
Power BI Training Course for Executives: Data Models, Reports and Governed Self-Service

9 – 13 August 2027
Cape town





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Programme Summary

Power BI training course for senior executives covering data models, reports and governed self-service, delivered over five days at managerial level and ending in a reporting governance pack for one business area. Organisations build dashboards faster than they agree who owns the numbers, so leaders need to judge models, measures and access rules without building every report themselves. The programme moves from principles to diagnosis, design and application on one live reporting case. Mars Training Centre UK delivers this Power BI programme for senior decision makers.

The Business Case

When Power BI reports grow without shared definitions, departments present different figures for the same measure, refresh failures go unnoticed and sensitive data reaches people who should not see it. Leaders who can read a data model, question a measure and set ownership and access rules can retire duplicate reports, rely on the figures in front of them and keep self-service within agreed limits.

- Reporting Consistency: Improves as one set of measure definitions replaces competing versions of the same figure.
- Decision Speed: Rises as trusted reports reduce the time spent reconciling spreadsheets before meetings.
- Data Exposure: Falls as access rules and workspace ownership are agreed before reports are shared.

Principles and Evidence Base

- Star schema dimensional modelling: It structures the fact and dimension review of a Power BI data model in Session 1 and Session 3.
- DAX measure logic in the Power BI semantic model: It guides the reading and challenge of calculations in Session 2.
- Row-level security and workspace roles: They frame the access design set in Session 4.
- Microsoft Fabric as the wider data platform: It places Power BI reporting within the platform choices discussed in Session 4.

Intended Participants

- Senior managers who commission dashboards and must judge whether the figures can be trusted.
- Heads of function who own performance measures and want to set the definitions behind them.
- Leaders of analytics or reporting teams who govern how colleagues publish and share reports.
- Programme and transformation leads who sponsor reporting projects built on Power BI.



The programme suits finance, operations, commercial and public sector bodies where managers rely on shared reports and where mixed groups benefit from one agreed approach to reporting.

Learning Outcomes

1. Participants will be able to evaluate a Power BI data model for structure, relationships and fitness for the business questions it must answer.
2. Participants will be able to diagnose conflicting figures by tracing them to source data, transformation steps and DAX measures.
3. Participants will be able to construct a measure catalogue that fixes one definition for each executive metric.
4. Participants will be able to design report pages that lead a senior audience to a decision.
5. Participants will be able to prioritise workspace, ownership and row-level security rules for shared reports.
6. Participants will be able to justify a governed self-service model to a steering group.

Programme Structure

Day 1: Power BI Principles for Decision Makers

What does Power BI do between a source system and an executive report?

- Power BI Desktop and Service Roles
- Power Query Shaping Steps
- Fact and Dimension Tables
- Star Schema Model Review
- Reporting Question Register

Day 2: Diagnosing Figures and Measures

Why do two reports show different numbers for the same metric?

- DAX Measure Reading Guide
- Filter Context Walkthrough
- Source-to-Report Reconciliation Trace
- Refresh and Data Quality Log
- Metric Definition Conflict Map

Day 3: Designing Models and Report Pages

How are a model and a report built so that managers can act on them?



- Semantic Model Design Sheet
- Measure Catalogue Template
- Visual Selection Principles
- Executive Page Layout and Navigation
- Drill-Through and Bookmark Patterns

Day 4: Governing Access and Self-Service

Who may build, see and share which reports?

- Workspace and App Structure
- Row-Level Security Rule Matrix
- Certified and Shared Model Policy
- Microsoft Fabric Platform Options
- Report Lifecycle and Ownership Register

Day 5: Applying Power BI Governance to One Reporting Case

Is the reporting case ready for a steering group to approve?

- Applying the Session 2 Diagnosis to the Case Figures
- Reviewing the Session 3 Model Against the Question Register
- Testing the Session 4 Access Matrix on Sample Roles
- Rehearsing the Steering Group Briefing
- Completing the Reporting Governance Pack

Methodology

The programme uses a data workshop built on anonymised sales, operations and service data held in sample Power BI files. Participants take the role of sponsor, model reviewer and report owner, and trace one disputed figure from the report back to its source. Discussion centres on decisions a manager can make, not on button sequences.

- Suggested activity: Reading a model diagram and listing the questions a sponsor should ask.
- Suggested activity: Rewriting two clashing measure definitions into one agreed wording.
- Suggested activity: Assigning roles and row-level security rules for a shared sales report.

Capstone Output

Each participant completes a reporting governance pack for one business area. It holds a model review, a measure catalogue, a report page plan, a workspace and access matrix, and an ownership register. The pack is used to brief a steering group, brief the reporting team and set review points once reports are in use.



Frequently Asked Questions

Is this Power BI course suitable for managers who do not build reports?

Yes. The Power BI content is pitched at managerial level for leaders who commission and govern reports. It assumes familiarity with business dashboards but no skill in writing formulas or building models.

Which models does Power BI governance in this programme rest on?

Power BI governance here rests on star schema dimensional modelling, DAX measure logic in the semantic model, row-level security with workspace roles, and the wider Microsoft Fabric platform.

How is the Power BI governance pack used at work?

You use the Power BI governance pack to brief a steering group, direct the reporting team on measure definitions and access rules, and set review points for reports after they go live.

How does Power BI for executives differ from an advanced Power BI developer course?

Power BI for executives centres on judging models, measures and access rules and on governing self-service. A developer programme centres on building complex models and reports hands-on.