

BOARD PAPER

AI investment portfolio: funding decisions for the next 12 months

Board Investment Committee · Paper 4.2 · For decision

Purpose	For decision
Meeting date	[Meeting date]
Prepared by	[Name, role]
Executive sponsor	[Name, role]
Classification	Confidential: Committee members only
Attachments	Appendices A to E

Decision sought

That the Committee approves scaling for 2 AI initiatives, gated pilot funding for 6, and a pause on 2 until they are redesigned; and caps AI spend at \$120k a month.

Sample paper: fictional company and illustrative data.

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1. Purpose

This paper seeks the Committee's approval of funding decisions for Meridian Retail Group's portfolio of 10 AI initiatives. The decisions rest on a structured assessment of how much of each initiative's claimed benefit is supported by evidence, set against what it costs to run.

2. Recommendations

That the Committee:

- (a) **approves** continued investment to scale Product description generator and Payment fraud detection, which together carry \$1.0M a year of evidence-backed benefit for \$300k a year to run;
- (b) **approves** gated pilot funding for 6 initiatives, with further funding released only when each meets the condition set out in section 5.3;
- (c) **approves** a pause on Copilot licences for all office staff and Store operations voice assistant until each has an accountable owner, a measured starting point and a profit-and-loss measure, avoiding about \$1.0M of spend over 12 months;
- (d) **approves** a cap on AI spend of \$120k a month, with a spend review before month 3; and
- (e) **notes** that \$7.9M (64%) of the annual benefit claimed across the portfolio is not yet supported by evidence.

3. Executive summary

The business cases for the portfolio claim **\$12.2M** a year in benefit. **\$4.4M (36%)** of that is supported by evidence today. Against an annual run cost of **\$2.9M**, the portfolio returns about **\$1.4M a year on the evidence**, compared with \$9.3M a year if every claim were realised.

Measure	Value	Comment
Claimed annual benefit	\$12.2M	Across 10 initiatives
Evidence-backed annual benefit	\$4.4M	36% of the claim
Annual run cost	\$2.9M	AI services, licences, platforms and people
Net annual value on the evidence	\$1.4M	\$9.3M if every claim were realised
Decisions	2 · 6 · 2	Scale · gated pilot · pause and redesign
Monthly spend against budget	Month 4	When the likely case first exceeds \$120k; month 3 if usage runs high

Key points for the Committee:

- Two initiatives have earned scaling: Product description generator (62% evidence confidence) and Payment fraud detection (87% evidence confidence).
- The largest single claim, \$3.1M a year from Copilot licences for all office staff, has the weakest support: 21% confidence, no accountable owner and no measured starting point.
- Only 5 of the 20 pieces of evidence provided are from A/B tests or production data; 4 are vendor claims or demonstrations, and 3 contradict the claim they were submitted for.
- Without the recommended pauses, monthly AI spend would pass the budget in month 4 and reach about \$150k a month by month 12.

4. Background

4.1 The portfolio

Meridian Retail Group has 10 AI initiatives at different stages: 6 pilot, 1 scaling, 2 idea, 1 live. Together they carry \$1.8M of one-off build cost and a monthly AI budget of \$120k.

4.2 How the assessment was done

Each initiative's benefit was broken into the claims it depends on (17 claims in total), and each claim was weighed against the evidence supplied for it (20 items). Stronger evidence, such as production data and A/B tests, counts for more than weaker evidence, such as vendor claims and demonstrations; evidence that contradicts a claim reduces it. Benefit that no evidence covers is treated as unproven. Twelve months of AI spend were then simulated to give a likely range. Appendix C sets out the method in full.

5. Analysis

5.1 Claimed and evidence-backed benefit

The figure below compares each initiative's claimed annual benefit (outline) with the part supported by evidence (filled), coloured by the recommended decision.

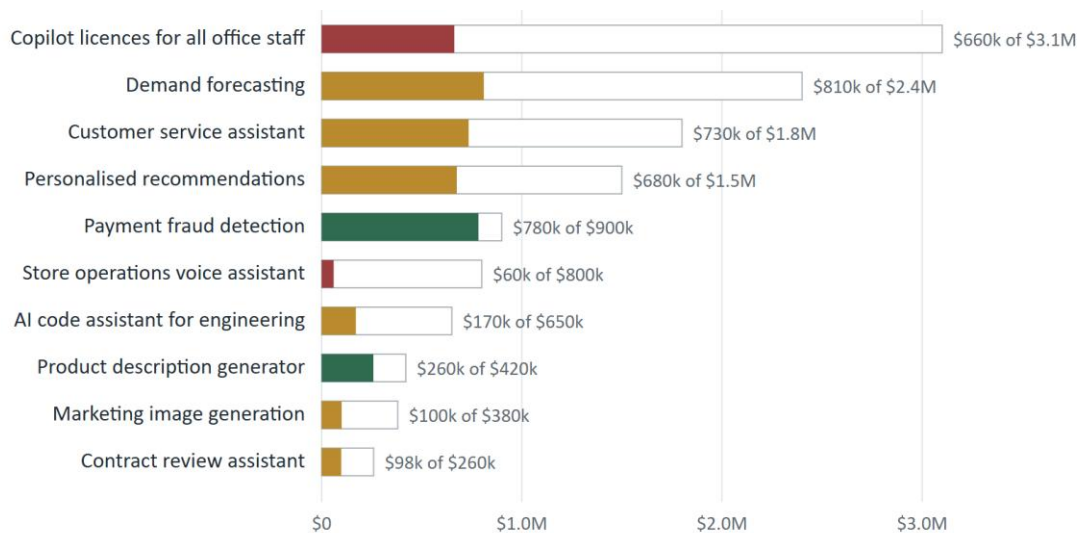


Figure 1. Claimed versus evidence-backed annual benefit by initiative. Green: scale. Amber: gated pilot. Red: pause and redesign.

5.2 Quality of the evidence

The 20 pieces of evidence vary widely in how much they can be relied on. Each type carries a weight between 0.1 and 0.9 (Appendix C).

Evidence type	Weight	Items	Supports	Contradicts
Production data	0.90	2	2	0
A/B test	0.80	3	3	0
Backtest	0.55	1	1	0
Pilot telemetry	0.50	7	5	2
Expert estimate	0.30	2	1	1
Staff survey	0.25	1	1	0
Vendor claim	0.10	3	3	0

Evidence type	Weight	Items	Supports	Contradicts
Demo	0.10	1	1	0

Table 1. Evidence supplied, by type. 3 items contradict the claim they were submitted for; they are listed in Appendix B.

5.3 Initiative decisions and conditions

A gated pilot receives funding for its next proof only. The condition states what that proof must show before further funding is released.

Initiative	Owner	Decision	Backed of claimed	Return	Condition to release funding
Product description generator	Director of E-commerce	Scale	\$260k of \$420k	228%	Report realised savings to the Committee each quarter
Payment fraud detection	CFO	Scale	\$780k of \$900k	247%	Report realised savings to the Committee each quarter
Customer service assistant	Head of Customer Care	Gated pilot	\$730k of \$1.8M	17%	Usage cap in place; containment rate measured on all intents
Demand forecasting	VP Supply Chain	Gated pilot	\$810k of \$2.4M	63%	Beats the current forecast on carrying cost over one full season
Personalised recommendations	Director of E-commerce	Gated pilot	\$680k of \$1.5M	146%	A live A/B test shows the claimed conversion uplift
AI code assistant for engineering	CIO	Gated pilot	\$170k of \$650k	175%	Cycle time measured before and after rollout; claim re-based
Contract review assistant	Head of Procurement	Gated pilot	\$98k of \$260k	48%	Time per contract measured on a sample of 50 contracts
Marketing image generation	CMO	Gated pilot	\$100k of \$380k	35%	Starting point measured before further spend; claim re-based
Copilot licences for all office staff	Not named	Pause and redesign	\$660k of \$3.1M	29%	Accountable owner named, baseline measured and P&L measure agreed
Store operations voice assistant	Not named	Pause and redesign	\$60k of \$800k	-89%	Redesigned with evidence beyond vendor claims, or stopped

Table 2. Recommended decision for each initiative. Return is evidence-backed annual benefit less run cost, divided by run cost.

5.4 Warning signs

5 initiatives carry one or more warning signs. Two or more warning signs rule out scaling regardless of the expected return.

Initiative	Warning signs
Customer service assistant	Spend could run away
Copilot licences for all office staff	Starting point not measured; No accountable owner; No business (P&L) measure; Claim looks too good to be true
AI code assistant for engineering	Claim looks too good to be true
Store operations voice assistant	Starting point not measured; No accountable owner; Only vendor claims or demos; No business (P&L) measure
Marketing image generation	Starting point not measured; Claim looks too good to be true

Table 3. Warning signs raised by the assessment.

5.5 AI spend outlook

If usage grows as planned, monthly AI spend passes the \$120k budget in month 4 (month 3 if usage runs high). With the recommended pauses it stays well within budget.

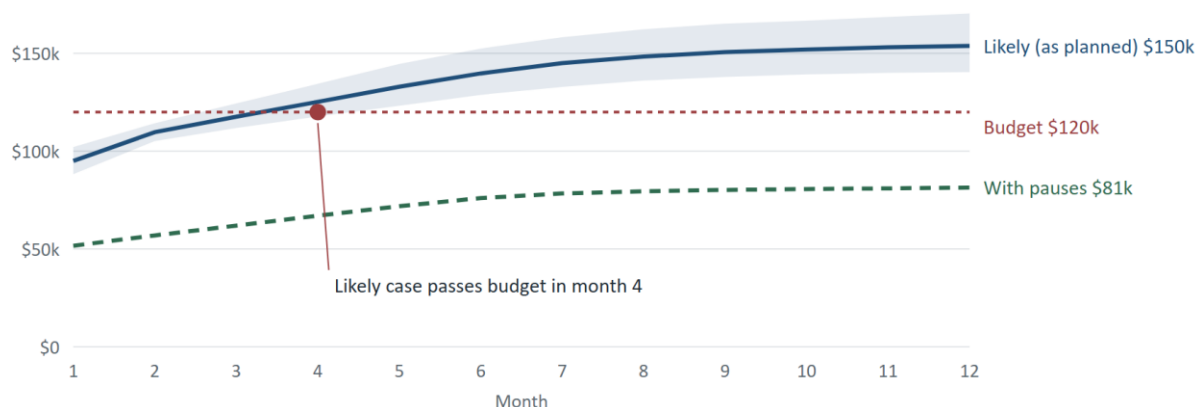


Figure 2. Monthly AI spend: likely range (shaded), likely case as planned, likely case with the recommended pauses, and the monthly budget.

Month	Likely range	Likely case	With pauses	Budget
3	\$110k to \$120k	\$120k	\$62k	\$120k
6	\$130k to \$150k	\$140k	\$76k	\$120k
9	\$140k to \$170k	\$150k	\$80k	\$120k
12	\$140k to \$170k	\$150k	\$81k	\$120k

Table 4. Monthly AI spend at selected months.

6. Financial implications

Item	Amount	Basis
Scaled initiatives: annual run cost	\$300k	2 initiatives; \$1.0M a year of evidence-backed benefit
Gated pilots: annual run cost if all proceed	\$1.6M	6 initiatives; released stage by stage against conditions
Gated pilots: one-off build cost	\$1.2M	As supplied in the business cases
Paused initiatives: spend avoided over 12 months	\$1.0M	2 initiatives; \$1.0M a year of run cost
Monthly AI spend cap	\$120k	Likely case reaches \$81k a month by month 12 with the pauses

Table 5. Financial implications of the recommendations. All amounts in US dollars, excluding GST.

7. Risks

Risk	Rating	Consequence	Mitigation	Owner
\$7.9M of claimed annual benefit is unproven	High	Net value of about \$1.4M a year rather than \$9.3M	Funding follows proof through gated pilots (recommendation b)	Executive sponsor
AI spend exceeds budget from month 4	High	About \$34k a month over budget by month 12	Spend cap and review (recommendation d)	Chief Financial Officer
2 initiatives have no accountable owner	Medium	Benefits are not managed or measured	Pause until an owner is named (recommendation c)	Chief Executive
Customer service assistant has no usage cap	Medium	Run cost can grow faster than benefit	Usage cap as a pilot condition (section 5.3)	Head of Customer Care

Risk	Rating	Consequence	Mitigation	Owner
Store operations voice assistant rests on vendor evidence only	Medium	\$530k a year at a negative return	Pause and redesign (recommendation c)	Not named

Table 6. Principal risks. Ratings are the preparer's assessment.

8. Governance and next steps

When	The Committee reviews	Decision then
Month 2	Spend against the \$120k cap; usage cap in place for the customer service assistant	Confirm the cap, or adjust usage plans
End of quarter 1	Condition results for the gated pilots; progress on the paused initiatives	Release, extend or stop each pilot; restart a paused initiative only if its conditions are met
Each quarter	Realised savings from the scaled initiatives against their evidence-backed benefit	Continue, or investigate a shortfall
Month 12	A fresh assessment using the evidence gathered during the year	Next year's AI budget

Table 7. Review timetable.

Appendix A. Initiative assessments

Each initiative's assessment: the facts supplied, the recommended decision and its basis, and every claim with the evidence behind it.

A.1 Product description generator

Decision	Scale. Evidence confidence of 62% meets the 60% threshold, the return of 228% exceeds 100% and there are no warning signs.
Owner	Director of E-commerce
Stage	Scaling
Business measure	Conversion on new product pages (starting point measured)
Claimed annual benefit	\$420,000
Evidence-backed annual benefit	\$258,300 (62% evidence confidence)
Annual run cost	\$78,845; one-off build \$70,000
Return and payback	228%; payback 4.7 months
Warning signs	None
Condition to release funding	Report realised savings to the Committee each quarter

Claim	Share of benefit	Confidence	Evidence supplied
Generated descriptions lift conversion by 2%	80%	60%	A/B test: A/B test, 2 categories: +2.4% conversion, significant
Copywriter time per product falls by 70%	20%	68%	Production data: Copywriter time per SKU down from 25 to 7 minutes

A.2 Payment fraud detection

Decision	Scale. Evidence confidence of 87% meets the 60% threshold, the return of 247% exceeds 100% and there are no warning signs.
Owner	CFO
Stage	Live
Business measure	Chargeback losses (starting point measured)
Claimed annual benefit	\$900,000
Evidence-backed annual benefit	\$783,000 (87% evidence confidence)
Annual run cost	\$225,553; one-off build \$0
Return and payback	247%; payback within the first month
Warning signs	None
Condition to release funding	Report realised savings to the Committee each quarter

Claim	Share of benefit	Confidence	Evidence supplied
Model blocks 40% more fraud at the same false-positive rate	100%	87%	Production data: 12 months live: chargebacks down 38% A/B test: Champion/challenger test confirmed the lift

A.3 Customer service assistant

Decision	Gated pilot. Evidence confidence of 41% is below the 60% needed to scale, but the evidence-backed return is positive (17%) and the warning sign is addressable.
Owner	Head of Customer Care
Stage	Pilot
Business measure	Contacts resolved without an agent (starting point measured)
Claimed annual benefit	\$1,800,000
Evidence-backed annual benefit	\$734,063 (41% evidence confidence)
Annual run cost	\$628,716; one-off build \$380,000
Return and payback	17%; payback 43.3 months
Warning signs	Spend could run away
Condition to release funding	Usage cap in place; containment rate measured on all intents

Claim	Share of benefit	Confidence	Evidence supplied
Assistant resolves 35% of contacts without an agent	70%	42%	Pilot telemetry: 6-week pilot: 22% containment on all intents, 31% on the top 20 Vendor claim: Vendor case study quotes 40% containment
Customer satisfaction does not fall	30%	38%	Pilot telemetry: Post-chat CSAT 4.2 vs 4.3 for agents

A.4 Demand forecasting

Decision	Gated pilot. Evidence confidence of 34% is below the 60% needed to scale, but the evidence-backed return is positive (63%).
Owner	VP Supply Chain
Stage	Pilot
Business measure	Inventory carrying cost (starting point measured)
Claimed annual benefit	\$2,400,000
Evidence-backed annual benefit	\$810,000 (34% evidence confidence)
Annual run cost	\$496,288; one-off build \$450,000
Return and payback	63%; payback 17.2 months
Warning signs	None
Condition to release funding	Beats the current forecast on carrying cost over one full season

Claim	Share of benefit	Confidence	Evidence supplied
Forecast error falls by 20% against the current planner	60%	41%	Backtest: Backtest on 2 years of data: error down 18%
Lower error converts into 8% less safety stock	40%	23%	Expert estimate: Planning lead estimates 5 to 10% safety-stock reduction

A.5 Personalised recommendations

Decision	Gated pilot. Evidence confidence of 45% is below the 60% needed to scale, but the evidence-backed return is positive (146%).
Owner	Director of E-commerce
Stage	Pilot
Business measure	Average order value (starting point measured)
Claimed annual benefit	\$1,500,000
Evidence-backed annual benefit	\$675,000 (45% evidence confidence)
Annual run cost	\$274,616; one-off build \$260,000
Return and payback	146%; payback 7.8 months
Warning signs	None
Condition to release funding	A live A/B test shows the claimed conversion uplift

Claim	Share of benefit	Confidence	Evidence supplied
Recommendations lift average order value by 3%	75%	60%	A/B test: A/B test: +2.1% average order value
Recommendations do not cannibalise margin	25%	0%	Pilot telemetry (contradicts): Pilot shows a shift toward discounted items

A.6 AI code assistant for engineering

Decision	Gated pilot. Evidence confidence of 26% is below the 60% needed to scale, but the evidence-backed return is positive (175%) and the warning sign is addressable.
Owner	CIO
Stage	Pilot
Business measure	Delivery throughput (story points) (starting point measured)
Claimed annual benefit	\$650,000
Evidence-backed annual benefit	\$170,625 (26% evidence confidence)
Annual run cost	\$62,120; one-off build \$15,000
Return and payback	175%; payback 1.7 months
Warning signs	Claim looks too good to be true
Condition to release funding	Cycle time measured before and after rollout; claim re-based

Claim	Share of benefit	Confidence	Evidence supplied
Engineers ship 15% more work	70%	38%	Pilot telemetry: Pull requests per engineer up 11% in pilot squads
Code quality does not fall	30%	0%	Pilot telemetry (contradicts): Defect escape rate up 9% in pilot squads

A.7 Contract review assistant

Decision	Gated pilot. Evidence confidence of 38% is below the 60% needed to scale, but the evidence-backed return is positive (48%).
Owner	Head of Procurement
Stage	Pilot
Business measure	External legal spend (starting point measured)
Claimed annual benefit	\$260,000
Evidence-backed annual benefit	\$97,500 (38% evidence confidence)
Annual run cost	\$66,042; one-off build \$60,000
Return and payback	48%; payback 22.9 months
Warning signs	None
Condition to release funding	Time per contract measured on a sample of 50 contracts

Claim	Share of benefit	Confidence	Evidence supplied
First-pass review cuts external counsel hours by 30%	100%	38%	Pilot telemetry: 15 contracts: counsel hours down 26%

A.8 Marketing image generation

Decision	Gated pilot. Evidence confidence of 26% is below the 60% needed to scale, but the evidence-backed return is positive (35%) and the 2 warning signs are addressable.
Owner	CMO
Stage	Pilot
Business measure	Agency spend (starting point not measured)
Claimed annual benefit	\$380,000
Evidence-backed annual benefit	\$99,750 (26% evidence confidence)
Annual run cost	\$74,153; one-off build \$40,000
Return and payback	35%; payback 18.8 months
Warning signs	Starting point not measured; Claim looks too good to be true
Condition to release funding	Starting point measured before further spend; claim re-based

Claim	Share of benefit	Confidence	Evidence supplied
Generated images replace 40% of agency briefs	70%	38%	Pilot telemetry: Design team used generated images for 35% of briefs
Generated images meet brand and legal standards	30%	0%	Expert estimate (contradicts): Legal flags unclear rights on training data

A.9 Copilot licences for all office staff

Decision	Pause and redesign. Evidence confidence of 21% with 4 warning signs, which rules out further investment until the gaps are closed.
Owner	Not named

Stage	Idea
Business measure	Productivity (unspecified) (starting point not measured)
Claimed annual benefit	\$3,100,000
Evidence-backed annual benefit	\$662,625 (21% evidence confidence)
Annual run cost	\$514,601; one-off build \$50,000
Return and payback	29%; payback 4.1 months
Warning signs	Starting point not measured; No accountable owner; No business (P&L) measure; Claim looks too good to be true
Condition to release funding	Accountable owner named, baseline measured and P&L measure agreed

Claim	Share of benefit	Confidence	Evidence supplied
Each office worker saves 4 hours a week	80%	25%	Vendor claim: Vendor study: 4 hours saved per user per week Staff survey: Survey of 40 trial users: 'feels faster'
Saved time is redeployed to valuable work	20%	8%	Vendor claim: Vendor ROI calculator

A.10 Store operations voice assistant

Decision	Pause and redesign. The evidence-backed benefit (\$60k) does not cover the annual run cost (\$530k), and there are 4 warning signs.
Owner	Not named
Stage	Idea
Business measure	Productivity (unspecified) (starting point not measured)
Claimed annual benefit	\$800,000
Evidence-backed annual benefit	\$60,000 (8% evidence confidence)
Annual run cost	\$525,914; one-off build \$520,000
Return and payback	-89%; does not pay back
Warning signs	Starting point not measured; No accountable owner; Only vendor claims or demos; No business (P&L) measure
Condition to release funding	Redesigned with evidence beyond vendor claims, or stopped

Claim	Share of benefit	Confidence	Evidence supplied
Staff save 30 minutes a shift on stock queries	100%	8%	Demo: Vendor demo in one store

Appendix B. Evidence register

All 20 items of evidence supplied for the assessment. Weight is the reliance placed on each type (Appendix C).

Ref	Initiative	Claim	Evidence type	Weight	Direction	Summary
AI01-C01-E1	Customer service assistant	Assistant resolves 35% of contacts without an agent	Pilot telemetry	0.50	Supports	6-week pilot: 22% containment on all intents, 31% on the top 20
AI01-C01-E2	Customer service assistant	Assistant resolves 35% of contacts without an agent	Vendor claim	0.10	Supports	Vendor case study quotes 40% containment
AI01-C02-E1	Customer service assistant	Customer satisfaction does not fall	Pilot telemetry	0.50	Supports	Post-chat CSAT 4.2 vs 4.3 for agents
AI02-C03-E1	Product description generator	Generated descriptions lift conversion by 2%	A/B test	0.80	Supports	A/B test, 2 categories: +2.4% conversion, significant
AI02-C04-E1	Product description generator	Copywriter time per product falls by 70%	Production data	0.90	Supports	Copywriter time per SKU down from 25 to 7 minutes
AI03-C05-E1	Demand forecasting	Forecast error falls by 20% against the current planner	Backtest	0.55	Supports	Backtest on 2 years of data: error down 18%
AI03-C06-E1	Demand forecasting	Lower error converts into 8% less safety stock	Expert estimate	0.30	Supports	Planning lead estimates 5 to 10% safety-stock reduction
AI04-C07-E1	Copilot licences for all office staff	Each office worker saves 4 hours a week	Vendor claim	0.10	Supports	Vendor study: 4 hours saved per user per week
AI04-C07-E2	Copilot licences for all office staff	Each office worker saves 4 hours a week	Staff survey	0.25	Supports	Survey of 40 trial users: 'feels faster'
AI04-C08-E1	Copilot licences for all office staff	Saved time is redeployed to valuable work	Vendor claim	0.10	Supports	Vendor ROI calculator
AI05-C09-E1	Payment fraud detection	Model blocks 40% more fraud at the same false-positive rate	Production data	0.90	Supports	12 months live: chargebacks down 38%
AI05-C09-E2	Payment fraud detection	Model blocks 40% more fraud at the same false-positive rate	A/B test	0.80	Supports	Champion/challenger test confirmed the lift
AI06-C10-E1	Personalised recommendations	Recommendations lift average order value by 3%	A/B test	0.80	Supports	A/B test: +2.1% average order value
AI06-C11-E1	Personalised recommendations	Recommendations do not cannibalise margin	Pilot telemetry	0.50	Contradicts	Pilot shows a shift toward discounted items
AI07-C12-E1	AI code assistant for engineering	Engineers ship 15% more work	Pilot telemetry	0.50	Supports	Pull requests per engineer up 11% in pilot squads

Ref	Initiative	Claim	Evidence type	Weight	Direction	Summary
AI07-C13-E1	AI code assistant for engineering	Code quality does not fall	Pilot telemetry	0.50	Contradicts	Defect escape rate up 9% in pilot squads
AI08-C14-E1	Store operations voice assistant	Staff save 30 minutes a shift on stock queries	Demo	0.10	Supports	Vendor demo in one store
AI09-C15-E1	Contract review assistant	First-pass review cuts external counsel hours by 30%	Pilot telemetry	0.50	Supports	15 contracts: counsel hours down 26%
AI10-C16-E1	Marketing image generation	Generated images replace 40% of agency briefs	Pilot telemetry	0.50	Supports	Design team used generated images for 35% of briefs
AI10-C17-E1	Marketing image generation	Generated images meet brand and legal standards	Expert estimate	0.30	Contradicts	Legal flags unclear rights on training data

Appendix C. Method and decision rules

C.1 Evidence-backed benefit

Each claim's confidence starts at zero and rises with each piece of supporting evidence, in proportion to the weight of its type and an overall evidence factor of 0.75. Contradicting evidence reduces confidence. An initiative's evidence-backed benefit is the sum, across its claims, of each claim's share of the benefit multiplied by its confidence. Benefit not covered by any claim counts as unproven.

Evidence type	Weight
Vendor claim	0.10
Demo	0.10
Staff survey	0.25
Expert estimate	0.30
Pilot telemetry	0.50
Backtest	0.55
A/B test	0.80
Production data	0.90

Table C1. Weight given to each type of evidence.

C.2 Decision rules

- **Scale:** evidence confidence of 60% or more, an evidence-backed return of 100% or more, and no more than one warning sign.
- **Pause and redesign:** evidence confidence below 35% with three or more warning signs, or a negative evidence-backed return (unless the initiative is new and not declining).
- **Gated pilot:** all other initiatives.

C.3 Spend outlook

Twelve months of AI spend were simulated 2,000 times, varying the adoption ramp, reach, growth in usage per request and the path of model prices. The likely range is the 10th to 90th percentile; the likely case is the median.

C.4 Strength of the method settings

Each setting the method uses is recorded with how strong the case for it is. Settings graded "Assumed" are practitioner judgement, published so that they can be challenged; the Committee can apply its own thresholds to the figures in this paper.

Setting	Grade
Evidence types count from 0.1 (vendor claim or demo) to 0.9 (live production data); staff surveys 0.25, pilots 0.5, A/B tests 0.8.	Assumed
Each piece of supporting evidence can lift a claim's confidence by up to 75% of its strength.	Assumed
Default price for frontier AI models: about \$3 per million input tokens and \$15 per million output tokens.	Assumed
An initiative is suggested for funding when its evidence confidence is at least 60 out of 100, its evidence-adjusted return is at least 1x its cost, and it has no more than one red flag.	Assumed
A live initiative running 12 months or more with under 80% of its claimed benefit showing up is suggested for review.	Assumed

Setting	Grade
More than one of the six red flags (for example no baseline, no profit-and-loss measure, unbounded cost) rules out funding; three or more with low confidence lead to stop or redesign.	Assumed
An initiative is suggested to stop or redesign when its evidence confidence is below 35 with three or more red flags, or its evidence-adjusted return is negative (unless it is new and not declining).	Assumed

Appendix D. Glossary

Term	Meaning
Claimed benefit	The annual benefit stated in an initiative's business case.
Evidence-backed benefit	The part of the claimed benefit supported by the evidence supplied, after weighting by evidence type.
Evidence confidence	Evidence-backed benefit as a share of claimed benefit, from 0% to 100%.
Run cost	The annual cost of running an initiative: AI services, licences, platforms and the people who operate it.
Return	Evidence-backed annual benefit less annual run cost, divided by annual run cost.
Payback	The months of evidence-backed benefit needed to recover the one-off build cost.
Gated pilot	Funding for the next proof only, with further funding released when a stated condition is met.
Warning sign	A gap that makes a benefit unlikely to be realised or measured, such as no owner or no measured starting point.
Likely range	The 10th to 90th percentile of simulated monthly AI spend.

Appendix E. Provenance and limitations

Assessment engine	AI Business Case Engine, version 1.1.0 (Signal Band)
Method as of	2026-10-16
Assessment run	24 October 2026 at 7:37 am
Inputs	10 initiatives, 17 claims, 20 evidence items and a \$120k monthly budget, as supplied by Meridian Retail Group
Reproducibility	The same inputs always produce the same result
Method settings register	Evidence register 22830d7, exported 2026-10-18

Limitations. The assessment relies on the information supplied and has not independently verified it. The figures are decision support, not financial, legal or investment advice, and may not reflect the organisation's current baseline. All amounts are in US dollars.

Prepared using the Signal Band AI Business Case engine (signalband.net).