

**1. Who are you:**

Individual/Business

**2. Are you making a submission in relation to the proposals for a:**

Specified Person (SP)

**3. Please tick the sectors that apply to you:**

Platform economy

**4. After reading about the proposed new eWHT system, how would you describe your overall reaction?**

Somewhat negative - I have some concerns about aspects of the proposal

**5. What aspects of the proposed model appeal most to you, and why?**

I like the idea of 'Pay-As-You-Go' tax. It's hard to save up a huge lump sum for a tax bill at the end of the year, and it's stressful wondering if you've saved enough. If the system works correctly, it means less paperwork at the end of the year because Revenue will already have most of my info. This makes me feel more like a 'normal' worker with a steady tax situation.

**6. What concerns or reservations do you have about the proposed approach?**

My main concern is Cash Flow. In business, 'Cash is King.' If I have a slow month but my expenses stay the same, having tax deducted automatically could leave me without enough cash to pay my bills. I also worry about how easy it will be to get a refund if the system accidentally takes too much tax. It needs to be instant, not something I have to wait months for.

This is my biggest question. Usually, I only pay tax on my profit (what's left after I pay for fuel, insurance, and equipment). If the new system takes tax out of my total pay (gross) before I've even paid my bills, I am essentially overpaying tax every single week. I need to know how I can tell Revenue about my expenses in real-time so they don't take too much tax from me.

**7. The proposed eWHT model seeks to expand withholding tax to payments to service providers where a suitable withholder exists. How do you feel generally about this type of expansion?**

I understand why Revenue wants to do this to make things more modern. However, for a regular person, it feels like a big change. As long as the technology is easy to use and doesn't cost me extra money for fancy software, it could be a good thing. But it must be designed for 'real people' who are busy working, not just for tax experts.

**8. In relation to PSWT specifically, this currently applies to payments made by state and semi-state bodies for certain services. Do you have a view on how it is targeted and if the types of payments it applies to should be reviewed?**

The PSWT (Professional Services Withholding Tax) currently feels a bit old-fashioned. It treats all professionals the same, even though some have way higher costs than others. I think the list of services it applies to should be reviewed to make sure it's fair. If we are moving to this new 'eWHT' system, it should replace the old, clunky PSWT entirely so there is only one simple rule for everyone.

**9. Please indicate if you currently operate:**

**10. From the perspective of a DW, how does the current application of PSWT and/or RCT impact on your business operations?**

**11. If you are a Platform Operator, does your organisation have any experience of applying taxes to transactions, for services operating on your platform, in other jurisdictions? If yes, please provide information of the jurisdiction and details of the tax.**

**12. From the perspective of a DW, what are your views on the application of RCT and/or PSWT, as the case may be?**

- 13. What is your understanding of the withholding tax model of tax collection of RCT and PSWT and why it is applied to payments?**
- 14. The proposal aims to embed eWHT processes directly into accounting, payroll, or other business management systems. How beneficial do you think this would be for your business?**
- 15. In your view, what opportunities could embedding eWHT within natural business systems create for your business or the wider industry?**
- 16. What challenges do you think your business might face in adopting this embedded within natural systems approach?**
- 17. What is the estimated number of payments that you make to SPs each month?**
- 18. Do you currently use software for processing payments and or managing the finances of your business? If so, what packages do you use?**
- 19. Are you an employer for PAYE? If so, which software package do you use to report payroll taxes to Revenue?**
- 20. Please indicate if you currently receive payments which are subject to deduction of:**
- 21. Where you are currently subject to PSWT and/or RCT, how does the current application of withholding taxes impact on your business operations?**

Since I am not currently under PSWT or RCT, my business is used to receiving 100% of the fare (minus the app's commission). This allows me to use that money immediately to pay for my daily running costs like diesel/petrol, EV charging, and

insurance. I save a portion of my earnings myself to pay my tax bill at the end of the year. This gives me full control over my cash flow.

**22. From the perspective of a SP, what are your views on the application of RCT and/or PSWT, as the case may be?**

As a driver who doesn't use these systems yet, they seem very rigid. From what I know, they take a flat percentage out of every payment. For a taxi driver, this would be difficult because our costs (like high fuel prices) change all the time. A flat tax rate doesn't care if I had a 'low profit' week because my car needed a repair; it takes the same amount regardless or that will be covered?

**23. What is your understanding of the withholding tax model of tax collection of RCT and PSWT and why it is applied to payments?**

**24. Where you are an SP operating as a corporate/partnership or other entity, do the current rates that apply to PSWT and RCT reflect your actual liability on the income received?**

No. If I were put on a flat rate like 20%, it wouldn't reflect my real life. Out of a \$20 fare, I might only keep \$10 after fuel, app fees, and car maintenance. If Revenue takes 20% of the full \$20, they are taking \$4. But I only made \$10 profit, so they are actually taking 40% of my real profit. That is way too high and doesn't reflect what I actually owe.

**25. The proposal aims to embed taxation directly into how you get paid by the DW. How beneficial do you think this would be for your business?**

For my business, it's a bit of a mixed bag. On the one hand, it's handy because I won't have to worry about a huge tax bill at the end of the year. It's like 'setting it and forgetting it.' But on the other hand, as a taxi driver, my income changes every week. If I have a quiet week or my car breaks down, I need every cent of that fare to stay afloat. Taking tax out immediately makes my weekly budget much tighter.

**26. Where you are an SP operating as an individual worker, the proposal aims to implement personalised deduction rates (PDR), which means you will pay tax on your income as you go, similar to how employees are taxed**

**under PAYE. What impact do you think PDR will have on your cashflow and financial management?**

The PDR (Personalised Deduction Rate) will have a huge impact on my cashflow, I had to pay for diesel, car repairs, insurance, and the app fees for Free Now/Uber and others. If the PDR takes tax out of the full on my gross income, I won't have enough cash left to pay for my daily running costs. I'm used to managing my own money and paying tax later. Moving to a system where Revenue takes the money first means I have less 'working capital' to keep the car on the road.

**27. Do you think this new regime, including the PDR will have a positive effect on your end of year Income Tax return filing and preliminary tax payment obligations?**

Yes, this is the main benefit. Dealing with 'Preliminary Tax' (paying next year's tax in advance) is very confusing and hard to calculate. If this new system works, it should mean my end-of-year return is much simpler because I've already paid as I earned. It would take away the stress of the October tax deadline and make my financial life more predictable and again my be get a refund from the Revenue office after my expenses submitted.

**28. The accuracy of PDR is improved by the regular reporting by you to Revenue of your income and business expenses. How likely are you to report your income and expenses to improve the accuracy of your PDR?**

I am very likely to report my expenses. Since all my income comes through apps like Free Now and Uber, Revenue will already see exactly what I'm making. I want to be able to jump on the system and say: 'Yes, I took â,¬1,000 in fares this week, but I also spent â,¬250 on diesel and â,¬150 on app commission.' As long as the website or app is easy to use on my phone while I'm parked up between fares, I'll use it all the time. It's the only way to make sure my tax rate (PDR) stays fair and I have enough cash left in my pocket to pay my personal bills at home.

**29. What changes do you expect to have to implement in your business in order to be ready for the proposed eWHT regime?**

**30. What benefits do you expect the new regime to have on your business processes, costs and delivery of your business services?**

The biggest benefit is simplicity. If the system works well, I won't have to worry about 'Preliminary Tax' or saving up a huge lump sum for a year-end bill. It also means I'll always know exactly how much money in my pocket is 'mine' to keep, as the tax is already handled. This makes planning my personal life and family budget much easier.

**31. What would you consider a reasonable timeframe for your business to adapt to the proposed new system?**

I think 24 months is a fair timeframe. We need at least one full 'pilot year' where we can see how the system works without it affecting our actual pay. This gives drivers time to learn how to report expenses and gives Revenue time to fix any glitches in the apps.

**32. How confident are you that your business could adapt to the new system within a reasonable timeframe?**

Somewhat confident.

**33. In terms of the management of your business, which outcomes from this new regime are the most important for you? (Select a maximum of 3)**

Reduced administrative workload

Greater certainty in relation to your tax affairs

Seamless integration of taxation with your business systems

**34. What supports from Revenue would be of most benefit to you in transitioning to the new regime? (Select a maximum of 3)**

Helpdesk or dedicated Revenue contact

Clear guidance for software providers and a testing environment

Mailshots and guidance on the Revenue website

**35. Is there anything else you'd like to share about how the proposed eWHT system could best meet the needs of your business or sector?**

As a taxi driver, my 'Running Costs' are nearly half of what I take in. My biggest fear is that the eWHT system will see a \$20 fare and think I've made \$20 profit. My final request to Revenue is this: Please make sure the system allows us to 'pre-set' our common expenses (like the 15-20% app commission) so we aren't overtaxed from day one. The system must be designed for people working on the road, not sitting at a desk. If it's easy to use, it will be a success."

