

Research Update:

# Scottish Equitable PLC 'A-' Rating Affirmed On Announced Sale To Standard Life PLC; Outlook Developing

April 20, 2026

## Overview

- Aegon U.K., including Scottish Equitable PLC (SEPLC), is the subject of a proposed acquisition by Standard Life PLC. The transaction is expected to close by end-2026.
- We affirmed our 'A-' financial strength rating on Scottish Equitable PLC based on its stand-alone characteristics.
- The outlook remains developing, implying that we could upgrade or downgrade the subsidiary following an assessment of the Standard Life's creditworthiness and SEPLC's strategic importance to Standard Life.

## Rating Action

On April 20, 2026, S&P Global Ratings affirmed its 'A-' financial strength rating on Scottish Equitable PLC and maintained the developing outlook on the entity.

## Rationale

On April 15, 2026, Aegon Ltd. announced the outcome of its strategic review of its U.K. operations with the decision to sell Aegon U.K., including the subsidiary SEPLC, to Standard Life (NR) for a consideration of £2.0 billion. This includes a cash component and a 15.3% shareholding of Aegon Ltd. in Standard Life. The transaction is expected to be close by end-2026.

We affirmed our 'A-' financial strength rating on SEPLC based on its stand-alone characteristics. As the acquisition nears completion, we will seek to formalize our view on both Standard Life's creditworthiness and the strategic importance of SEPLC to Standard Life.

Aegon U.K. offers a diverse array of investment and retirement solutions for individuals, advisers, and employers under the Aegon U.K. brand. The company serves its clients through a combination of capital-light platforms (workplace and adviser), and a traditional insurance business that, although in run-off, we expect will continue to contribute positively to results over

### Primary Contact

**Laura Jimenez, CFA**  
London  
44-2071760839  
laura.jimenez  
@spglobal.com

### Additional Contact

**Robert J Greensted**  
London  
44-20-7176-7095  
robert.greensted  
@spglobal.com

the next years. The transaction would add about £128 billion capital-light platform assets under administration to Standard Life's business.

## Outlook

The developing outlook reflects a potential change in our rating on SEPLC over the next 12-24 months, following our assessment of the creditworthiness of the new parent and SEPLC's strategic importance to Standard Life.

### Downside scenario

Although unlikely, we could lower our rating on SEPLC over the next 12-24 months if the company fails to grow its platforms in a profitable way, or there is a shift in SEPLC's risk appetite in terms of new business or investment portfolio, which could affect our view of financial risk.

### Upside scenario

We could raise our rating on SEPLC if we view Standard Life's creditworthiness to be higher than 'A-', and view SEPLC as core to Standard Life. Alternatively, we could raise our rating on SEPLC if we viewed Standard Life's creditworthiness at the 'A+' level and considered SEPLC to be highly strategic to Standard Life. It is unlikely any upgrade would be by more than one notch.

#### Rating Component Scores

<b>Business Risk Profile</b>	<b>Satisfactory</b>
Competitive position	Satisfactory
IICRA	Low risk
<b>Financial Risk Profile</b>	<b>Very Strong</b>
Capital and earnings	Very strong
Risk exposure	Moderately low
Funding structure	Neutral
<b>Anchor</b>	<b>a-</b>
<b>Modifiers</b>	
Governance	Neutral
Liquidity	Exceptional
Comparable rating analysis	0
<b>Current Credit Rating</b>	
Local currency financial strength rating	A-/Developing/--
Foreign currency financial strength rating	--
Local currency issuer credit rating	--
Foreign currency issuer credit rating	--

## Related Criteria

- [Criteria | Insurance | General: Insurer Risk-Based Capital Adequacy--Methodology And Assumptions](#), Nov. 15, 2023
- [General Criteria: Environmental, Social, And Governance Principles In Credit Ratings](#), Oct. 10, 2021

## Scottish Equitable PLC 'A-' Rating Affirmed On Announced Sale To Standard Life PLC; Outlook Developing

- [Criteria | Insurance | General: Insurers Rating Methodology](#), July 1, 2019
- [General Criteria: Group Rating Methodology](#), July 1, 2019
- [General Criteria: Principles Of Credit Ratings](#), Feb. 16, 2011

## Related Research

- [Scottish Equitable PLC Ratings Lowered To 'A-' On Strategic Review by Aegon; Outlook Developing](#), March 4, 2026

## Ratings List

### Ratings List

---

### Ratings Affirmed

---

### **Scottish Equitable PLC**

---

### Financial Strength Rating

---

Local Currency

A-/Developing/--

---

Certain terms used in this report, particularly certain adjectives used to express our view on rating relevant factors, have specific meanings ascribed to them in our criteria, and should therefore be read in conjunction with such criteria. Please see Ratings Criteria at <https://disclosure.spglobal.com/ratings/en/regulatory/ratings-criteria> for further information. A description of each of S&P Global Ratings' rating categories is contained in "S&P Global Ratings Definitions" at <https://disclosure.spglobal.com/ratings/en/regulatory/article/-/view/sourceId/504352>. Complete ratings information is available to RatingsDirect subscribers at [www.capitaliq.com](http://www.capitaliq.com). All ratings referenced herein can be found on S&P Global Ratings' public website at [www.spglobal.com/ratings](http://www.spglobal.com/ratings).

## Scottish Equitable PLC 'A-' Rating Affirmed On Announced Sale To Standard Life PLC; Outlook Developing

Copyright © 2026 by Standard & Poor's Financial Services LLC. All rights reserved.

No content (including ratings, credit-related analyses and data, valuations, model, software or other application or output therefrom) or any part thereof (Content) may be modified, reverse engineered, reproduced or distributed in any form by any means, or stored in a database or retrieval system, without the prior written permission of Standard & Poor's Financial Services LLC or its affiliates (collectively, S&P). The Content shall not be used for any unlawful or unauthorized purposes. S&P and any third-party providers, as well as their directors, officers, shareholders, employees or agents (collectively S&P Parties) do not guarantee the accuracy, completeness, timeliness or availability of the Content. S&P Parties are not responsible for any errors or omissions (negligent or otherwise), regardless of the cause, for the results obtained from the use of the Content, or for the security or maintenance of any data input by the user. The Content is provided on an "as is" basis. S&P PARTIES DISCLAIM ANY AND ALL EXPRESS OR IMPLIED WARRANTIES, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, ANY WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY OR FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE OR USE, FREEDOM FROM BUGS, SOFTWARE ERRORS OR DEFECTS, THAT THE CONTENT'S FUNCTIONING WILL BE UNINTERRUPTED OR THAT THE CONTENT WILL OPERATE WITH ANY SOFTWARE OR HARDWARE CONFIGURATION. In no event shall S&P Parties be liable to any party for any direct, indirect, incidental, exemplary, compensatory, punitive, special or consequential damages, costs, expenses, legal fees, or losses (including, without limitation, lost income or lost profits and opportunity costs or losses caused by negligence) in connection with any use of the Content even if advised of the possibility of such damages.

Some of the Content may have been created with the assistance of an artificial intelligence (AI) tool. Published Content created or processed using AI is composed, reviewed, edited, and approved by S&P personnel.

Credit-related and other analyses, including ratings, and statements in the Content are statements of opinion as of the date they are expressed and not statements of fact. S&P's opinions, analyses and rating acknowledgment decisions (described below) are not recommendations to purchase, hold, or sell any securities or to make any investment decisions, and do not address the suitability of any security. S&P assumes no obligation to update the Content following publication in any form or format. The Content should not be relied on and is not a substitute for the skill, judgment and experience of the user, its management, employees, advisors and/or clients when making investment and other business decisions. S&P does not act as a fiduciary or an investment advisor except where registered as such. While S&P has obtained information from sources it believes to be reliable, S&P does not perform an audit and undertakes no duty of due diligence or independent verification of any information it receives. Rating-related publications may be published for a variety of reasons that are not necessarily dependent on action by rating committees, including, but not limited to, the publication of a periodic update on a credit rating and related analyses.

To the extent that regulatory authorities allow a rating agency to acknowledge in one jurisdiction a rating issued in another jurisdiction for certain regulatory purposes, S&P reserves the right to assign, withdraw or suspend such acknowledgment at any time and in its sole discretion. S&P Parties disclaim any duty whatsoever arising out of the assignment, withdrawal or suspension of an acknowledgment as well as any liability for any damage alleged to have been suffered on account thereof.

S&P keeps certain activities of its business units separate from each other in order to preserve the independence and objectivity of their respective activities. As a result, certain business units of S&P may have information that is not available to other S&P business units. S&P has established policies and procedures to maintain the confidentiality of certain non-public information received in connection with each analytical process.

S&P may receive compensation for its ratings and certain analyses, normally from issuers or underwriters of securities or from obligors. S&P reserves the right to disseminate its opinions and analyses. S&P's public ratings and analyses are made available on its Web sites, [www.spglobal.com/ratings](http://www.spglobal.com/ratings) (free of charge), and [www.ratingsdirect.com](http://www.ratingsdirect.com) (subscription), and may be distributed through other means, including via S&P publications and third-party redistributors. Additional information about our ratings fees is available at [www.spglobal.com/usratingsfees](http://www.spglobal.com/usratingsfees).

STANDARD & POOR'S, S&P and RATINGSDIRECT are registered trademarks of Standard & Poor's Financial Services LLC.