Response Number 112

Q.1 What are your views on the proposal to introduce real-time reporting for B2B and B2G transactions?

As a sole trader and IT worker who implements systems for small/medium/large enterprises; the core requirement is that this cannot add extra work to the process.

Q.2 What matters should be considered in planning for a transition to a new VAT Reporting system?

As a sole trader; this would involve the provision of an invoicing/payments platform by Revenue where you create invoices and automation of VAT reporting/payments. This platform would also need to have free SEPA payments. You could remove this requirement by excluding sole traders from this real time reporting requirement.
As a larger enterprise; Revenue would need to provide customised connections for prominent ERP/accounting packages. e.g. SAP/Dynamics/SAGE/Salesforce. For this to work; it would need some sort of API to send receipts and invoices. The API would also allow third party ERP/accounting apps that are non-standard to integrate with this solution.

Q.3 If your business is currently subject to a VAT reporting programme in another EU or non-EU country, can you please share best practice, recommendations or lessons learnt?

N/A

Q.4 Have you any observations, concerns or recommendations on a move to mandatory electronic invoicing for B2B & B2G domestic VAT transactions?

Main issue would be for sole traders who lack tech skills particularly older generations in trades. Lot's of paper invoices; not enough revenue to justify an accounting package etc.
Larger organisations should be fine upon provision of API and standard for eInvoicing.

Q.5 Revenue is particularly interested in hearing views from businesses that are already engaged in eInvoicing Public Bodies within Ireland or engaged in B2B eInvoicing throughout Europe and beyond. How did you prepare and what challenges prevailed in your preparations for eInvoicing?

N/A

Q.6 What suggestions would you offer in Ireland’s arrangements for a mandatory B2B and B2G eInvoicing programme?

It's all dependent on the software tools that businesses use. The cloud SAAS products will more than likely incorporate an update to configure this but if any company has a legacy on-premises product; they will find the transition difficult. ERP upgrades can be extremely time consuming.

Q.7 Revenue are cognisant that small businesses may have different perspectives and requirements to large businesses, so what information prompts would you find useful for businesses in completing the VAT return?

It's quite an easy process as is but an auto-filling of form with previous return would optimise it further.