

A blog from BG Advisors\_ Online business and the banking of it!

Online businesses can take many forms; retail stores, service providers, digital product creators, and more. No matter what form your online business takes and no matter what risk the industry is deemed to be, it's essential to continuously monitor and adapt your online business strategy to market trends and customer preferences and regulatory compliance. Successful online businesses often invest in third party marketing, consulting, and technology to stay competitive and meet evolving customer needs. So why not add Fintech banking to that list and be guided by the experts to a fruitful future.

See below where BG Advisors fit in the relationship between your online business and the banking aspects associated with it and why the new age of banking is the only way forward to successfully grow your business:

# 1. Setting Up an Online Business:

- a. Business Idea: The first step in establishing an online business is to identify a viable business idea. Depending on the type of business and how it receives and makes payments will determine your need for specific services from your banking provider.
- b. Business Plan: Once you have a clear idea, you need a business plan that outlines your goals, target market, revenue model, marketing strategy, and financial projections. This information about your idea will provide the banks to determine the best services for you and your plans.
- c. Legal Structure and the registering of it: Decide on the legal structure of your business and register it as required by your local regulations. Dependent on this legal information the banks will require different documentation to be registered at time of account opening.
- d. Website and Online Presence: Develop a professional website or use e-commerce platforms like Shopify, WooCommerce, or Amazon to set up your online store.
- e. Licensing Compliance: Depending on the type of business you are and the industry space the business trades in it is paramount that licensing if required is managed correctly.

#### 2. Product/Service Offering:

a. Product Sourcing: If you're selling physical products, you'll need to find suppliers or manufacture your products. For services, you'll need to create service packages. Whatever the type of business you do online payments need to be made. Any cross-border transactions you make or receive will require the right banking solution.

- b. Pricing: Determine competitive pricing strategies that cover your costs and allow for a profit margin.
- c. Payment Processing: Set up a payment gateway to accept online payments securely. This involves integrating with a payment processor or a merchant account from a bank.

### 3. Banking in Online Business:

- a. Business Bank Account: Open a separate business bank account to keep your business finances separate from personal finances. This account is used to receive revenue, pay expenses, and manage cash flow.
- b. Payment Processing: Link your payment gateway to your business bank account so that funds from online sales can be deposited directly into it. This also enables you to transfer money from your business account to your personal account when needed.
- c. Expense Management: Use your business bank account to pay for business expenses such as inventory, marketing, website hosting, and employee salaries.
- d. Taxation: Maintain accurate financial records, including income and expenses, to facilitate tax reporting. Your business bank account will help you track financial transactions for tax purposes.
- e. Financial Planning: Work with your bank or financial advisor to plan for business growth, manage loans or credit lines if necessary, and make investment decisions.

## 4. Security and Compliance:

- a. Data Security: Implement robust security measures to protect business data, employee data, customer data and ensure secure online transactions.
- b. Regulatory Compliance: Stay compliant with relevant regulations, including data protection laws, taxation rules, and industry-specific regulations.

### 5. Scaling and Growth:

a. As your online business grows, you may need to expand your product offerings, reach new markets, and optimise your operations. Your business bank account and financial management will play a critical role in supporting these efforts.

It's essential to continuously monitor and adapt your online business strategy to market trends and customer preferences. Successful online businesses often invest in marketing, customer support, and technology to stay competitive and meet evolving customer needs.

BG Advisors will implement directly or introduce solutions by service providers for the successful management of all listed above.

To discuss further this article or the services that BG Advisors can introduce you to. Please connect through email, LinkedIn or via our contact page.