Response Number 59

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

If implemented thoughtfully, real-time reporting could be a positive step towards modernizing and improving the efficiency of the B2B and B2G VAT reporting system.

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

Establish a support system, including a helpdesk, to assist users during the transition. Provide resources such as user guides and FAQs to address common queries. Implement robust security measures to protect sensitive VAT data. Ensure compliance with data protection regulations and industry best practices. Develop contingency plans for potential issues or system failures. Identify alternative reporting methods in case of unexpected challenges. Consider a phased implementation approach to minimize disruptions. Start with a smaller group or region before rolling out the new system at full Ireland. Ensure that the vendor providing the new VAT reporting system offers reliable support and maintenance services. We needed to have a clear understanding of the vendor's update and upgrade processes.

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?

Our business do not currently subject to a VAT reporting programme in another EU or non-EU country.

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

Electronic invoices can contribute to higher data accuracy, as the information is entered electronically and can be processed with fewer manual interventions.
Smaller company (same as our) ones, may face challenges in adapting to new eInvoicing systems. Adequate support and training are crucial.
The initial setup costs for implementing eInvoicing systems might pose a financial burden, especially for smaller enterprises(same as our).
The electronic transmission of sensitive financial data raises concerns about data security and privacy.

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?

Our business is not currently engaged in e Invoicing for public bodies within Ireland or B2B e Invoicing in Europe or beyond.

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

Provide financial support or incentives for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) to help cover the costs of implementing eInvoicing systems.
Training Programs:
Develop comprehensive training programs for businesses and government agencies to ensure that they are well-prepared to use eInvoicing systems. Offer workshops, webinars, and documentation to educate stakeholders.

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?

Ensure that the user interface of the VAT reporting system is intuitive and user-friendly to accommodate businesses of all sizes.
Step-by-Step Guidance:
Provide step-by-step guidance within the system to assist businesses in completing the VAT return accurately.
Plain Language Explanations:
Use plain language explanations for each section of the VAT return to make it easily understandable for businesses with VARYING levels of financial expertise.
Automated Calculations:
Implement automated calculations for common VAT entries to reduce the manual workload for businesses, especially small ones with limited resources.
Threshold Clarifications:
Clearly outline any thresholds or exemptions applicable to small businesses (we are very small company) , ensuring they are aware of specific requirements that may differ based on size.
Real-Time Data Validation:
Include real-time data validation checks to alert businesses to potential errors or inconsistencies before submitting the VAT return.
Interactive Help Resources:
Integrate interactive help resources, such as tooltips or pop-up guides, to provide additional information and context as users navigate through the VAT return.
Sample Scenarios:
Include sample scenarios or case studies to illustrate how businesses should report specific transactions, catering to different industries and business models.
Assistance for Transitional Periods:
Offer assistance for businesses during transitional periods, ensuring they have access to support and guidance as they adapt to the real-time reporting system.
Flexible Reporting Options:
Provide flexibility in reporting options, allowing businesses to choose the frequency of reporting that aligns with their operational needs.
Support for Digital Invoicing:
Integrate support for businesses using digital invoicing methods, promoting alignment with the broader digital transformation goals.
Clear Communication Channels:
Establish clear communication channels for businesses to seek assistance or clarification on VAT reporting matters.
Mobile Accessibility:
Ensure that the VAT reporting system is accessible via mobile devices, acknowledging the diverse ways businesses may engage with the platform.
Training and Webinars:
Offer training sessions, webinars, or video tutorials to educate businesses on using the real-time reporting system effectively.
By incorporating these information prompts, the VAT reporting system can cater to the unique needs of small businesses, promoting compliance, accuracy, and a smoother transition to the real-time reporting approach.