**PRESS RELEASE**

**IMMEDIATE 18.12.2018**

**AN INDICATIVE VOTE**

To take lots of majority votes would be “daft,” to quote Lord Desai, (*Hansard*, 22.1.2003). He recommended (but did not name) a Borda Count.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

In a multi-option debate, the most accurate way to identify a majority opinion is with a multi-option vote: the Modified Borda Count, MBC (or Borda preferendum, as it is sometimes called). Let every MP cast his/her preferences, so to see which option has the highest average preference. Assuming that the score is above a certain threshold, this highest average preference option is the majority will.

{If some MPs do not participate fully in the democratic process, either by abstaining or by submitting only one or two preferences, then that would not be so good. But that applies to every voting procedure.}

Peter Emerson

Director, the de Borda Institute

36 Ballysillan Road

Belfast BT14 7QQ

[www.deborda.org](http://www.deborda.org/)

pemerson@deborda.org

07837717979

02890711795

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

In an MBC of *n* options, (and usually, *4 ≤ n ≤ 6)*, MPs may each cast up to *m* preferences, so *n ≥ m ≥ 1*. Points are awarded to

 (*1st, 2nd … last*)

preferences cast, according to the rule:

 (*m, m-1 … 1*).

This is the original rule, first proposed by Jean-Charles de Borda in 1770.