Agile Delivery Training Course for Regulatory Authorities: Backlogs, Sprints and Oversight

4 – 8 January 2027
Cape town

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Programme Summary

Agile delivery for regulatory authorities is the subject of this one-week training course for heads of regulatory programmes, supervision directors and change leads, taught at strategic level and ending in an agile delivery charter for one regulatory programme. Regulators must change rules, licensing and supervision tools while keeping independence, records and public accountability, and long fixed plans often fail them. The programme moves from principles to backlog design, sprint cycles, oversight and a final application, using prepared cases from financial and utility regulation. Mars Training Centre UK delivers this programme on agile delivery to mixed-organisation cohorts.

The Business Case

Leaders who can deliver in short cycles without weakening formal decisions release useful changes sooner and find problems while they are cheap to correct. The programme works on the measures below.

- Time to First Release: Falls when scope is cut into increments that can be inspected early.
- Rework on Rule and System Changes: Reduces when stakeholders review working increments each sprint.
- Decision Traceability: Improves when every change to scope and priority leaves a record.

Principles and Evidence Base

- Scrum Guide: The framework definition of sprints, product backlog, increment and the roles of product owner, scrum master and developers, applied in Sessions 1 to 3 to shape a regulatory delivery cycle.
- Iterative and incremental delivery: The principle of releasing in small, inspectable steps, applied in Sessions 2 and 3 to plan releases for a regulatory programme.
- Transparent records: The practice of keeping work, decisions and evidence open to inspection, applied in Sessions 4 and 5 to protect audit trails and accountability.

Intended Participants

- Heads of regulatory programmes who sponsor change in rules, licensing or supervision.
- Supervision directors who must keep independence while working iteratively.
- Change and digital leads who run delivery teams inside a regulator.
- Governance and assurance leads who review how programmes are controlled.

Typical settings include financial regulation, utility and energy regulation, communications and public service oversight.

Learning Outcomes

1. Participants will be able to evaluate which regulatory change suits agile delivery and which needs a fixed plan.
2. Participants will be able to construct a product backlog ordered by public value and risk.
3. Participants will be able to design a sprint cycle that includes formal approvals and legal review.
4. Participants will be able to diagnose delivery risks in stakeholder, vendor and governance arrangements.
5. Participants will be able to prioritise scope changes against independence and accountability needs.
6. Participants will be able to justify an agile delivery charter to an executive board.

Programme Structure

Day 1: Agile Delivery Principles for Regulatory Change

Which regulatory changes gain from short delivery cycles, and which do not?

- Scrum Guide Roles and Events Map
- Change Suitability Screening Grid
- Independence and Conflict Boundary Statement
- Programme Vision and Outcome Statement
- Stakeholder Decision Rights Chart

Day 2: Product Backlog and Release Planning

How is regulatory work turned into an ordered backlog that can be released in steps?

- Product Backlog Item Template
- Public Value and Risk Ordering Matrix
- Increment Definition and Done Criteria
- Release Roadmap by Quarter
- Dependency and Legal Review Calendar

Day 3: Sprint Cycles Inside a Regulator

How do planning, review and approval fit into one sprint without losing control?

- Sprint Planning Agenda
- Sprint Review Pack for Stakeholders
- Approval Gate Insertion Rules
- Team Capacity and Workload Sheet
- Retrospective Action Log

Day 4: Oversight, Assurance and Records

What evidence shows that an iterative programme is controlled and accountable?

- Decision Records Register
- Change Control Rule for Scope
- Vendor Contract Alignment Checklist
- Delivery Risk and Issue Review
- Assurance Reporting Dashboard

Day 5: Agile Delivery Charter for One Regulatory Programme

Do the pieces join into a charter that an executive board can approve?

- Applying the Session 1 Suitability Grid
- Testing the Session 2 Backlog Ordering
- Checking the Session 3 Approval Gates
- Reviewing the Session 4 Decision Records
- Completing the Agile Delivery Charter

Methodology

The programme is a structured exercise built on prepared programme cases from financial and utility regulation. Participants order a backlog, plan sprints, insert approval gates and defend their charter to peers acting as an executive board.

- Suggested activity: Cutting a licensing system change into three releases.
- Suggested activity: Writing a sprint review pack for a sceptical stakeholder.
- Suggested activity: Testing a scope change against the decision records.

Capstone Output

Each participant completes an agile delivery charter for one regulatory programme. It holds a suitability screen, ordered backlog, release roadmap, sprint cycle with approval gates and a records and assurance routine. At work it goes to the executive board and sets the rule for how the programme is run.

Frequently Asked Questions

Is agile delivery training suitable for regulatory leaders who have never managed a software team?

Yes. Agile delivery is taught here through prepared regulatory cases and templates. You need responsibility for a change programme or its oversight, but no software or Scrum background.

Which framework does agile delivery for regulatory authorities rest on in this training?

Agile delivery here rests on the Scrum Guide for roles, events and artefacts, with iterative delivery and transparent records as the principles that protect accountability.

How is the charter from agile delivery training used at work?

You take the agile delivery charter to your executive board for approval, then use its approval gates and decision records to run the programme.

How does agile delivery differ from a programme on traditional project planning?

Agile delivery releases working increments in short cycles and re-orders the backlog, while a programme on traditional project planning fixes scope and sequence in advance and tracks against the plan.