

Subject:

FW: New submission from Research Form

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

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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?

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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Are you replying as an Individual or representing an Organisation?

I am responding as an Individual