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IRIS Payroll Business with the IRIS AE Suite™ help Mathie-Morton Solicitors easily manage payroll & auto enrolment for their 6 staff

Customer Profile

Mathie-Morton Solicitors are a law firm based in Ayr, Scotland.

Stephanie Milne has been at Mathie-Morton for over 11 years, and in her time has overseen a range of changes in the company's payroll, including RTI and auto enrolment.

Stephanie manages the payroll for company's 6 employees on a monthly basis.

Business Challenge

Stephanie believes that one of the biggest challenge the company has faced in recent times is the changes to workplace pensions, via auto enrolment.

Solutions Used

IRIS Payroll Business

IRIS AE Suite™

This months' case study comes from Stephanie Milne over at Mathie-Morton Solicitors, based in Ayr, Scotland. We spoke with Stephanie to get a better understanding of how IRIS Payroll Business, together with the IRIS AE Suite™, helps the business manage their monthly payroll and auto enrolment responsibilities for their 6 staff.

Mathie-Morton have always used IRIS for their payroll, beginning with our PAYE-Master software, and then upgrading to IRIS Payroll Business to "take advantage of the small business functionality."

IRIS Payroll Business

Mathie-Morton run their payroll using IRIS Payroll Business, a simple-to-use, RTI-compliant and auto enrolment-ready payroll software, specifically designed for smaller businesses.

Stephanie told us that "I find it really straightforward to use, I could count on one hand the amount of times I've had to contact your Support Department, the 'Help' tab built into the software is really good and clears up most questions I may have straight away. The software does what I need it to do when running payroll."

Key Points

Straightforward payroll

IRIS Payroll Business is specifically designed for small and medium-sized businesses and their requirements

Help & Support

Mathie-Morton had great things to say about our Support Department, explaining that they get through quickly and have their query solved on the rare occasions they need to call us.

Stephanie also made sure she was trained-up on auto enrolment legislation before their stating date, taking advantage or our free monthly webinars and training options.

Time-saving & Efficiency

Mathie-Morton save 20 minutes each time they run their payroll for their 6 employees.

The challenge of auto enrolment

Mathie-Morton staged for auto enrolment in January 2016 and began their preparations for auto enrolment around 6 months before their staging date. Stephanie explained to us that "auto enrolment presented a challenge, and understanding the legislation took a while. We coped well with the changes RTI brought, but auto enrolment took us a while longer."

We asked Stephanie about how she prepared for auto enrolment, "I kept up-to-date with the legislation by checking the IRIS website; and I also registered for some webinars which helped me understand the legislation better", she told us.

"The IRIS AE Suite™ helps me manage the legislation and assesses our 6 employees automatically each payroll run, the information then goes to our chosen pension provider, NEST. It doesn't add any additional time so the complete payroll and auto enrolment processing only takes about 20 minutes to complete."

Understanding the legislation is key, "It was a bit confusing at first, I thought it was complicated but over time I've built-up an understanding. I sat on some IRIS webinars which helped explain the legislation more clearly. I think as a smaller employer the changes for auto enrolment have been very positive. Employees are now saving into a pension and we haven't had anyone opting out of auto enrolment. We've also had good support from the bosses about implementing a company pension."

Help & Support options

Our product support is something Stephanie has had great experiences with in the past, telling us that "I never really have to call Support, as the 'Help' tab in the software is a great help for any questions that I may have. Whenever I have called I've had no trouble getting through to speak to someone and always had my query solved easily." This is fantastic feedback to hear.

How to approach auto enrolment: software or manually?

Over the next 12 months, The Pensions Regulator estimate that over 570,000 small businesses will stage for auto enrolment.

We think that it's important for smaller companies to understand just how time consuming a manual approach to auto enrolment can be.

Stephanie told us that "we always intended to use payroll software, it's much easier to manage and helps us stay compliant". The Government and The Pensions Regulator both recommend using payroll software to manage auto enrolment.

Declaration of Compliance

So is Stephanie worried about submitting the mandatory Declaration of Compliance, which must be completed within 5 months of staging? "Not at all. I know I am compliant with the legislation and the IRIS AE Suite™ will produce a report with all the payroll information required by The Pensions Regulator"

Recommendations

The million-dollar questions. We asked Stephanie if, overall, she would recommend IRIS, and what recommendations she had for other smaller businesses. "Yes, it's very easy to use payroll software to use and really does help me manage the company's auto enrolment responsibilities. Also, the Support options are very helpful and whenever I need to call IRIS I find that I get through quickly and the people are friendly and able to answer my questions.

"My recommendation for other businesses is that understanding the legislation is key as it can seem complicated and confusing at first, get trained and take advantage of as much help as possible to give yourself a greater chance of compliance."