Response Number 99

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

If done properly, they should help reducing paperwork. Past experiences, though, are not creating a lot of hope

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

Availability of software or tools that enable a business to report quickly and as easily as possible. Current "tools" are antiquated and force company to spend money unnecessarily on accountants. No clear specifications available. Small businesses are the ones suffering the most

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?

The current VAT reporting when related to EU VAT handling is confusing. Reporting those transactions is counter intuitive and many accounting software packages do not handle those correctly; my company had to manually adjust the VAT 3 file after discussing the matter with Revenue

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

Yes, removing the reliance on paper documents should help. But clear data exchange protocols need to be defined; otherwise this will be a money making opportunity for software integrators with deep pockets and connections to squeeze companies.
We need to open the market so EU software companies can create solutions for Irish market as well. Or allow the ability of open source software packages to emerge.

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?

Transparency. Also the data exchange formats and protocols should also be discussed with smaller software companies not just big software integrators: their interest is to make those as confusing as possible and eliminate competition from smaller companies.

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?

There seem to be the assumption that small businesses do not trade across the EU. Filling out VAT returns correctly was one of my businesses pain point: no cheap software packages are available to help, I had to manually do calculations in Excel.
On top of that, we have to file RTD which is just another way of reporting these transactions. It looks as tho departments had 2 different needs and couldn't be bothered to create a common framework. Just ask for 1 report and calculate these summaries yourselves,