

Padraig Power (ELC)

From: The Electoral Commission <noreply@electoralcommission.eu>
Sent: Thursday 11 January 2024 23:36
To: ELC Research
Subject: New submission from Research Form

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

I find the question on replacing by-elections most interesting. Whilst I can see the cost saving benefit of not running an extra election, I believe most people will have little regard for the list of alternative candidates any person running for election will provide. In fact, I also believe this is a poor system for the European Parliament. I believe the most democratic thing to do is to maintain the current by-election system in this instance.

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

Whilst I strongly believe our current electoral system of STV is, overall, a very fair system, I do think there are deficiencies and disadvantages which warrant a review. The most pressing issue for me is our parliamentary elections.

Due to our system, we have multi-seat constituencies. This can lead to a situation where most or all elected representatives are from a small number of areas in a constituency, leaving large areas with no representative.

I believe this is an example of an inherent deficiency in multi-seat constituencies. I am not proposing we look at a 'first past the post' system, but I do believe we should look at Australia's example.

Australia has an 'Instant Run-off' system, which is a single seat version of our system. I believe a system like this is a better system than our own as it has single seat constituencies whilst also have a proportional element to it.

I believe this deserves serious consideration by the commission and I sincerely hope it does so.

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

Thank you for the opportunity to voice my opinion on these matters.

Name

Chris O Sullivan

Email

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Are you replying as an Individual or representing an Organisation?

I am responding as an Individual