Response Number 315

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

I appreciate the efforts to modernize VAT reporting for B2B and B2G transactions. However, I believe that real-time reporting, while efficient, may lead to inadvertent errors and unnecessary scrutiny from the Revenue. It's important to maintain a balance between modernization and practicality.
I would welcome options for digital integration with accounting software, but this should remain optional to accommodate different business needs and capacities. Keeping the system flexible and error-tolerant is crucial for a smooth transition to any new reporting method.

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

1. Maintain the current system as an option, providing a choice between traditional and modern methods.
2. Allow integration with existing accounting software for VAT3 submissions, but keep this optional to accommodate different business models.
3. Avoid live reporting requirements to prevent errors and unnecessary flags from being raised with the Revenue, ensuring a smooth transition with minimal disruption for businesses.

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?

My business isn't currently subject to a VAT reporting program in another country.

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

My main concern is ensuring that businesses of all sizes can smoothly transition to this system. It's important to provide sufficient support and resources, especially for smaller businesses that may not have robust digital systems in place.
Additionally, ensuring data security and privacy in electronic invoicing systems is crucial. Flexibility in the initial stages of implementation would also be beneficial to allow businesses to adapt without significant disruption.

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?

My business is not currently engaged in eInvoicing with Public Bodies in Ireland or in B2B eInvoicing in Europe, I cannot share personal experiences.

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

Consider a phased implementation to allow businesses time to adapt. Offer comprehensive training and support, especially for small and medium-sized enterprises.
Ensure the eInvoicing system is interoperable with various accounting software, enhancing accessibility.
Prioritize data security and privacy in the system's design. Leaks can be devastating for some 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?

1. Step-by-step instructions for each section of the VAT return.
2. Explanations of common VAT terms and concepts in simple language.
3. Alerts for common errors to watch out for when filling in the return.
4. Direct links to relevant regulations or detailed guidance for complex sections.
5. An option to save progress and return to the form, given the varying time constraints small businesses might face.