electoral Commission <noreply@electoralcommission.eu>  
**Sent:** Wednesday 10 January 2024 13:44  
**To:** ELC Research <research@electoralcommission.ie>  
**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?

This seems a good approach. Some strands seem more urgent and/or more important than others. There's an importance to how they're prioritised.

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

In order of importance to me:

- B: Residency and voting
- B: Extension of postal Voting
- D: Voting age
- B: Constituency review
- B: Electoral register
- D: Democratic and electoral participation
- C: Election reviews
- A: Research and Electoral behaviour
- E: Blue sky thinking
- B: Replacing by-elections
- B: Posters
- B: Electoral Act 1997

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

I think there should be research into best practice abroad. I hear that some countries are much more advanced in how they administer their electoral events. I know I often hear mention of Estonia as being very advanced, but I don't have any direct knowledge. I also think automation of the electoral process, whether that be in the voting process (as was tried before unsuccessfully) or in the counting process. In particular, I hate that the way we implement PR-STV has a random element in the distribution of surpluses, which was to have been phased out under the proposed automated system.

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

I'd love to get updates as you go along.

Also, just a comment on the residence and voting research. I live abroad and can no longer vote, even though I still pay taxes in Ireland on my house. I think this is unfair. (I do have a vote in the Seanad Trinity Constituency, and love that this is still an involvement).

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[REDACTED]

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

I am responding as an Individual