

# MTD Compliance Portal Group Entities Guide

Version 4.3



# Contents

| 1.  | Introduction  | 3  |
|-----|---|----|
|     | About this Guide  | 3  |
|     | Technical Support                                       | 3  |
| 2.  | What is HMRC's definition of a VAT Group                | 4  |
|     | VAT group registration                                  | 4  |
|     | How group registration works                            | 4  |
|     | What are the essential features of group registration?  | 4  |
|     | Other features of group registration                    | 4  |
| 3.  | What is the Group entity feature?                       | 5  |
| 4.  | Managing Group entities                                 | 6  |
|     | Add a new group representative entity                   | 6  |
|     | Edit a group  | 7  |
|     | Move a group entity                                     | 8  |
|     | Delete a group entity                                   | 8  |
|     | Change the Group's representative member                | 8  |
| 5.  | Authorise your Group representative entity              | 9  |
| 6.  | The Group entity dashboard                              | 10 |
| 7.  | Managing group settings                                 | 11 |
| 8.  | Managing group members                                  | 12 |
|     | Add a group member                                      | 12 |
|     | Edit a group member                                     | 13 |
|     | Delete a group member                                   | 14 |
| 9.  | Preparing the Group's member/representative VAT Returns | 15 |
|     | Consolidating your Group's VAT Return                   | 17 |
| 10. | Finalising the group's VAT Return                       | 18 |
| 11. | Submitting the group's VAT Return                       | 19 |
| 12  | Printing your receipt                                   | 20 |

# 1. Introduction

#### About this Guide

This guide explains how to how to create and manage a group entity on the MTD Compliance Portal and includes:

- Add, edit, move, and delete a group entity
- Add, edit, and delete group members
- Authorise a group entity
- Prepare group member VAT Returns
- Consolidate group member VAT Returns
- Finalise and submit the consolidated group VAT Return to HMRC

# **Technical Support**

We provide a technical support help desk for users requiring assistance. The help desk can be contacted by telephone between the hours of 9.00 am and 5.30 pm, Monday to Friday excluding public holidays.

| If you require help or further information, please contact the support team on: |                          |                               |  |  |
|---|--------------------------|-------------------------------|--|--|
| UK:   | Tel: +44(0) 1784 777 666 | Email: support@taxsystems.com |  |  |
| Ireland:  | Tel: +353 (0) 1661 9976  | Email: support@taxsystems.ie  |  |  |

# 2. What is HMRC's definition of a VAT Group

The following information has been taken from HMRC's guidance on <u>Group and divisional</u> registration (VAT Notice 7000/2), last updated on 26<sup>th</sup> November 2019.

#### VAT group registration

VAT grouping is a facilitation measure by which 2 or more eligible persons can be treated as a single taxable person for VAT purposes. Eligible persons are bodies corporate, individuals, partnerships and Scottish partnerships, provided that certain conditions are satisfied (see section 2.2). Bodies corporate includes companies of all types (see section 10) and limited liability partnerships.

#### How group registration works

A group of eligible persons may apply to be treated as a single taxable person for VAT purposes. The registration is made in the name of the representative member, who is responsible for completing and rendering the single return on behalf of the group.

Whilst the representative member is responsible for paying the VAT or receiving any repayment due, all the eligible persons are jointly and severally liable for any VAT debts. Supplies between group members are normally disregarded for VAT (see <u>section 7</u> for details of when supplies are not disregarded).

#### What are the essential features of group registration?

- The representative member accounts for any tax due on supplies made by the group to third parties outside the group – this is particularly helpful if your accounting is centralised
- As the group is treated as a single taxable person, you do not normally account for VAT on goods or services supplied between group members
- You submit a single VAT Return for the whole group

#### Other features of group registration

- You will need to make sure that the representative member has all the necessary information to submit a VAT Return for the group by the due date.
- All members of the group are jointly and severally liable for the tax due from the representative member.
- The partial exemption de minimis limits apply to the group as a whole and not the members individually see Partial exemption (VAT Notice 706).
- Partially exempt groups can adopt practical or regulatory structures within the UK
  without incurring additional VAT costs for example, setting up a service company that
  employs all staff, and operates the procurement, finance, human resources and other
  functions on behalf of all the companies in the VAT group.
- The limit for voluntary disclosures of errors on past returns also applies to the group as a whole see paragraph 5.10.
- The cash accounting limits apply to the group as a whole and not to the members individually.

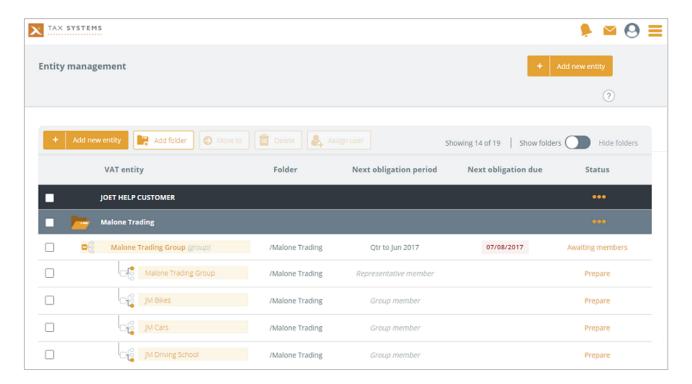
- The payment on account limits will apply to the group as a whole and not to the members individually see paragraph 5.9.
- The general rules on the personal use of business assets apply equally to VAT group registrations. See <u>VAT Guide (VAT Notice 700/2)</u> for further information.
- If you have group members with fixed establishments in more than one location, that make supplies to other members of the VAT group, you may need to make a calculation in connection with section 43(2A) of the VAT Act 1994 see section 7.
- If you have establishments (for example branches or head offices) overseas then you will need to be aware of the Skandia judgment and how it impacts on intra-group supplies see section 8.

# 3. What is the Group entity feature?

The Group entity feature allows you to set up a Group entity that includes a Group representative and a number of Group members. The individual VAT Returns for the group representative and each group member can then be prepared. Once completed, these can be consolidated into a single VAT Return that can be submitted to HMRC on behalf of the group.

The Group representative and Group members will be able to calculate and complete their VAT Returns via the MTD Compliance Portal using AlphaVAT or the AlphaBridge template or upload features.

- The Group entity feature is only available to **AlphaVAT customers**.
- In order to create Group entities, you will need to ensure that your business has acquired the necessary **AlphaVAT licences** for Group representatives and members to be created.
- AlphaBridge customers will need to upgrade to AlphaVAT in order to use the Group entity feature.
- It is **not possible** to use the Demo entity feature, to create a Group entity.



## 4. Managing Group entities

To create a new group entity, you must first add the group representative and provide your authorisation for HMRC to interact with the portal on behalf of your group entity. Once this has been done, you will then be able to add the group members. In accordance with HMRC's definition of a VAT Group (see section 2), your group entity must contain at least one group member in addition to the group representative.

As with single entities, you can edit, move and delete your group entity. You can also edit and delete group members from a group entity. The Group entity dashboard (se section 6) allows you to track the progress of your group members, in preparing their individual VAT Returns. These can then be consolidated into a single VAT Return that can be submitted to HMRC on behalf of the group.

Before you begin, you may wish to create a folder for your group entity. If you have user permissions to do this, you can create your folder from the Entity management screen by clicking on the **Add folder** button, typing in the **folder name** and selecting **Save**.

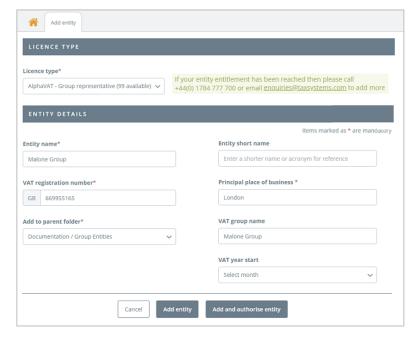
#### Add a new group representative entity

When creating a new group entity, you will first need to add your Group representative and provide the mandatory information. Mandatory fields are marked with an asterisk (\*).

Once you have created your Group representative entity and authorised it, you will then be able to add your group members.

- From the Entity management screen, select **Add new** entity.
- Click on the Licence type drop down list and select AlphaVAT – Group representative.
- 3. Type in the **Entity name**.
- 4. Type in the Entity's 9-digiit **VAT Registration number**.

Care should be taken when typing in the VRN, since this cannot be changed once the entity has been created. If you make a mistake, you will need to delete the entity and create it again.



- 5. Select the **folder** that you would like your entity to reside in.
- 6. Type in the **Principal place of business** (e.g. London).
- 7. You may also add a short name for the entity, change the VAT Group name (which defaults to your entity's name) and you can select the month that the VAT year starts. These fields are not mandatory and can be left blank.

- 8. You can now choose the following:
  - **Add entity**: This will add your new entity into the portal and take you back to the Entity management screen. You will then be a authorise it at a later time.
  - **Add and authorise entity**: This will add your entity to the portal and automatically initiate the authorisation process (see section 8).
  - **Cancel**: This will cancel the creation of the Group entity.

#### Edit a group

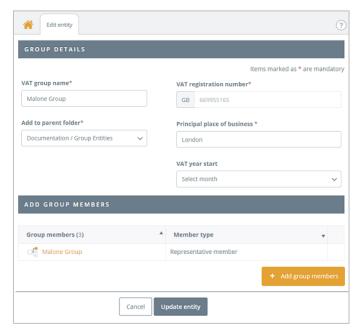
From the Entity management screen, click on your **Group entity name** and the Group entity dashboard will be displayed.

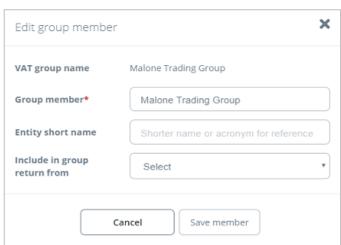
- 1. Click on **Edit entity**, located in the top right-hand corner of the screen and the *Edit entity* dialog will appear.
- 2. You can change the VAT group name, the Principal place of business and select/change the month that your Group's VAT year starts. If you wish to move your entity to a different folder location, you do this by selecting the folder from the drop-down list.

You **cannot change the VAT registration number**. If this is incorrect, you will need to delete the group and create it again.



A pop-up will appear allowing you to change the group member's name and add/change their short name. Once you have made your changes click on **Save member**.



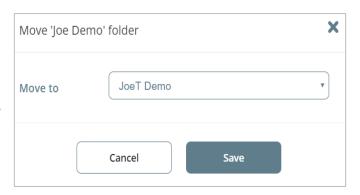


- 4. You can add additional group members, by clicking on the **Add group members** button (see section 7).
- 5. Once all of your changes have been made click on **Update entity**.

#### Move a group entity

There are two ways to move a group entity. You can move an entity by editing the entity, selecting a different folder for the entity to reside in and saving your changes. Or you can use the Move feature on the Entity management screen, as follows:

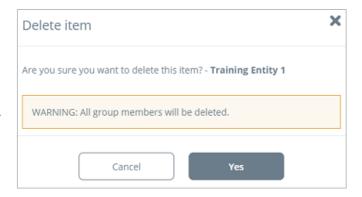
- 1. From the Entity management screen, locate the group entity you want to move and check the **tick box** to the left of the group entity's name.
- 2. Click on the **Move to** button.
- The Move folder dialog box will appear allowing you to select the folder you want to move your entity into, from the drop-down list. Choose your folder.
- 4. Click on **Save** to move your entity or you can **Cancel** the move request.



#### Delete a group entity

From the Entity management screen:

- Locate the group entity that you want to delete and check the **tick box** to the left of the group entity's name.
- 2. Click on the **Delete** button.
- The Delete item dialog box will appear giving you the option to delete the group entity by selecting Yes or you can Cancel the delete request.



**IMPORTANT:** When you delete a group entity, all of the group members will also be deleted.

### Change the Group's representative member

If the Groups representative member changes, you will need to delete your current group entity on the portal and create a new group with the new Representative member's details. You will then need to register your authorisation with HMRC and create the additional Group members required.

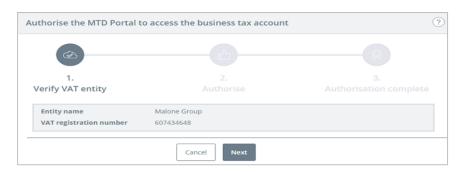
For more information on changes in the group's circumstances, see HMRC's guidance on <u>Group and divisional registration (VAT Notice 700/2) section 6</u>.

# 5. Authorise your Group representative entity

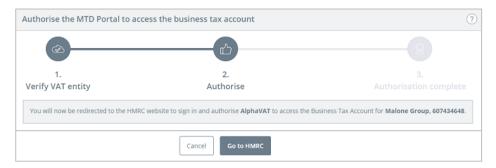
If you are in the process of adding your Group representative entity, select **Add and authorise entity**. If you have previously chosen to add the entity without authorising it, click on the **group entity** from the Entity management screen and select **Authorise**.

**IMPORTANT:** You will not be able to add members to your group until you have authorised your group entity.

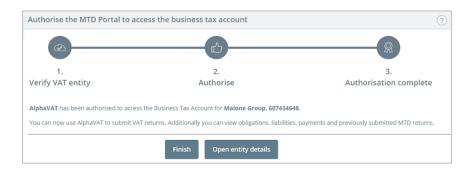
1. The authorisation wizard displays your entity name and VAT registration number. Click on **Next**.



2. Click on the **Go to HMRC** button.



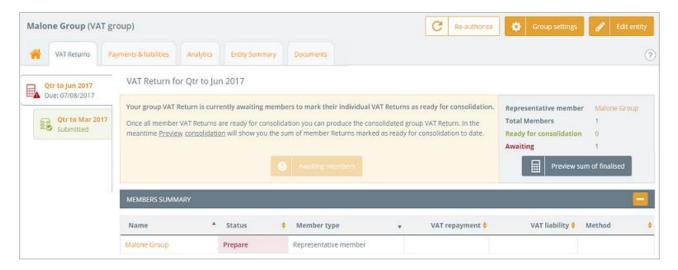
- 3. You will now be taken to the HMRC website. Click on **Continue**.
- 4. You will need to sign in using your **Government Gateway user ID** and **password**.
- 5. To authorise AlphaVAT to interact with HMRC on your behalf, click on **Grant authority**.
- 6. You will now be taken back to MTD Compliance Portal, where you can click **Finish** to go back to the Entity management screen or **Open entity details** to view your entity.



# 6. The Group entity dashboard

To view the Group entity dashboard, click on your **Group entity name** from the Entity management screen. The dashboard allows you to:

- View your group's VAT obligations
- View your group's Payments and liabilities
- View your group's Analytics (charts and tables)
- View your group's Entity summary
- View your group's Documents
- Authorise/Re-authorise your Entity with HMRC
- Manage your group settings
- Edit your group entity's details and add/delete group members
- Edit your group members details
- Prepare individual member's VAT Returns
- Review the status of your group member's VAT Returns
- Preview the member's VAT returns as they are completed, in a consolidated view
- Consolidate the group member's returns into a single VAT Return that can be submitted to HMRC
- Finalise and submit the consolidated group VAT Return.
- View a summary of your submitted VAT Return
- View a breakdown of the submitted VAT Return by group members
- View your submission receipt



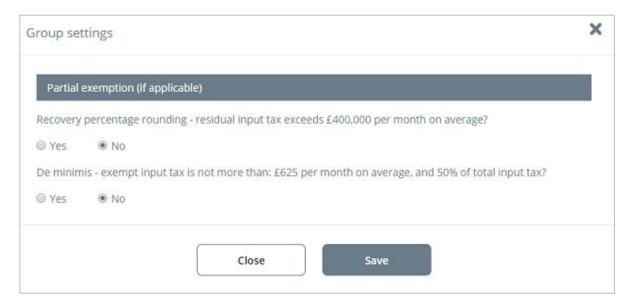
# 7. Managing group settings

Once you have created your group entity using your representative member's details, you will be able to access the **Group settings**, via the Group entity dashboard.

- 1. From the Entity management screen, click on your **group entity name** and the Group entity dashboard will be displayed.
- 2. Click on the **Group settings** button.
- 3. The Group settings dialog box will appear detailing the following options available for **Partial exemption**. The default setting for each of these options is **No**.

If these settings apply to your group entity, you can change the default by clicking on the **Yes** option. The options available are:

- Recovery percentage rounding residual input tax exceeds \$400,000 per month on average?
- De minimis exempt input tax is not more than £625 per month on average, and 50% of the total input tax?



4. Once you have made your selection, click on **Save**.

# 8. Managing group members

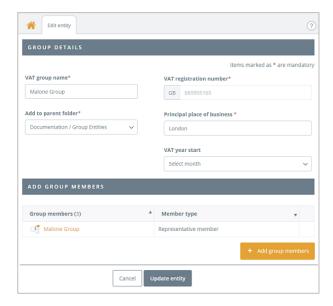
Once you have created your VAT Group with your Group representative. You will need to add the additional group members. New group members can be added at any time and you can delete group members if they are no longer part of the VAT Group.

**Note:** In accordance with HMRC's definition of a VAT Group (see section 2), you **must create at least one group member** in addition to the Group representative.

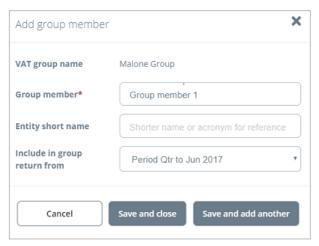
#### Add a group member

From the Entity management screen, click on your **group entity name** and the Group entity dashboard will be displayed.

- 1. Click on **Edit entity**, located in the top right-hand corner of the screen.
- 2. Click on the **Add group members** button (located in the bottom right-hand corner).



- 3. A pop up will appear confirming the VAT group name. Type in the **Group member's name** (mandatory).
- 4. You can add a **short name** for the Group member and you can select the obligation period that you would like the Group member's VAT Return to be included in, from the **drop-down list**.
- 5. You can now select either **Save and close** or if you wish to add another Group
  member you can choose **Save and add another**.

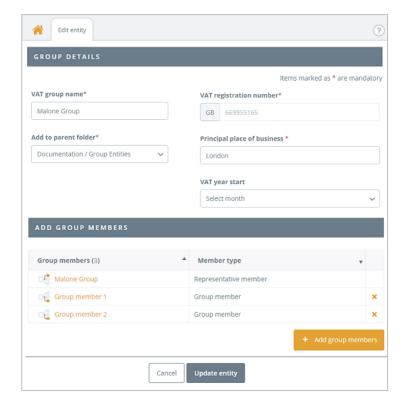


6. Once you have finished adding your Group members, the pop up will close and you will be taken back to the Edit entity screen. Click on **Update entity**. This will take you back to the Entity management screen.

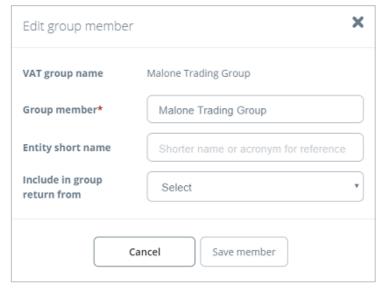
#### Edit a group member

From the Entity management screen, click on your **group entity name** and the Group entity dashboard will be displayed.

- 1. Click on **Edit entity**, located in the top right-hand corner of the screen.
- 2. Under the Add group members section, click on the **group** member you would like to edit.



- 3. The Edit group member dialog will appear allowing you to change the group member's name, change or add a short name and choose when the group member should be included in the group's VAT return from the drop-down list.
- 4. Once you have made your changes, click on **Save member**.

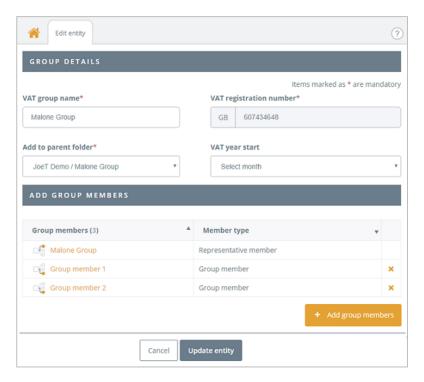


5. The dialog box will close and you will be taken back to the Edit entity screen. Click on **Update entity** to apply your changes. This will take you back to the Entity management screen.

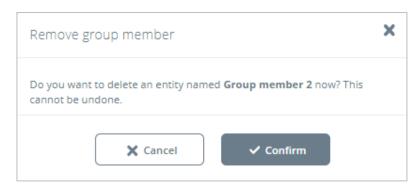
#### Delete a group member

From the Entity management screen, click on your **group entity name** and the Group entity dashboard will be displayed.

- 1. Click on **Edit entity**, located in the top right-hand corner of the screen.
- 2. Under the Add group members section, click on the **orange X** to the right of the group member name that you would like to delete.



3. The Remove group member dialog box will appear, giving you the option to delete the group member by selecting **Confirm** or you can **Cancel** the delete request.

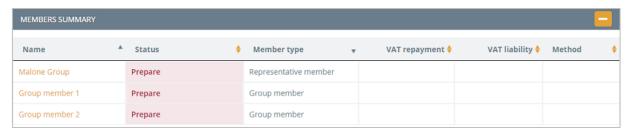


4. The dialog box will close and you will be taken back to the Edit entity screen. Click on **Update entity** to apply your changes. This will take you back to the Entity management screen.

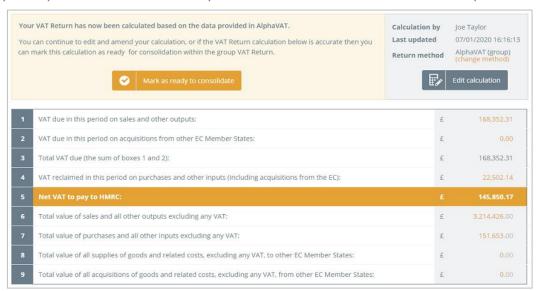
# 9. Preparing the Group's member/representative VAT Returns

When you are ready to start preparing the Group's member or representative VAT Returns, click on the **Group entity** name from the Entity management screen.

This will take you to the Group entity dashboard. Under the **Members Summary** section, you will see the Group Representative member along with all of the Group members. The status column will tell you what stage each of the VAT Returns are at.



- 1. To prepare a VAT Return, click on the **Group member's name** or the **Representative member's name** (as appropriate).
- 2. This will take you to their Entity details screen. From here you can choose to prepare the VAT Return using AlphaVAT or the AlphaBridge template or upload feature. Select the **method** you wish to use. Please refer to the following help sections for more information on preparing your VAT Returns.
  - AlphaVAT
  - AlphaBridge
  - User Guides
- 3. Once you have prepared your VAT Return you will be taken back to the Entity details screen where you can view a summary of your VAT Return. You will need to click on the **Mark as ready to consolidate** button, so that the Group entity details are updated to say that your VAT Return is ready to be consolidated into the main Group VAT Return.



4. This will display a **ready stamp**, confirming that your VAT Return for this entity is ready to be consolidated into the final Group VAT Return.



- 5. If you need to amend your VAT Return, you can do this by selecting the **Edit calculation** button (if you prepared your VAT Return using AlphaVAT) or by amending your AlphaBridge template and **re-uploading** it to the portal.
  - Amending your VAT Return using either method will override the Ready for consolidation status and you will be required to select **Mark as ready to consolidate** again.
- 6. On the Group entity dashboard, the members summary will be updated to show that the VAT Return for your Group member/representative member is now ready for consolidation. This summary will also show the method used to generate the VAT Return.



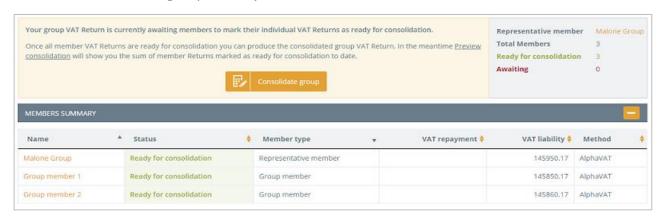
7. This process should be completed for all of the other members of the group.

#### Consolidating your Group's VAT Return

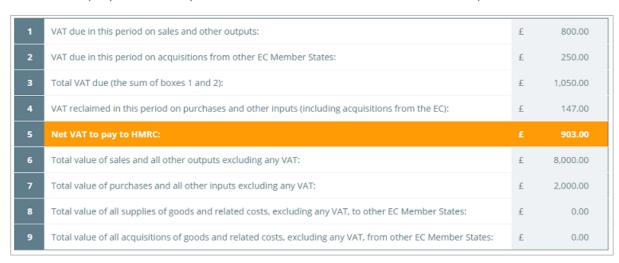
The Representative member will be able to view the Members Summary on the Group entity dashboard to see the progress of the Group member's VAT Returns.

Once all of them have the **Ready for consolidation** status, the **Consolidate group** button will appear on the Dashboard.

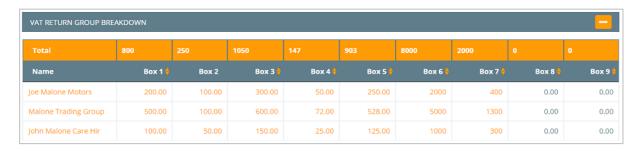
To view your groups consolidated VAT Return, click on the **Preview consolidation** link (just above the Consolidate group button).



- 1. To consolidate your group member VAT Returns, click on the **Consolidate group** button.
- 2. This will display a summary of the combined VAT Return for the Group.



3. Beneath this, will be the VAT Return Group Breakdown table that you can toggle on and off using the **plus or minus** icon on the right-hand side. This table displays the values for each of the 9 boxes that make up your consolidated VAT Return, by group member.



4. If further changes are needed for any of the individual group member VAT Returns, you can edit them by scrolling down to the **Members summary** section and clicking on the relevant **member's name**.

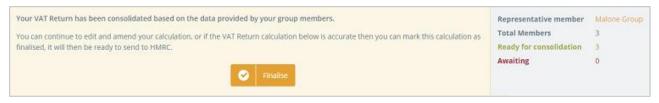


This will put the member's status back into **Preparation** and once the changes have been made, the VAT Return will again need to be marked as **Ready for consolidation**.

You will then be able to consolidate your Group's VAT Return and preview the VAT Return summary along with the group's breakdown table, to ensure that everything is correct.

# 10. Finalising the group's VAT Return

Once you have consolidated your group's VAT Return, the option to **Finalise** your VAT Return appears on the Group entity dashboard.



- 1. We recommend that your review the summary details and the group's breakdown table to ensure that you are happy to proceed. Then click the **Finalise** button.
- 2. You will now be taken to the VAT Return submission screen, where you can again review your group's VAT Return summary and the group's breakdown table, before you submit your VAT Return.



- 3. If further changes need to be made, select the **Undo finalise** button.
- 4. Once the changes have been made and marked as **Ready to consolidate**, you can then consolidate the updated Group VAT Return and mark it as **Finalised**. This will take you to the submission screen.

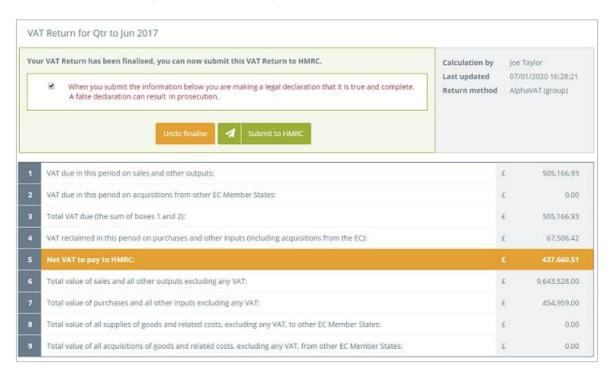
# 11. Submitting the group's VAT Return

Once your group's VAT Return has been finalised, you will be taken to the VAT Return submission screen.

When you have reviewed your group's VAT Return and you are ready to submit it to HMRC, you will need to complete the **Legal declaration**.

The legal declaration is **required by HMRC**, so thay have a record stating that the information you have provided is true and complete. It should be noted that a false declaration can result in prosecution.

1. In order to submit your VAT Return, you must tick the **declaration box**.



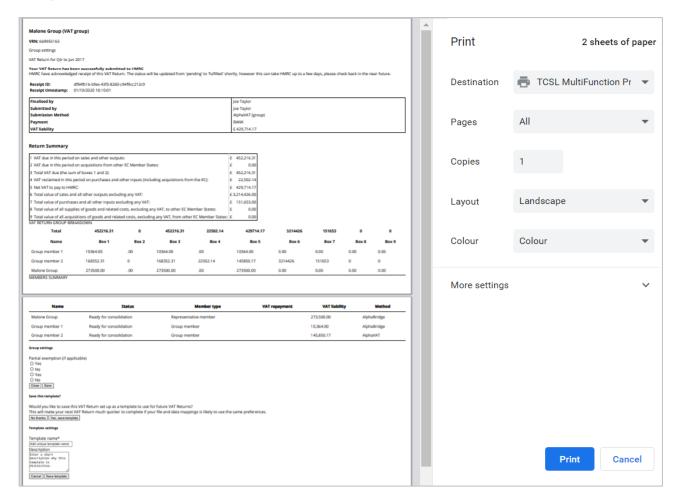
- 2. You will then be able to select the **Submit to HMRC** button.
- 3. Once your group's VAT Return has been submitted, you will be presented with a receipt confirming that your submission has been sucessful.



**Note:** When you submit your VAT Return you will be given a "pending" status. This will then be updated to a "Fulfilled" status, however it can take several days for HMRC to update the status from pending to fulfilled.

# 12. Printing your receipt

If you would like to print the receipt, click on the **Print receipt** button displayed in your receipt box. This will launch your browser's print option panel, allowing you to print out the receipt.





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