Response Number 367

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

In some businesses, such as B2B professional services, I think it would be possible as the accounting software likely could be adjusted to report in real-time similar to how payroll reports in real time. However, in smaller businesses that rely on spreadsheets for accounts and invoice templates or manual/handwritten invoices, it would prove difficult and cost prohibitive. Accounting software is expensive and not all business owners are in a position to pay for them. If the Revenue could supply an accounting system for business owners, then it would be more likely to be possible.

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

The Revenue should look at providing an accounting software package to business owners free of charge which will enable all business owners to report in real time more easily and without additional costs, as current business running costs are very high.

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?

Again, ok for professional services, more difficult for smaller businesses.

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?

Revenue could offer a free accounting software package to business owners to alleviate the costs.

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?

A webinar to train in business owners. A helpline facility and help/FAQ notes on the system at time of submission.