Response Number 987

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

We operate in GB and have registered for VAT in Ireland due to work related to land. IT is not easy integrating the Euro and Sterling system into our accounting software and any move to make reporting 'real time' is likely to increase the administration and cost to our small business signficantly.

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

VAT registered businesses both within Ireland and outside Ireland and the complexity of dealing with 2 systems and the costs of accounting systems and staff time to deal with multiple interfaces with the VAT system.

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?

Yes - GB. Our accounting software is connected to the GB system for direct VAT reporting which took some time to implement and understand but now works well. It has not reduced the administrative burden on business however as the system did not change. Small Irish businesses working cross border are having to deal with the complexity of 2 systems and accounting software to deal with this is priced and aimed at large high turnover businesses - which is a concern.

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

Whilst we use the GB mandatory reporting system electronically , it does not mandate mandatory electronic invoicing - simply that invoices are recorded electronically. Forcing mandatory electronic invoicing on business is not necessary for small business and many software packages do not allow for the complexities of all 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?

Apply only to large turnover businesses.

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?

Links in each of the boxes to web pages explaining the different requirements in plain english understandable to non-accountants.