Response Number 519

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

As a sole trader, this wouldn't help me - it would just add more onerous requirements to my invoicing process. If it is introduced, it would be best if it was optional.

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

People who are subject to VAT work in many different ways; some businesses issue invoices multiple times a day, whereas some sole traders or contractors might issue three or four a year. For those working with lower numbers of invoices, adding a requirement to do real-time VAT processing just increases the number of times they have to deal with VAT processing, rather than allowing them to just do it all twice a year.

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?

B2B can include sole traders and contractors - not just businesses with accounts departments. If there is a mandatory eInvoicing requirement, it shouldn't be overly complex and there should be information available on how to do it.

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?

Make sure everyone understands what software would be considered compliant with the programme and make sure it doesn't add extra 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?

Whatever prompts are used, it would be good to hire a technical writer to create them who understands Plain English standards, rather than someone whose main expertise is finance.