

\*\*Subject:\*\* Request to time-box Finance vs Delivery reconciliation (warehouse build)

Hi [Client Team],

As part of our validation while building the centralized data warehouse, we performed an initial reconciliation between the Finance payments data and the Delivery status data. We're seeing \*\*differences in counts and totals\*\* that prevent a reliable tie-out between financial activity (e.g., "paid") and operational outcomes (e.g., "delivered").

At this stage, the root cause is \*\*not yet confirmed\*\*. In legacy environments with multiple source systems and evolving processes, these gaps are commonly driven by a few categories of issues. Examples of what we are seeing patterns consistent with include:

- \* \*\*Duplicate/replayed transactions\*\* (e.g., retries or multiple records for the same business event), which can inflate Finance totals if not deduplicated correctly.
- \* \*\*Missing/inconsistent join keys\*\* across systems (e.g., an identifier present in Finance but absent or formatted differently in Delivery), which makes certain records unmatchable.
- \* \*\*Timing differences\*\* between when a payment is recorded and when delivery events are recorded (late-arriving updates, month-end cutoffs).
- \* \*\*Definition mismatches\*\* (e.g., how to treat returns, failed deliveries, and refunds when reporting "revenue" vs "successful delivery").

To avoid embedding incorrect assumptions into the warehouse and later having to rework executive reporting, I recommend a \*\*time-boxed reconciliation investigation (1-2 business days)\*\* to produce a short decision memo that includes:

- 1) agreed metric definitions ("paid," "delivered," "returned/refunded," etc.),
- 2) deduplication + join rules (which keys, which priority, how to handle exceptions),
- 3) a documented set of known exceptions and how they will appear in dashboards.

\*\*Options:\*\*

- \* \*\*Option A (recommended):\*\* Approve the 1-2 day time-box now to confirm drivers and lock reporting rules before we publish metrics from the warehouse.
- \* \*\*Option B:\*\* Continue on schedule with provisional rules, accepting higher risk of later rework and reporting disputes.

If you approve \*\*Option A\*\*, could you please nominate one point person from Finance and one from Delivery for a short working session? We will share the memo and implementation rules immediately after the time-box concludes.

Thanks,  
Lemlem  
Data Engineering

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Finance (payments) --[keys + rules]--> Delivery (status events)  
                          duplicates | missing keys | timing cutoffs | definition drift  
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