

Shooting and VAT

First question to ask - **Is it a business?**

If it is not a business then it is outside the scope of VAT. BUT to be able to claim it is not a business the following must apply

1. Only friends and relatives shoot with you
2. The shoot is not advertised
3. Your shoot accounts must show an annual loss at least as much as a normal “contribution” made by a ‘gun’ over a year
4. The loss is borne personally, and not by your business

Remember in this case no VAT is recoverable on inputs.

Is it a syndicate?

A syndicate is a more formal version of the above with a wider ‘membership’. A syndicate can be outside the scope of VAT, but the conditions are restrictive.

1. Participation must be restricted to syndicate members
2. Objective is to share the costs (not to make a profit)
3. Must not make supplies of other goods and services – e.g. selling surplus birds
4. The farmer member of the syndicate must account for VAT on the open market value of the shooting rights provided and on any supplies of other taxable goods and services.

If any of the above conditions are broken, then all the income will be subject to VAT.

Commercial shoots

Any shoot that forms part of the overall business and has **any** commercial part to it will be liable to VAT at the standard rate (e.g. a private shoot with just 1/2 day let).

Points to note:

1. “Dressing up” the shooting charges as “sale of birds” at zero rate will not work
2. There can be a separate charge for birds taken (at zero VAT rate), but only at a commercial charge for the birds
3. Barter transactions must be accounted for correctly for VAT purposes even if no cash changes hands
4. If buying poults from abroad (e.g. France) and it is not a commercial shoot, then will need to pay VAT as applicable in the exporting country (5.5% French VAT).
5. Letting shooting rights is a standard rated supply (as is fishing).