UNITED KINGDOM TAX | E-INVOICING · VAT · HMRC · FINANCE TRANSFORMATION

UK e-invoicing from April 2029: Peppol confirmed, roadmap due at the Budget

Published 7 October 2026 · The Finance Intellect · Source-based summary

Every VAT invoice in the United Kingdom must be an e-invoice from April 2029. In June 2026 HMRC confirmed Peppol as the core network, and a full roadmap is due on 28 October.

Country reference

- Country: United Kingdom (Wave 1 expansion country)
- Authorities: HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC); Department for Business and Trade
- Topic: Mandatory electronic invoicing for VAT invoices
- Key date: Roadmap due at the Budget on 28 October 2026; mandate from April 2029
- Law: Value Added Tax Act 1994, with implementing legislation to follow

What has been decided

- At Budget 2025 the government announced that e-invoicing will be mandatory for all VAT invoices from 2029. HMRC's 2026 roadmap update gives the date as April 2029.
- The consultation response of 26 November 2025 drew on 342 responses.
- Scope: VAT invoices, which are typically issued for business-to-business and business-to-government transactions. Sales to consumers are not covered.
- Model: decentralised. Businesses exchange invoices through service providers, not through a central government platform.
- Real-time reporting: not introduced with the 2029 mandate. The government will consider it once e-invoicing is well established.

What happened in 2026

- January: HMRC began detailed design work with industry.
- 23 June: the tax update confirmed Peppol as the core interoperability network.
- 2 July: HMRC's roadmap update said it is working with the Department for Business and Trade to publish an e-invoicing roadmap at Budget 2026, with milestones to April 2029.
- 23 June, also: HMRC said it is exploring the use of supplementary VAT data that businesses already hold in digital accounting systems.

What is not yet known

- Whether the mandate starts for all businesses on one date or in phases.
- The invoice data standard and the rules for service providers.
- Penalties, and how the rules apply to overseas businesses registered for UK VAT.

What to do now

- Read the roadmap on 28 October and note the first milestone that applies to you.
- Ask your accounting or ERP vendor whether the product can send and receive Peppol invoices.
- Clean customer and supplier master data, especially VAT numbers and addresses.
- If the group already runs e-invoicing elsewhere, reuse that data model.

Our take

The United Kingdom is late to e-invoicing but has chosen the same Peppol base as Singapore, and the same direction as the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia. A group present in several of these markets gains most by building one invoice data standard now and adapting it per country.

Sources

- HMRC: Promoting electronic invoicing, consultation response (26 November 2025)
- HMRC: Tax update 2026, simplification, modernisation and fairness (23 June 2026)
- HMRC Transformation Roadmap: update 2026
- HM Treasury: Budget date confirmed (31 July 2026)

Important. This summary is for general information and is not tax, legal or financial advice. It is based on public UK government publications and may be incomplete or out of date. The official legislation and guidance prevail; check the official text before acting.

ABOUT THE FINANCE INTELLECT

A Finance Knowledge & Resource Platform by Neocor Consultancy. Weekly tax and finance insights, Excel templates, calculators and a learning hub for finance leaders and professionals.

Platform: thefinanceintellect.com | **Owner:** neocorconsultancy.com