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# Zero-Based Cost Reviews and Cost Dashboards Training Course

5 – 9 July 2027
Rome

# Zero-Based Cost Reviews and Cost Dashboards Training Course

**Ref:** 2507_95103 **Date:** 5 – 9 July 2027 **Location:** Rome **Fees:** 6200 GBP

Zero-Based Cost Reviews and Cost Dashboards is a 1-week training course for business unit managers and cost accountants who rebuild spend from a clean base and track it openly, producing a zero-based cost review pack. Cost bases built year on year from last year's figures carry habits nobody has tested, and leaders now want every spend line justified. This course on zero-based cost reviews and cost dashboards is offered by Jupiter Prime Training.

## Why Zero-Based Cost Reviews and Cost Dashboards Matter Now

Three forces push zero-based thinking into commercial businesses. Input prices move faster than annual budgets, so incremental cost bases lag reality. Investors and boards ask for proof that overheads scale with revenue rather than with habit. An organisation that rebuilds its cost base deliberately can release funds for growth; one that cuts across the board tends to damage service and see costs creep back. The course rests on activity-based management, decision packages and driver-based reporting, described in plain terms.

## Who Gains Most from Zero-Based Cost Reviews and Cost Dashboards

- Business unit leaders accountable for a cost centre and its service levels
- Cost accountants who prepare spend analysis and cost allocations
- Finance business partners who challenge budgets with operational managers
- Procurement category owners who influence demand and price for indirect spend

A business unit that sends its leader, its finance partner and its procurement contact together gains most, because all three must agree the funding choices.

## Zero-Based Cost Reviews and Cost Dashboards Capabilities

Participants move from inherited budget lines to spend that is justified activity by activity and then tracked on screens owners trust.

- Build an activity cost driver map for a business unit — cost ownership discussions
- Design decision packages at three service levels — funding choices by unit heads
- Calculate a savings bridge separating one-off and recurring effects — finance sign-off
- Rank packages under a spend ceiling — executive budget approval
- Specify a cost dashboard metric tree with driver rates — monthly performance reviews
- Communicate variance causes in volume, rate and mix terms — budget holders and sponsors

## Key Zero-Based Cost Reviews and Cost Dashboards Terms

- Zero-based review — a review that justifies each spend line from nothing rather than adjusting last year's figure.
- Decision package — a costed description of an activity at defined service levels, used to choose what gets funded.
- Cost driver — the activity measure, such as orders or invoices, that causes a cost to rise or fall.
- Spend cube — a data set combining spend by supplier, category and business unit for analysis.
- Savings bridge — a chart reconciling current run-rate spend to the target cost base, step by step.
- Cost dashboard — a regularly refreshed screen showing spend, driver rates and variances against agreed targets.

## Zero-Based Cost Reviews and Cost Dashboards Day by Day

### Day 1: Why Spend Baselines Drift

- Cost Base Drift Diagnosis — Where Incremental Budgets Hide Waste
- Spend Cube Construction — Which Ledgers and Categories to Combine
- Activity Cost Driver Mapping — Linking Spend to Business Activities
- Cost Ownership Matrix — Who Answers for Each Spend Line
- Review Scope Charter — Which Units Enter the First Wave

### Day 2: Rebuilding Spend from a Zero Base

- Decision Package Design — Minimum, Current and Enhanced Service Levels
- Must-Have Versus Nice-to-Have Tests — Which Activities Earn Funding
- Unit Cost Benchmarks — How Peers Deliver the Same Output
- Demand Levers Versus Price Levers — Where Savings Really Come From
- Policy Guardrails for Travel and Discretionary Spend — What Stays Allowed

### Day 3: Ranking and Funding Decisions

- Decision Package Ranking Grid — Order of Funding Under Constraint
- Savings Bridge — From Current Run Rate to Target Base
- One-Off Versus Recurring Savings — Avoiding Double Counting
- Sign-Off Panel Protocol — How Business Unit Heads Defend Packages
- Reinvestment Pool Rules — Funding Growth Bets from Released Spend

### Day 4: Building Cost Dashboards

- Cost Dashboard Metric Tree — From Total Spend to Driver Rates
- Run-Rate and Budget Tracking Views — Spotting Slippage Early
- Driver-Based Variance Flags — Volume, Rate and Mix Causes
- Visual Design for Spend Reporting — Clarity for Non-Accountants
- Refresh Cadence and Data Ownership — Keeping Figures Trusted

## Day 5: Practising the Zero-Based Cost Review Pack

- Driver Map Applied to a Sample Unit — Confirming Spend Linkages
- Decision Packages Applied to a Live Case — Testing Funding Choices
- Dashboard Prototype for the Case Unit — Tracking Agreed Savings
- Peer Challenge Session — Stress-Testing Assumptions and Owners
- Zero-Based Cost Review Pack — Final Assembly for Sponsor Approval

## Applying Zero-Based Cost Reviews and Cost Dashboards After the Course

- Run a zero-based review of one discretionary spend category using decision packages and a ranking grid.
- Launch a cost dashboard for one business unit built on its activity cost driver map and a monthly refresh cadence.

## Zero-Based Cost Reviews and Cost Dashboards Questions FAQ

### What are zero-based cost reviews and cost dashboards, and why do they matter now?

They are methods for justifying each spend line from a clean base and then tracking agreed costs on regularly refreshed screens. They matter now because input prices shift quickly and boards expect overheads to follow revenue.

### Which roles gain most from zero-based cost reviews and cost dashboards?

Business unit leaders and cost accountants gain most, followed by finance partners and procurement category owners. Each holds part of the evidence needed to defend or release spend, so teams that attend together move faster.

### How do zero-based cost reviews and cost dashboards differ from a general budgeting course?

This course rebuilds spend from activity evidence rather than adjusting last year's budget. It centres on decision packages, savings bridges and driver-based dashboards.

### What do you bring back from zero-based cost reviews and cost dashboards training?

You bring back a zero-based cost review pack: a driver map, ranked decision packages, a savings bridge and a dashboard prototype for one unit, ready for sponsor approval.

## Zero-Based Cost Reviews and Cost Dashboards: The Way Forward

The zero-based cost review pack first informs which decision packages a business unit funds at its next budget round. Unit heads, finance partners and procurement owners use it to agree targets and track them on one dashboard. After its first quarter of use, revisit the driver map, because volume shifts in sectors such as manufacturing or hospitality often change which activities carry cost.