Response Number 708

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

Real time reporting will most likely require electronic accounting systems that are linked to revenue. As I currently do my accounts with Excel then this change may mean that I either have to log onto Revenue daily to do returns for expenses, or that I take on the services of an electronic accounts package that does this. The additional cost is a factor for me - it appears to me that I would be forced to acquire such a service provider at a cost that I do not want to have and have so far avoided.

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

Ease of use for people doing their own accounts.

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?

Yes, this is a forced cost on me which I could do with avoiding. My accounts are relatively simple yet I and all VAT registered traders would be required to take on this cost.

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?

That the service is put in place by revenue, not by third parties, and that there is no cost. We live in an age where money is digital, we see all sorts of services such as revolut. We also see "alternative" currencies such as Bitcoin. The move should be that all our financial records (cash balances etc) are handled by a central depository, that currency is fully digitised and that Revenue manage this on behalf of society.

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?

The big issue is small transactions. Everyone has large volumes of them, how is this going to be managed - are we looking at daily returns, will I have to report to revenue every time I get a fill of diesel or buy a stapler? I am in favour of simplification - not making it unnecessarily more complex.