Response Number 360

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

I am a sole trader who works with my accountant on returns. I find the system as it is good as it can bring to light other smaller issues that may need attention. If I didn't do this process I would not have this opportunity. An automated system in theory may save time, but it keeps me abreast as a non accounts person, of an understanding and whats happening in the business on an ongoing basis.

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

There should be an opt out, as I think it may suit larger businesses better, and would potentially have small business not engaging with their accounts as much. No business big or small should be spending VAT monies and I am guessing this is an effort to stop VAT return been made incorrectly. I have never done this as I don't see this as my money, so would still like to use the system as it is for the insights it give me.

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?

NO

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

Yes definitely. I raise invoice's manually so I am guessing I will have to start paying for some kind of accounting software as a consequence, even though I have never been late with a VAT return.
Will accounting software be furnished to businesses to make this work? Will there be an opt out if it's not?

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?

I send invoices to public bodies who usually have to create a PO or Purchase Order number for the amount, before it can be submitted to a centralised finance unit. I have used e-invoicing for companies using [redacted] which these companies use. This is always difficult to navigate and slow. These companies give themselves credit terms up to 90 days, without agreement, due to the slowness and inaccuracy I guess.

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

There must be an opt out for sole traders or small business, and no added expense caused. I only work B2B so others should be able to receive non eInvoices. IE. invoices by email should still work.
I would rarely print and send an invoices anymore as all accounts depts have email access.

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?

I can't speak for large businesses no more than their accounts departments could speak for a business such as mine.
I have voiced concerns in previous questions from a small business stand point. Perhaps a threshold can be in place to use this system or not. My biggest issue is having to compete with others business who are not

VAT registered or who use the lower VAT wrongly so they can be cheaper, expecially when pricing for Public assigmnents/ tenders and for charities, who can realise a saving. I have tried to point this out before. This won't address this.