Response Number 194

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

We are an older generation and will have to learn to do all this, PAYE was easy enough but this sound complicated and not that simple. However to make live easier, this will probably be a good thing for all VAT registered companies. I will have questions though, we have been asking for monthly VAT payments, rather than 6 monthly, will this be made possible now?

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

Not all companies are fully literate with e invoicing or computer related systems, this will need to be done gradually rather than overnight, It will be costly for small businesses that are willing but if done quickly may have to out source all admin work that entails the VAT and invoicing. This may be a cost that can not be off set on sales or services, but if gradually it will become second nature even for those not as computer literate.

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?

BREXIT - the importing for us has gone very costly, We sell a [redacted] product but unfortunately as we are a sub agent from [redacted] we have to order from them, it literately comes in to them and shipped out to us but unfortunately we get caught from their import duties and our import/export duties, example, transport cost [redacted] VAT imports are easy from member states but now I fear this is going to make things more complicated again if I look at the Brexit thing will this delay and make it costly again to do business with member states, we do have to learn from this.

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

I find it difficult to understand to comment on this, all I am worried about is that it makes it complicated and costly, we can not pass on extra costs to our customers as it is very competitive to do business already, we will price ourselves out of the market. I recommend a simple and easy to understand communication forum for all VAT registered companies or newsletters so we can as small businesses understand and cooperate accordingly.

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?

Can not answer this one, we just started with two companies to e invoice, this did not go to well due to all the complications, (not just on our side this must be due to unforeseen little niggly things however they are important) a we are a emergency servicing company sometimes a invoice can not be issued for a month before we get an order number (PO) due to the e invoicing this has to be set up well. For us it was a bit of a shock to the system, and I can foresee that small companies are going to struggle with this. Therefore smaller to medium sized companies may need more help than the big companies that more than likely out source the accounts

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

Already answered really, a gradual change, help for small to medium sized companies, news letters and a forum where we can help each other.

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?

Monthly returns, rather than six monthly, will make life so much easier for us as a small company, cash flow is important but if invoicing over laps, and large companies take 90 to 120 days to pay you it may help to have monthly returns, also maybe a choice monthly, two monthly, quarterly or twice a year. If a company is a 2 man operation and on the road at all times, monthly will definitely be the way to go. Also small businesses may need a easy slower change over system, with assistance.