

# Notes on reporting principles, scope and process

## Principles

- Our aim in producing this Review is to provide a balanced, concise and comprehensive view of the company's operations, performance and impact.
- This Review is prepared in accordance with GRI Standards, published by the Global Reporting Initiative, as well as guidelines from the International Integrated Reporting Council (IIRC). Aegon has been using GRI reporting standards since its first corporate responsibility report in 2003. Details of our compliance with GRI standards may be found in our 2017 Reporting Supplement. We have included references to specific GRI Standards in the data tables on [pages 39](#) and [40](#). These are for reference purposes only, and do not indicate any particular degree of materiality.
- This Review is based on extensive reporting from Aegon country and operating units around the world. All content is reviewed by the company's Disclosure Committee and is subject to formal approval by Aegon's Management, Executive and Supervisory Boards before publication. For our 2017 Review, we decided not to seek external assurance. This will allow time for further improvements to be made to our reporting, and internal data collection processes. Previous Aegon Reviews were verified by external auditors.
- Our Review covers the full year 2017 (January-December), unless otherwise stated. All necessary notes, explanations and definitions are provided in the text or accompanying tables. Aegon's previous Review was published in March 2017 and is available [online](#).

## Scope

We use a materiality test to determine the scope and content of our integrated report. We include only *material* information – in other words, information that relates to issues we believe have, or will have, a significant long-term impact on our profitability, operations or reputation. This test applies to both our own businesses, and to other parts of our value chain such as our relations with business partners, suppliers or the companies in which we invest. To help determine materiality, we look at a number of factors, including potential risks, impact on earnings, brand, reputation, strategy, customer loyalty and recruitment, as well as the company's ability to deliver long-term growth and returns to investors. In addition to the data in this Review, we collect other non-financial performance data for management purposes (this includes data on working conditions, work-related injuries and illnesses, use of social media in customer support, financial literacy programs, consumption of both gas and electricity, incidents of fraud etc.).

All information in this Review covers our three largest operating units (the US, Netherlands and UK). With regard to other units, we have included only information that we believe has, or may have, a material impact. For joint ventures, we report proportionally based on Aegon's share of ownership (unless indicated otherwise). For more details, please see our Reporting Supplement online.