

Financial training For non financial staff



The financial training specialists

Process efficiency (Budgeting, Profit)

We all want to get more out of our budgets, and we can do this with blunt instruments, or smart tools.

The blunt instruments include freezing salaries, or making people work longer without paying overtime. But this becomes counter-productive in the long term.

A common barrier to productivity is often our processes. Every business has internal processes - they ensure that work gets done to a consistent standard. There's nothing wrong with good processes. Until they become unwieldy!

We'll amend our processes over time, because something happens and we want to make sure it doesn't slip through again. So the process gets bigger and bigger.

As an auditor we had "audit programmes": suggested audit tests to ensure we adequately covered each area. We were meant to tailor the programmes before we started the audit, but in practice we often ended up doing every test, just in case.

When I started training, our training centre had a rule of thumb of 7 days' development time for every day of a new course. But the development process was top heavy. Now I reckon on 3-4 days, and next year I'm aiming for only 2. And I aim to achieve this by streamlining my process, not by skimping on the detail.

Which processes do your team spend the bulk of their time on? Try mapping that process to understand it. Then redesign it from scratch, on a clean sheet of paper, and you'll probably reduce the time (and cost) by at least a quarter.