Response Number 105

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

I cannot see any advantage in the introduction of this proposed system. Currently, I set aside a large block of admin time (usually a weekend or two) every four months to assemble, complete and cross-check all paperwork in relation to upcoming VAT payments. In a small owner-operated business like mine, this is the best use of my time, and the best way to ensure that no payments are overlooked.

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

Adding a layer of day-to-day administration time (specifically relating to invoicing/VAT liabilities) to the workload of small owner-operated businesses is unfair in my opinion.

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 is 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?

Thankfully, "intra-Community B2B transactions" do not apply to my business. Operating my business day to day is already demanding enough timewise. Adding a further day-to-day layer of administration would be burdensome for a small business owner like me.

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 have not previously engaged in eInvoicing public bodies in Ireland or engaged in B2B eInvoicing in Europe and beyond. No plans to either.

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

Seriously. Leave well enough alone. The current system works well and is sufficiently demanding in terms of keeping on top of administration and cashflow.

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 do all the VAT and invoicing administration work myself. I find the current system and VAT forms all fine. The form filling is the least demanding part of the process. Maintaining proper paperwork and financial records for my accountant, ensuring that I have correctly calculated VAT on sales, and ensuring that VAT returns are made well in advance of the required ROS deadline already takes quite a lot of time. No desire to increase that time input.