

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

**From:** The Electoral Commission <noreply@electoralcommission.eu>

**Sent:** Thursday 11 January 2024 22:30

**To:** ELC Research <research@electoralcommission.ie>

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

I like the five strands as laid out and I think the way they have been subdivided is quite clear. I also think the addition of a blue sky strand is an excellent idea.

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

I would rate the number of TDs and size of constituencies as the most important, followed by research on the integrity of electoral events.

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

Yes. There are quite a few areas of research I believe the Commission should consider.

Strand B

In relation to constituencies the potential for fixed constituency boundaries (ie to say a county) and adjust the number of TDs for the population – I am aware geography is factored in currently but in this case it would take precedence over population figures

Looking at larger constituency sizes ie up to 9 as was previous done. Also if there would be a benefit in having a higher minimum number of TDs per constituency ie having a 4 or 5 seater

as the smallest possible as they lead to more proportional outcomes in a PRSTV system  
Capping the number of TDs in the Dail at a fixed number and adjusting constituencies based on that

The potential to elect some TDs on a list system rather than having all TDs elected from constituencies and the positives and negatives of that

The potential for a centralised electoral register to be held by the electoral commission as opposed to local authorities

The potential to move administration/management/running of elections from the Department of Housing to the Electoral Commission

Strand D

Increasing education on the electoral system within the education system – including the potential for compulsory modules on the subject as part of the curriculum

The potential for including education on electoral disinformation and voting in general as part of the curriculum

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

I am responding as an Individual