

Standard Life

Founded in Edinburgh in 1825, the Standard Life Group today specialises in asset management and long-term savings for around 4.5 million customers worldwide – and a further 20 million through joint ventures in China and India. The Group's archive helps to tell the story of our people, and how our business has grown, over nearly 200 years.

If you were to lay down all of the archive's original records and artefacts side by side, they would stretch for 5km. Minute books and accounts ledgers. Photographs of employees ranging from India to Glasgow to Jamaica. Beautifully illustrated product literature and posters customised for audiences in different countries. Pictures and plans of our branch offices the world over. And our oldest item, an original fire plaque from 1821.

Inspired by a surge of interest in the archive from within the Group and supported by the Business Archives Council of Scotland, we are working to turn our unique records into a useful business resource. Over the last year, we have employed a permanent archivist to carry out the cataloguing and preservation required to make the archive available to those with an interest in the company's history. And with a relocation project underway to move the archive to a more central location, the archive will soon be more accessible than ever before.

We've created a custom-built catalogue in line with the International Standard for Archive Descriptions. It's searchable and scalable, and will be used by our people to support business functions including marketing, creative services and company inductions.

"We work in a fast-changing industry – but we've always aimed to help people achieve more, live better and have confidence in their futures. Having such a rich and meaningful archive to look back on can really inspire our people to help shape the company we want to be, now and in years to come." Stephen Ingledew, Managing Director, Customer and Marketing.

We are working hard to highlight the relevance of our collections in today's corporate world. Our main priority is making the archive accessible to employees working across all areas of our business. We have begun work on a policy to outline how the archive can support the business, and how our people can make the most of what the facility offers. And by encouraging our people to donate items, it can help us maintain an archive equipped to tell the next chapters in our story.

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