GS517 – Configuring UK MTD VAT Submission in D365FSCM - End-to-End Sandbox Setup and Validation Guide

Making Tax Digital (MTD) is a UK government initiative requiring VAT-registered businesses to keep digital records and submit VAT returns using compatible software. For businesses using **Dynamics 365 Finance & Supply Chain**, this means configuring a seamless, auditable integration with **HMRC's MTD gateway**.

In this article, we'll guide you step by step through setting up the full MTD VAT submission process in a **sandbox (test) environment**. This includes configuring electronic messaging, establishing the government connection, and simulating end-to-end VAT returns without writing a single line of code.

You'll learn how to:

- Register and authenticate your HMRC sandbox application
- Configure application parameters in Dynamics 365
- Set up the **Electronic Messaging** framework for VAT returns
- Trigger test submissions and interpret HMRC responses
- Validate your configuration using real examples and logs

Whether you're a consultant preparing a client for MTD compliance or a finance team testing your VAT return automation, this guide gives you a proven, audit-ready approach to UK MTD VAT submissions.

Step 1: Import ER Configurations from Dataverse

1. Go to Workspaces > Globalisation Studio > Repositories > Microsoft, select Dataverse, and import the following 13 ER configurations files one by one, in order:

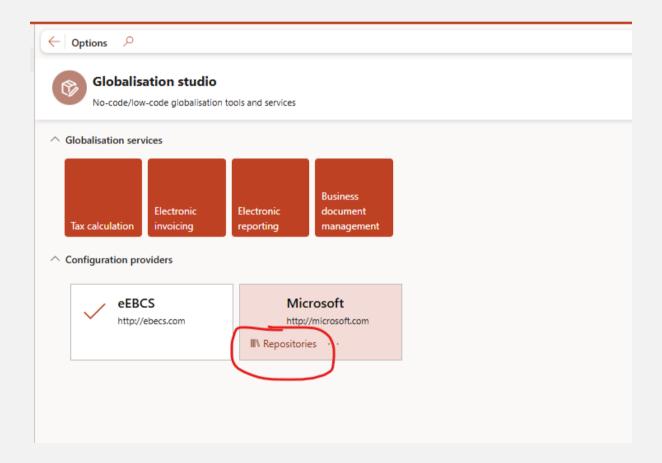
Sr No.	Name	Config Type	Functional Purpose
1	Tax declaration model	Model	Provides a standardized data structure for VAT reporting. Acts as a central schema to feed both Excel (human-readable) and JSON (machine-readable) output formats.
2	Tax declaration model mapping	Model mapping	Maps D365 transactional tax data (e.g., VAT amounts, tax direction, document type) to the tax

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Sr No.	Name	Config Type	Functional Purpose
			declaration model. This is foundational for downstream reporting.
3	VAT Declaration JSON (UK)	Format (export)	Generates the final VAT Return in HMRC's required JSON format . This is the official electronic submission file sent via HMRC MTD APIs.
4	VAT Declaration Excel (UK)	Format (export)	Produces the VAT 100 return in Excel format, mimicking the traditional report. Used internally by accountants to review and validate VAT return data before submission.
5	MTD VAT interoperation (UK)	Format (export)	Generates dynamic REST API URLs used to call HMRC endpoints, such as CreateTestUser, Obligations, SubmitReturn, based on runtime data.
6	MTD VAT importing model mapping (UK)	Model mapping	Maps data from HMRC's obligations JSON response to internal data structures, enabling the import of obligation details into Electronic Messages.
7	MTD VAT obligations importing JSON (UK)	Format (import)	Parses HMRC's JSON response containing open or fulfilled VAT obligations , and creates or updates records in the Electronic Messaging framework accordingly.
8	Electronic Messages framework model	Model	Core ER model for message orchestration , used to track end-to-end VAT return workflows: message creation, data collection, reporting, submission, and responses.
9	MTD VAT model mapping	Model mapping	Connects all MTD-related import/export formats to the Electronic Messages framework and tax declaration model. Acts as the glue for the MTD pipeline.
10	MTD VAT return response importing JSON (UK)	Format (import)	Parses the HMRC response after submission (e.g., success, failure) and logs it in D365 for compliance, tracking, and audit readiness.
11	MTD VAT web request headers format (UK)	Format (export)	Dynamically builds HTTP headers such as Gov-Test-Scenario, Authorization, Content-Type—critical for authenticated calls to HMRC endpoints.

Sr No.	Name	Config Type	Functional Purpose
12	MTD VAT authorization format (UK)	Format (export)	Creates OAuth 2.0 authorization request headers needed to exchange the authorization code for an access token during login with HMRC's OAuth server.
13	MTD VAT import token format (UK)	Format (import)	Parses the access token JSON from HMRC and saves the token securely in D365. This token is then used in all subsequent API calls during the session.



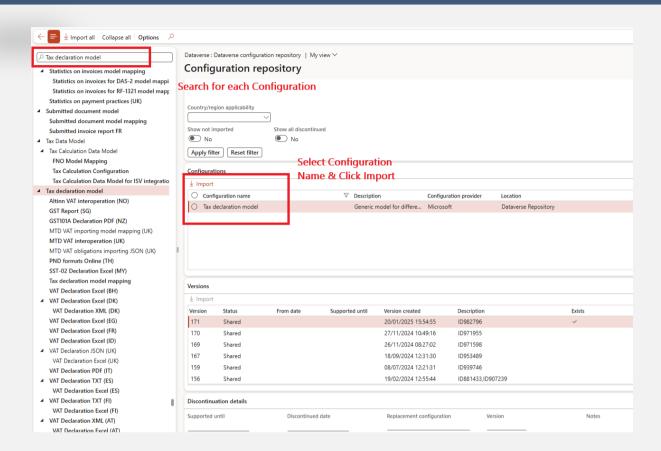
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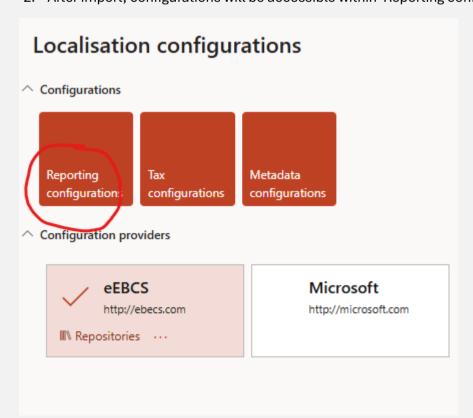


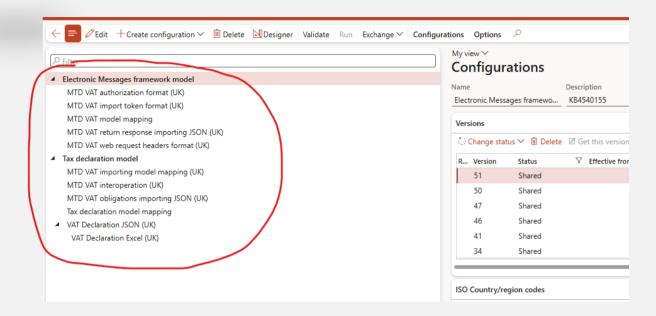
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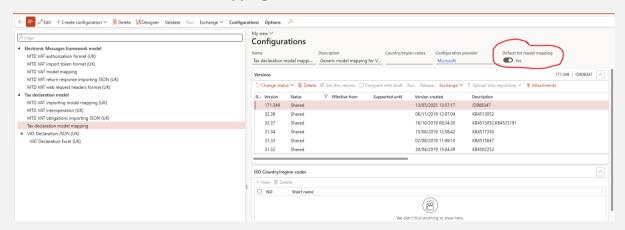


2. After import, configurations will be accessible within 'Reporting configuration'.

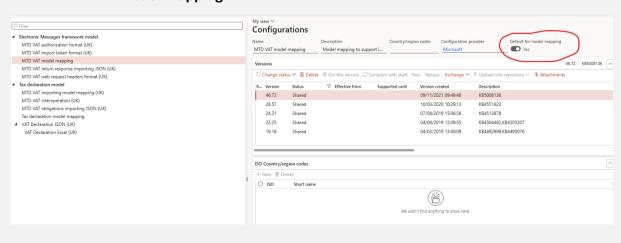




- 3. Set the following default model mappings after import:
 - Tax declaration model mapping



MTD VAT model mapping

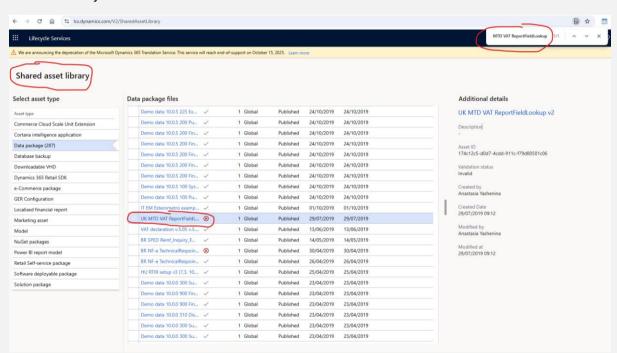


Step 2: Configure Application Specific Parameters

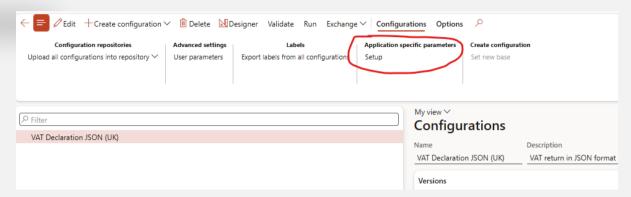
The Application Specific Parameters setup in UK MTD VAT ensures that each transaction type sales, purchases, credits, exemptions, or reverse charges—is correctly classified into VAT direction (e.g., payable, receivable) based on predefined conditions. By importing the ReportFieldLookup XML file, this classification logic is applied to both the JSON format (for HMRC submission) and Excel format (for internal review), ensuring consistency across reports. It enables automatic population of HMRC MTD boxes and supports audit readiness, making the VAT return process accurate, compliant, and efficient without custom coding.

JSON Format Parameters

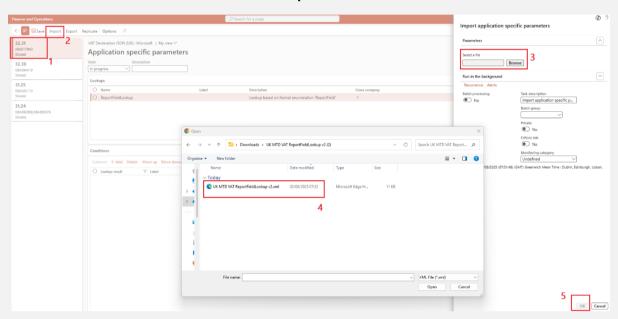
1. Download the UK MTD VAT ReportFieldLookup v2.xml from the LCS Shared Asset Library.



2. Open Electronic Reporting > VAT Declaration JSON (UK) > Application specific parameters > Setup

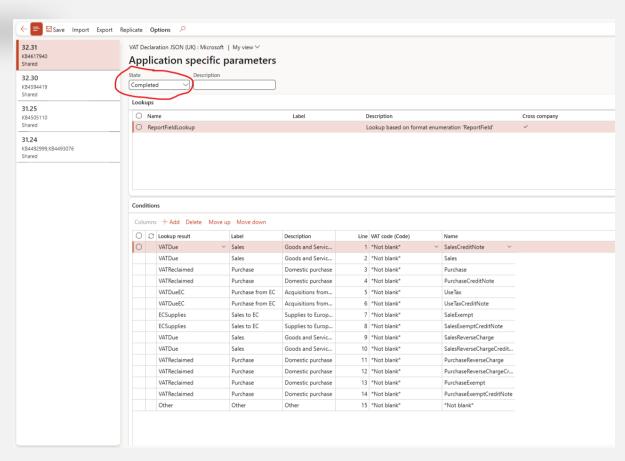


3. Select the correct version and click Import



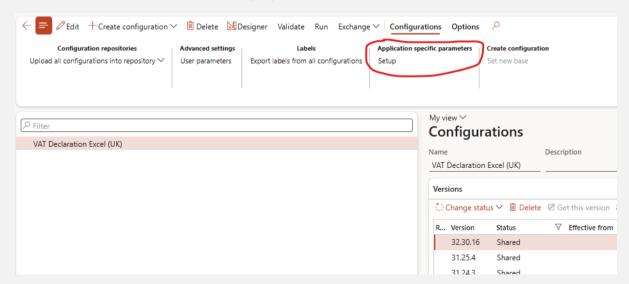
4. After import, set State to Completed

Conditions are now imported

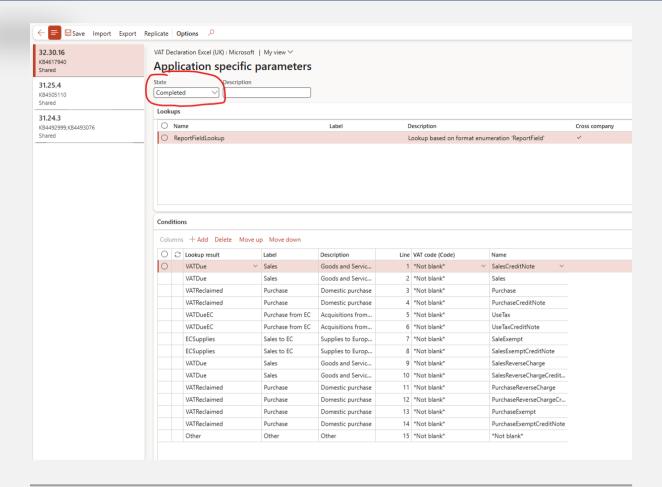


Excel Format Parameters

- 1. We need to import same conditions for Excel format parameters too
- 2. Open VAT Declaration Excel (UK) > Application specific parameters > Setup

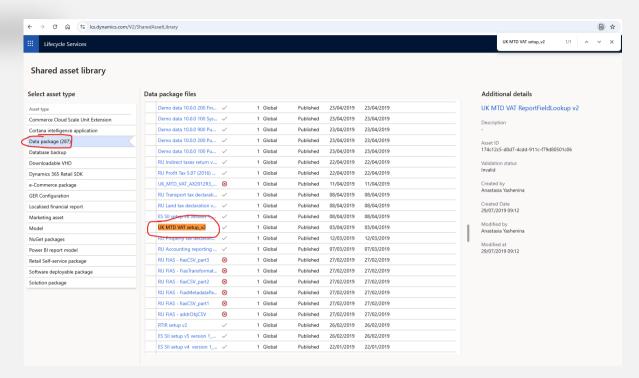


- 3. Select the correct version and click Import
- 4. Set State to Completed

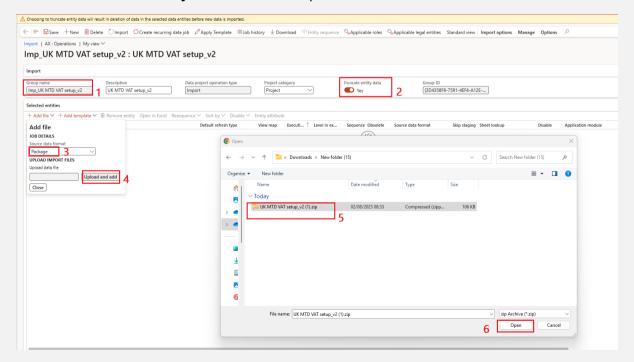


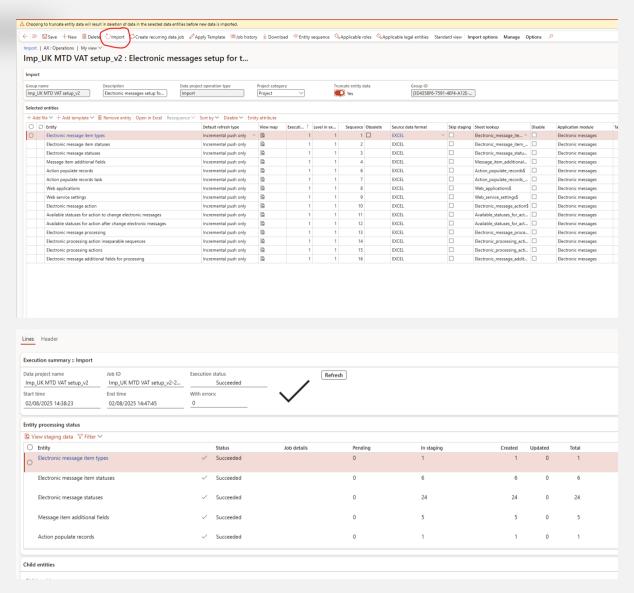
Step 3: Import Data Entities (Electronic Messaging Setup)

- Preload all the required MTD configuration records—such as electronic message
 processing actions, additional fields, and web service settings—into your Dynamics 365
 Finance environment using a standardized data package. This ensures a consistent,
 error-free setup of the UK MTD VAT framework without manual data entry. It lays the
 foundation for interoperability with HMRC by importing preconfigured message
 structures and tax automation logic critical for VAT obligation retrieval and submission.
 Refreshing and synchronizing mappings ensures compatibility with your current
 environment schema.
- Download the UK MTD VAT setup_v2.zip data package from LCS > Shared Assets Library.



- 2. Go to **Data Management > Create Import project** and select the package.
- 3. Modify target mapping → Generate mapping from scratch
- 4. Set Truncate entity data to Yes and import.





Note: Import may need to be run twice for complete success.

Step 4: Configure General Ledger Parameters

Number Sequences

Number sequences is to define unique identifiers for electronic messages and their individual items within the MTD VAT processing framework. These number sequences ensure traceability, proper logging, and system consistency during message creation and tracking. Since each VAT return and obligation includes multiple messages and line items, distinct sequencing is required. Note that continuous number sequences are not supported, ensuring flexibility and reducing conflicts during message generation and reprocessing.

Configure under Tax > Setup > General ledger parameters > Number sequences tab:

Message

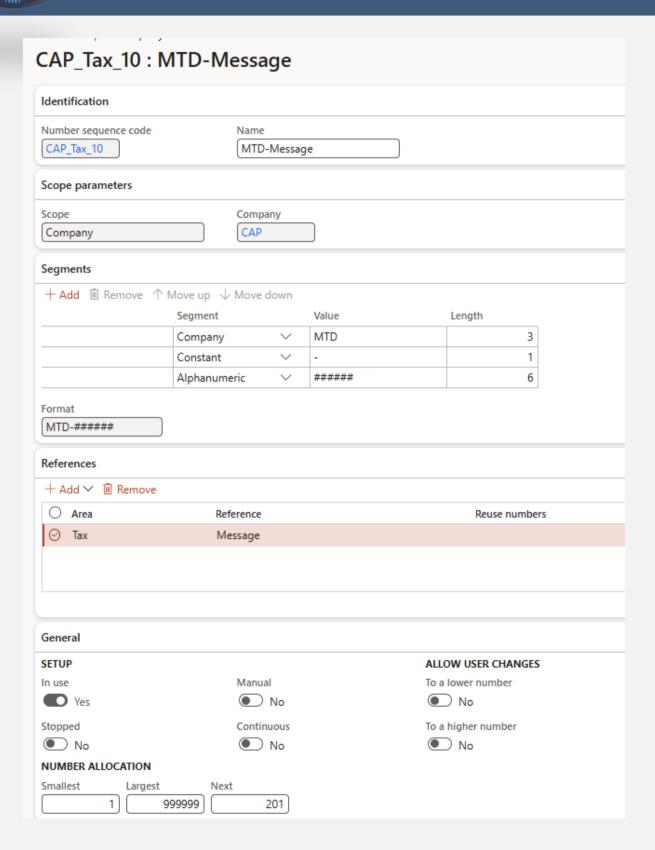
• Message item

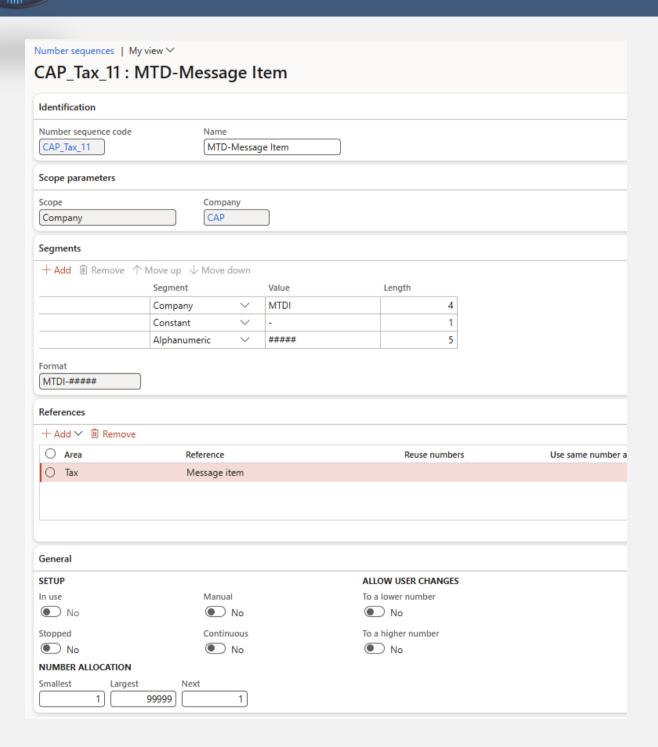
My view ✓		
_		

General ledger parameters

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Ledger	Set	up number sequence	es for General le	dger documents and	tasks
VAT	0	Reference	Number sequence	Description usea wnen posting	,
Withholding tax		Temporary voucher number	Gene_14CAP	Number sequence used temporarily on journal	
Stock dimensions Reverse charge		Rule	Gene_22CAP	Unique key for allocation rules. The key	
Number sequences		Basis rule	Gene_24CAP	Unique key for allocation basis rules.	
Batch transfer rules		Elimination rule		Unique key for elimination rules. The	
Chart of accounts and dimensions		General journal transfer	Gene_16CAP	Unique key for generating general ledger entries	
Standard Audit File for Tax (SAF-		Advanced ledger entry		Unique key for advanced ledger entries	
T) Ledger settlements		Advanced ledger entry vo		Unique key for advanced ledger entry	
Financial tags		Upload journal number		Upload journal number	
		Subledger journal entry	Gene_18CAP	Ledger - journal batch number.	
		VAT payment	Tax_2CAP	Unique key for vouchers, used when posting VAT	
		Withholding tax payment		Unique key for vouchers, used when posting VAT	
		Tax communication ID		Unique key for identification of tax	
	_	Annual sales list ID		Identification of the Belgian annual sales list.	
		Message	CAP_Tax_10	Unique key for message	
	/	Message item	CAP_Tax_11	Unique key for message item	
		Ledger settlements		Unique key for vouchers, aused when posting	







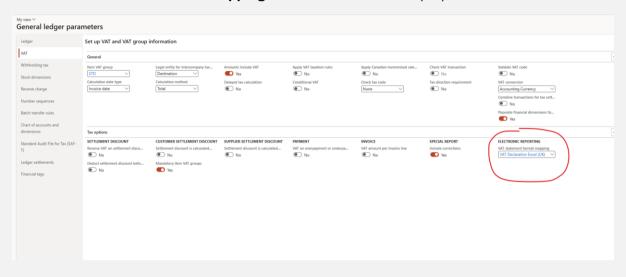
Excel VAT Report

VAT statement format mapping is to allow Dynamics 365 Finance to generate the VAT 100 report in **Excel format** using Electronic Reporting (ER), instead of the default SSRS version. By linking the **VAT Declaration Excel (UK)** format in General ledger parameters, users can produce a more user-friendly and auditable Excel version of the VAT return. This mapping is critical for

environments using MTD, but it needs to be re-established after database refreshes, especially when moving from UAT to PROD, as ER links to Excel files can break during environment copies.

Go to Tax > Setup > General ledger parameters > Sales tax tab, and select:

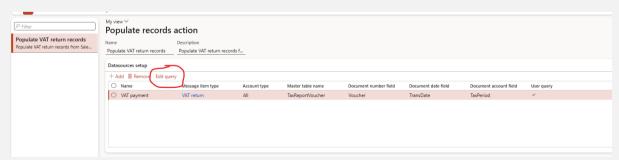
• VAT statement format mapping → VAT Declaration Excel (UK)



✓ Step 5: Define Sales Tax Settlement Periods

Defining Sales tax settlement periods in the **Populate VAT return records** action is to ensure that only the relevant VAT transactions from a specific settlement period are collected and reported to HMRC for MTD. Without this filter, Dynamics 365 would include **all** tax transactions from the legal entity, risking incorrect VAT returns. By setting the settlement period in the query of the data source setup, the system accurately isolates and populates transactions only for the defined reporting period, ensuring compliance and data integrity during VAT return generation.

1. Go to Tax > Setup > Electronic messages > Populate records actions



2. For action **Populate VAT return records**, define the applicable **Sales tax settlement period**



Step 6: Assign Security Roles

Setting up security roles for Electronic messages processing is to control who can access and operate UK MTD VAT submissions in both sandbox and production environments. By assigning specific roles (e.g., Tax Accountant) to each processing definition (e.g., UK MTD VAT TEST or UK MTD VAT returns), you ensure only authorized users can initiate, generate, or submit VAT returns. Without assigning roles, only system administrators can access these processes, which can restrict operational flexibility and delay reporting. This setup aligns with security best practices and supports compliance auditing.

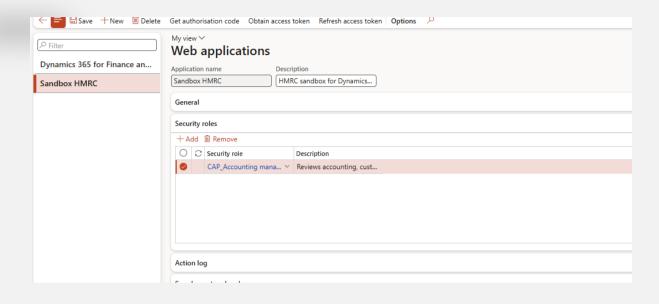
a. For Sandbox/Production Processing

- 1. Go to Tax > Setup > Electronic messages > Electronic message processing
- 2. Assign roles (e.g. Tax Accountant) to:
 - **UK MTD VAT TEST**
 - **UK MTD VAT returns**

For Access Token

Setting up security roles to access the token of a web application is to grant specific users or roles permission to interact with HMRC's MTD services via the configured web application in Dynamics 365. This ensures that only authorized roles (e.g., Tax Accountant) can perform actions like requesting authorization codes or submitting VAT returns. If no roles are assigned, only system administrators can use the web application, which limits operational access. Assigning roles here supports secure, delegated access and aligns with role-based access control (RBAC) principles.

Go to Tax > Setup > Electronic messages > Web applications and assign roles to Sandbox and Production web apps.

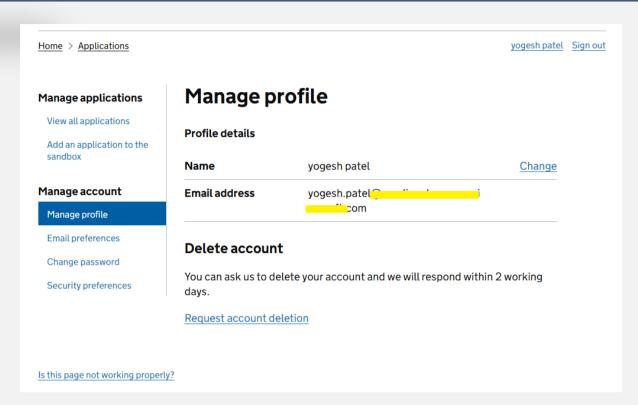


Step 7: Register Developer App on HMRC Dev Hub

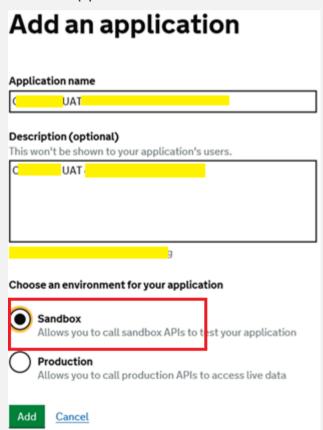
Register your application on the HMRC Developer Hub so that it can communicate securely with HMRC's MTD (Making Tax Digital) APIs. By creating an application and managing its API subscriptions, you enable it to access the required endpoints such as VAT submission and test user creation. This setup provides critical authentication details—Client ID, Client secret, and Server token—which are needed to authorize API requests from Dynamics 365. Setting the environment to Sandbox allows safe testing before going live. Adding the redirect URL ensures OAuth authentication flows work correctly.

Registration

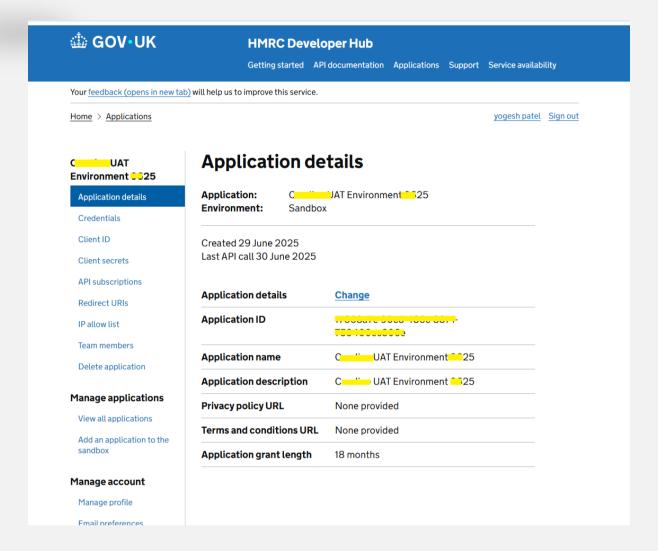
- 1. Register at HMRC Developer Hub
- 2. Login (Note Enable MFA is option but recommended)



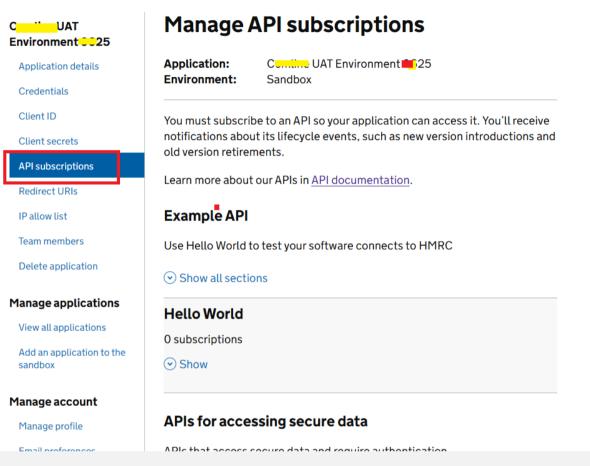
Add an application



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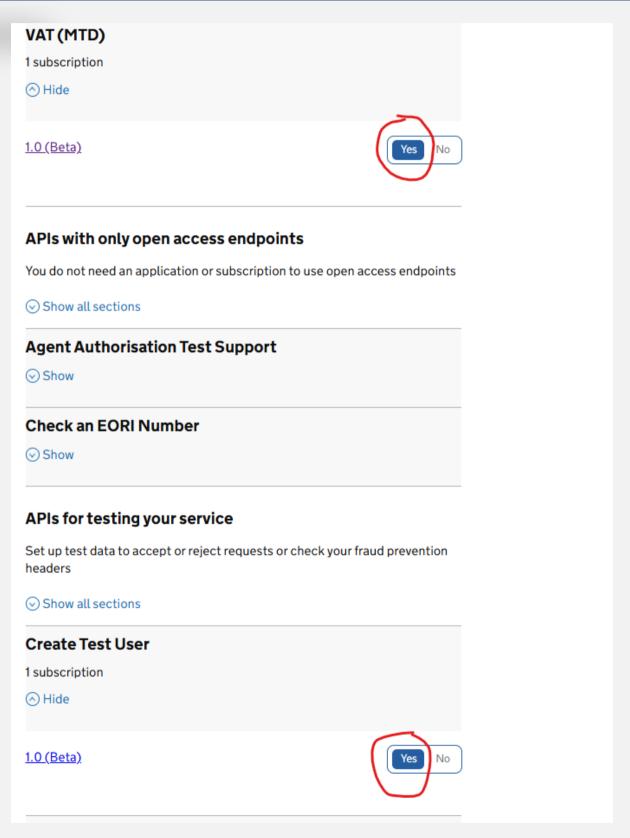
Manage API Subscription



- 1. API Subscription > Enable:
 - VAT (MTD) 1.0 (Beta)
 - Create Test User 1.0 (Beta)

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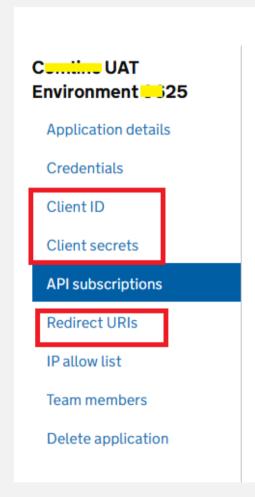
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- 2. Save credentials:
 - Client ID (Save offline)



- Client Secret (Save offline)
- o Add Redirect URL: urn:ietf:wg:oauth:2.0:oob



Manage API subscripti

Application: Cardina UAT Environme
Environment: Sandbox

You must subscribe to an API so your applica notifications about its lifecycle events, such old version retirements.

Learn more about our APIs in API documenta

Example API

Use Hello World to test your software conne

Show all sections

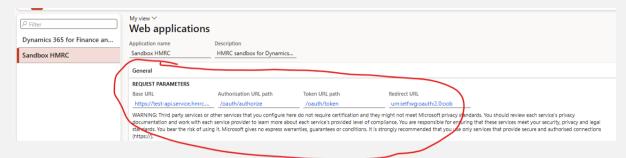
✓ Step 8: Initialize Web Applications in D365FO

Initialize and configure your HMRC web application credentials within Dynamics 365
Finance so the system can authenticate and securely interact with HMRC's MTD APIs. For the Sandbox, credentials (Client ID, Secret, Token) are manually entered for testing. For Production, credentials must be securely initialized using the InitProdWebAppl executable class and stored in encrypted format, ensuring compliance with HMRC security requirements. This setup is essential to enable OAuth-based authorization and allow the system to send VAT submissions or retrieve obligations from HMRC.

Sandbox App Setup

- 1. Fill in credentials under Tax > Setup > Electronic messages > Web applications
- 2. Ensure these fields are filled:
 - o Base URL https://test-api.service.hmrc.gov.uk

- Auth URL path /oauth/authorize
- Token URL path /oauth/token
- Redirect URL urn:ietf:wg:oauth:2.0:oob

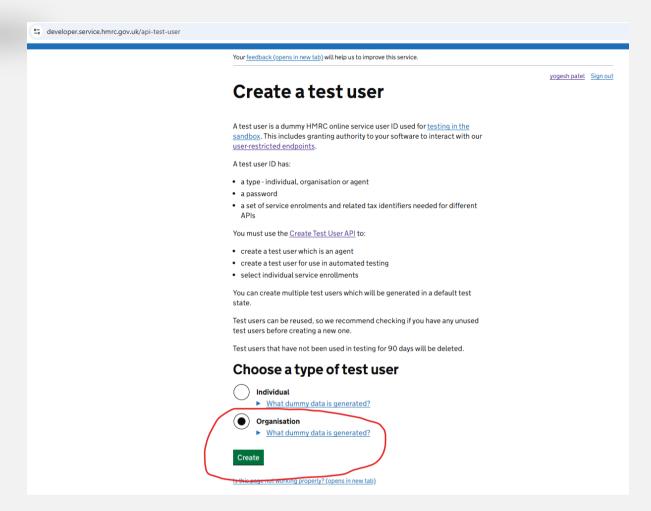


Step 9: Get Authorization and Access Token

Simulate and authorize HMRC sandbox connectivity for UK MTD VAT testing in Dynamics 365 Finance. It involves generating a test user (User ID, Password, and VRN) using Electronic Messages, configuring the legal entity with the VRN, and obtaining an authorization code to securely link D365FO with HMRC's sandbox environment. This setup ensures your system can send and retrieve test data using HMRC APIs in a controlled environment before going live in production. The authorization code is a mandatory OAuth step and is valid for only 10 minutes.

Create Test User

1. Go to - https://developer.service.hmrc.gov.uk/api-test-user



Obtain VRN (VAT Registration Number)

1. Save Username, Password and VRN (VAT Registration Number) details

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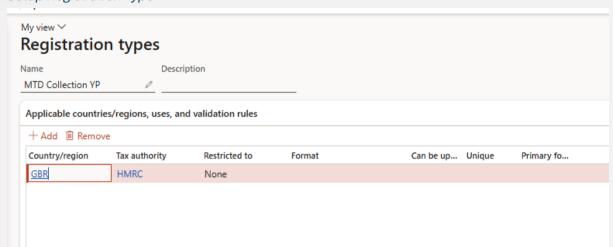
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	HMRC Dev Documentation			Availability	
Your feedback (opens in new tab) will					
					Register Sign i
Generated of	organisati	on			
Use these credentials in the OAI access token for this organisation		nerate an OA	uth		
UserID					
692206572343					
Password					
xDnQQAHvIHWw					
LISA Manager Reference Numl	ber				
Z5544					
Email Address					
harley.jerry@example.com					
VAT Registration Date					
2024-08-02					
Pension Scheme Administrato	rldentifier				
a5165454					
Self Assessment UTR					

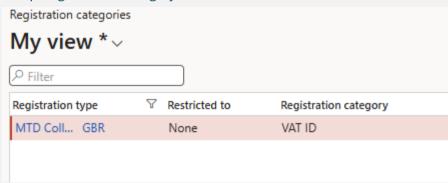
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Add VRN to Legal Entity

Setup Registration Type

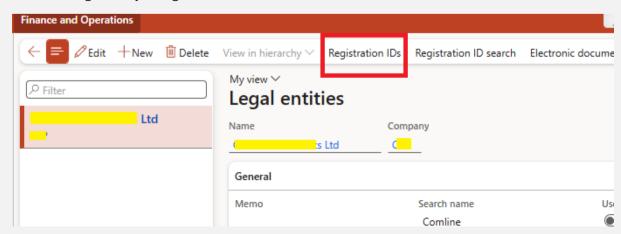


Setup Registration Category

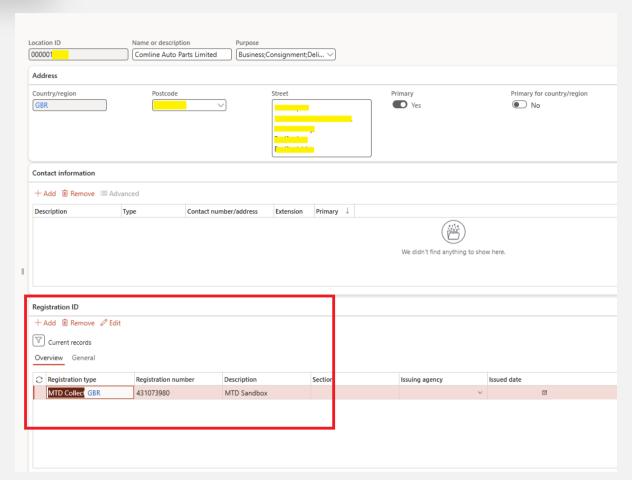


Add VRN in Legal entity Registration ID

• Go to legal entity > Registration ID

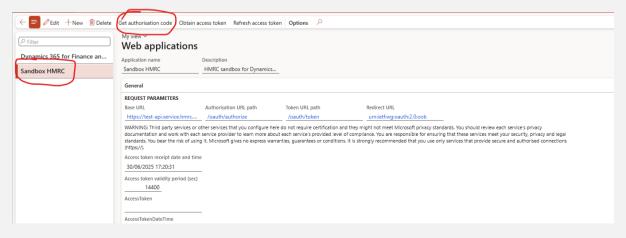


Add Registration ID



Get Authorization Code

• Go to Web applications > Get Authorization code

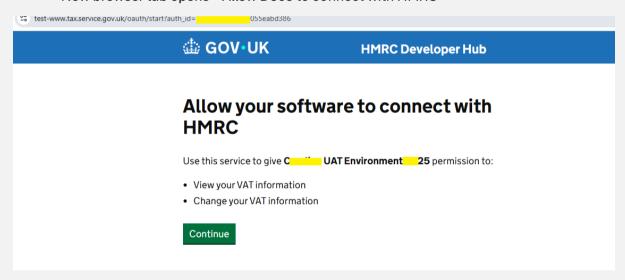


• Add Scope - read:vat write:vat

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New browser tab opens – Allow D365 to connect with HMRC



• Ready to sign in with Test user we created above

What you will need

You will need the correct HMRC user ID and password. For example, if you want to authorise VAT software, use your VAT HMRC user ID and password.

If you are a tax agent, <u>check you are using the right account (opens in</u> new tab).

You might need to confirm who you are by answering some security questions on, for example, your passport, P60 or other documents.

Sign in to the HMRC online service

• Enter Test user credentials

Sign in

Enter your Test User credentials to sign in.

User ID

692206572343

Password

•••••

Sign in

Problems signing in

Don't have Test User credentials (opens in new tab)

Give Permission

Allow your software to connect with HMRC

I give C UAT Environment 25 permission to:

- · View your VAT information
- Change your VAT information

Give permission

Do not give permission

• Authorization code generated – copy and save it

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Note - Authorization code is valid for 10 minutes



HMRC Developer Hub

You gave permission to

Comline UAT Environment 0625

Copy the authorisation code below and paste it into **Comline UAT Environment 0625** when prompted.

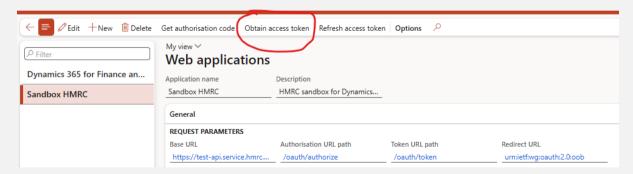
56_____a03994



Once you have copied it, close this window.

Obtain Access Token

Click on Obtain access Token

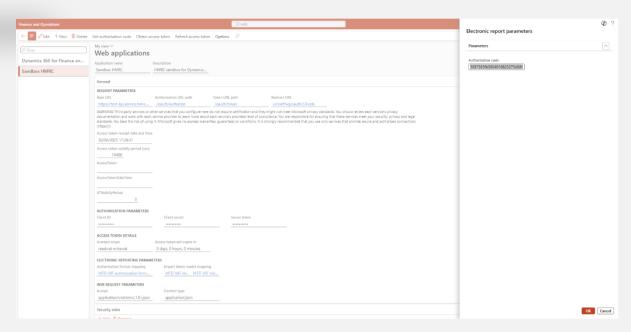


• Paste Authorization code copied above

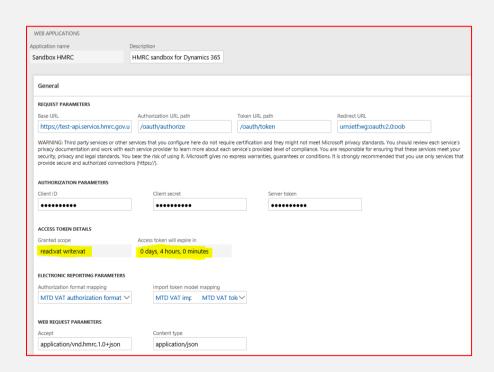
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• The Access token request is sent to HMRC, and D365FO automatically saves the Access token from HMRC's response.



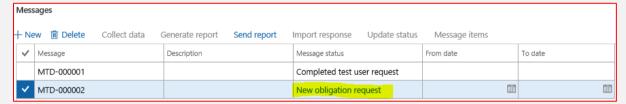
 Access tokens remain valid for 4 hours. When an access token expires, clicking the Refresh access token button generates a new token, which is then valid for another 4 hours.

Step 10: Retrieve VAT Obligations

Retrieve a list of open and completed VAT obligations directly from HMRC using Electronic Messages in D365FO. This process allows the system to fetch period-specific VAT reporting obligations, synchronize them with Dynamics, and prepare for return generation. HMRC returns this data using a hidden periodKey, which is securely managed in the system. Based on the response, new electronic messages are automatically created or updated to reflect the correct reporting period, status, and due dates, ensuring accurate alignment between D365 and HMRC's VAT timeline.

- 1. Go to Tax > Electronic messages
- 2. Create new message with action: Create VAT obligation request



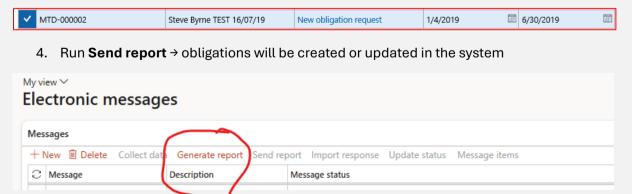


3. Fill From date and To date.

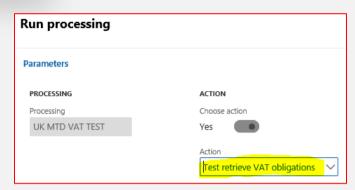
From Date – Required. The start date of the period you want to check VAT obligations for

To Date – Required. The end date of the period you want to check VAT obligations for

Description – Optional. short note or title to describe this request.



5. Run Processing (Action is automatically defined)



6. HMRC Response as below

Mes	ages							
+ Ne	ew 🗐 Delete Collect data	Generate report Send report	Import response Update status	Message	items			
~	Message	Description	Message status		From date		To date	
	MTD-000001		Completed test user request					
v	MTD-000002		Completed VAT obligations reques	t	4/1/20	00	6/30/20	00
	MTD-000003		Completed VAT return		1/1/2017		3/31/2017	1
	MTD-000004		New VAT return		4/1/2017		6/30/2017	
Actio	on log							
Actio	Action	Status from	Status to	Created by		Created date a	nd time	Res
	•	Status from	Status to New obligation request	Created by		Created date a	nd time	Resi
	Action	Status from New obligation request		Created by			nd time	Resi

HMRC tells us we've already submitted a VAT return for Jan–Mar 2017 and still have one open for Apr–Jun 2017. These dates appear because HMRC's test system uses old dummy data.

Each VAT return has a hidden **periodKey**, which uniquely identifies the return period. D365 stores this key securely and hides it from users, as required by HMRC.

When importing VAT obligations:

- If a return is missing but required, it creates a new message.
- If a return is already submitted, it marks it as completed.
- If one exists, it updates its status and due dates based on HMRC's reply

XX Conclusion

Once all the steps above are completed and tested using HMRC's sandbox, your system is fully prepared to submit UK VAT returns using MTD in both test and live environments. You now have

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a robust, auditable, and secure electronic VAT process—end-to-end inside Dynamics 365 Finance.



Coming Up Next

In GS518 - Integrating External APIs with Logic Apps and Electronic Reporting, we'll show you how to go beyond standard setups and connect Dynamics 365 to external APIs—without writing code.

You'll learn how to:

- Trigger an Azure Logic App from D365
- Send and parse JSON using ER formats
- Handle access token responses
- Log everything using Electronic Messaging
- ☐ Continue reading: GS518 External API Integration →