Padraig Power (ELC)

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

They seem fine and comprehensive

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

Of the research questions proposed I think the constituency review is the most urgent and important as having the ability to have larger constituencies combined with a cap on numbers of TDs will allow county boundaries to remain intact and ensuring the Dail remains a manageable size.

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

1. Examination of online voting is much more important than postal voting. Already in the USA, a number of states are legislating to allow official identification documents such as passports and driving licences to be digital ie on a mobile device. If we successfully pursue this in Ireland, it should clear most barriers to allowing online voting. This not only will improve accessibility issues, but it also would facilitate future reform of elections such as allowing emigrants to vote or, much more importantly, people in the 6 counties of the North to vote in various elections here.
2. I believe comprehensive electoral reform of the Seanad should be considered by yourselves. The current system is clearly outdated. One option is having one member elected by each of the 32 counties in Ireland. Online (or reformed postal) voting would be necessary for the 6 counties, pending reunification. This would also ensure every county had their own representative in the Seanad. There are many alternative systems that could be put in place but I think it should be on the research programme/timeline to consider root and branch reform with all options on the table.

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

The most comprehensive reform recently suggested of Dail elections was that of Noel Dempsey & Garret Fitzgerald when they suggested 100 single seat constituencies elected by

PR-STV and 50 members elected by a list. I believe this was a brilliant proposal that did not get enough consideration. I understand that you don't want to be proposing massive overhauls from the get-go but your work and vision should be ambitious and imaginative with all possibilities taken into consideration and some time into the future, proposals such as this should be examined and put into public discourse.

Name

David Carroll

Email

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Are you replying as an Individual or representing an Organisation?

I am responding as an Individual