

GETTING YOUR VAT SORTED WITH KINGSWOOD MTD

As of 1st April, 2019, businesses in the UK have been obliged to use accounts software with approved links to HM Revenue & Customs to process their VAT returns. This initiative, known as “MTD” (Making Tax Digital), has been in progress for the last year. Kingswood Accounts is one of the few specialist accounts programs in the agribusiness sector to make the grade as regards MTD. This stems from Kingswood Computing’s commitment to its UK customers, which include both farmers and agricultural contractors.

In Northern Ireland, Kingswood works through its long-established relationship with TGM Software based in Hillsborough, Co. Down. George Megarry of TGM has been promoting, supporting, and actively contributing to the development Kingswood agri software since 1993. His intimate knowledge of the IT needs of farmers and contractors in Northern Ireland has contributed hugely to the success of Kingswood software in the area.

Connection Limitations

After three decades of dealing with agricultural IT, George has some interesting views on business software for agricultural and rural-based businesses. “Purely cloud-based software has severe limitations for farmers and agricultural contractors,” he says. “Internet speeds can be very poor and broadband unreliable or non-existent in rural areas. Kingswood have gone for a hybrid model of cloudiness with access to online backup of data, online transfer of data to accountants, and now with MTD online HMRC VAT submission. But the bulk of bookkeeping is still done on the user’s own PC where they can work independently of the internet.”

In fact, this is only one aspect of the work that Kingswood has done in recent years in seamlessly integrating the world of PC-based Windows software with that of cloud-based services. All of their farming and accounts software can now be linked with phone-based apps, thus giving the user the best of both worlds: the speed and in-depth analysis of PC programs with the flexibility and convenience of phone apps.

One example of this is their Job Card App for contractors, which allows a contractor and his



Ruth from TGM Solutions is one of the TGM team of agri IT experts ready to respond to Northern Ireland farmers’ and contractors’ IT problems.

operators to record job details on their phones. The details are then synced back via a Kingswood server to the contractor’s PC, where his bookkeeper can load the details into the accounts software, from which he can produce invoices, statements, and VAT reports. Very importantly, the Job Card App can also operate without broadband or even phone signal. Signal is only needed when the operator decides to send back his jobs to the Kingswood server, often at the end of the day. His bookkeeper only needs broadband access very briefly when downloading the jobs from the server to the PC.

A Job Card Well Done

David Henry of Ballymoney looked around to find the most suitable finance package to enable him to meet the regulations for Making Tax Digital and to help him keep track of work done for his customers. He settled on Kingswood Accounts. “The Kingswood system has an excellent tool for keeping track of work done: job cards,” Henry says. “These can be completed on the computer or straight onto a phone before you even leave the farm. I’m finding the job card functions invaluable in helping me keep track of

work done and work not yet paid for. Changing from a job card to a VAT invoice is simple.”

Rural Business Specialists

Most IT companies today are focused on the lucrative urban-based corporate and public institution market. Very few are concerned about the practical IT problems of smaller, rural-based businesses—dependent on the whims of government and broadband suppliers for their communications facilities. Kingswood and TGM have their eyes firmly focused on the needs of these rural businesses and are constantly aware of their IT requirements. The firms have developed a unique set of technical solutions to address the shortcomings of internet and phone services in the rural areas of Ireland and the UK.

For further information on Kingswood’s range of agri software in ROI, contact Kingswood Computing on **01 4596677** or visit them online at **www.kingswood.ie**. In the UK, contact TGM Software at **028 9268 9681** or visit **www.tgmsoftware.com**. Also, be sure and check out Kingswood/TGM at Balmoral Show on their stand in the FSB Business Pavilion (Number AP 64)! ■