### **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**

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

I am responding as an Individual