

SLAUGHTER AND MAY

Insurance 2026



Our insurance practice

We have a *market-leading* international insurance practice.

We advise a large number of the major players in the insurance sector and have handled many of the major sector transactions in recent years. The breadth of our practice encompasses the full range of work including mergers and acquisitions, reinsurance and other risk transfers, pensions derisking, capital markets, restructuring, investigations and regulatory advice.

We work closely with our asset management, financing, pensions and disputes colleagues to provide an integrated service across the entire waterfront of the sector.

About us

Leading

Recognised as a leading firm for insurance in London and the UK

Chambers UK and the UK Legal 500

70%

Over 70% of turnover from international work

1st

First for FTSE 100 and FTSE 250 clients

Corporate Advisers Rankings Guide

Mergers and acquisitions

Our expertise in insurance M&A is unrivalled. We have a huge range of experience, covering public and private deals in both the life and non-life sectors and involving a client base including multi-national insurance groups, small to medium sized enterprises and start-ups. We advised:

- Zurich on its recommended cash acquisition of Beazley and its acquisition of Generali's non-life insurance business in Ireland
- Allianz on its agreement with Sanlam to combine their operations across Africa (excluding South Africa)
- Just Group on its recommended all-cash offer by Brookfield Wealth Solutions
- Ageas on the sale of its UK commercial lines front book business to AXA Insurance
- Reinet Investments SCA, CVC Capital Partners, HPS Investment Partners and a subsidiary of the Abu Dhabi Investment Authority on the sale of Pension Insurance Corporation to Athora Holding UK
- Pollen Street Capital and its portfolio company Markerstudy on a number of transactions including its merger with personal lines broking business Atlanta
- Direct Line on its recommended acquisition by Aviva by way of a recommended cash and share offer
- RSA on its £7.2 billion recommended cash offer made by a subsidiary of Intact Financial Corporation, acting in consortium with Tryg A/S
- Aviva on the acquisition of AIG's UK protection business
- Aviva on the strategic divestment of a number of its businesses across Europe and Asia
- Standard Life Aberdeen on the sale of its capital-intensive insurance business to Phoenix
- Allianz on the acquisition of the general insurance business of Legal & General

Reinsurance and other risk transfer

Reinsurance is a key part of our practice. Our experience includes advising on a range of reinsurance structures including funded reinsurance, net reinsurance, deposit back and funds withheld structures, transformer deals and longevity swaps. We advised:

- Canada Life on multiple collateralised longevity swaps with UK and EU counterparties, including PIC, Aegon and NN
- Zurich Assurance on reinsurance arrangements with Pacific Life Re and The Prudential Insurance Company of America in respect of underlying pension derisking longevity swap arrangements
- Legal & General on multiple reinsurance arrangements in respect of its pension derisking activities
- Zurich on the transfer of its UK legacy employers' liability insurance portfolio to Catalina
- RSA on its disposal of UK legacy liabilities to Enstar
- Delta Lloyd Levensverzekering on a six year longevity swap with Reinsurance Group of America
- AEGON on a longevity swap with Deutsche Bank

Pension solutions

Our work in the pensions solutions markets combines the expertise of our insurance, financing and pensions practices. We have been at the forefront of the development of innovative transaction structures designed to transfer pension risk. We advised:

- Zurich on its £6 billion longevity swap deal covering pension liabilities of the BBC pension scheme
- Legal & General on multiple buy-in transactions with UK pension schemes (together with related reinsurance arrangements), including two buy-ins totalling £4.6 billion with pension schemes sponsored by Ford Motor Company Limited – the largest buy-in transaction announced in the UK in 2025
- Hays on the derisking of the Hays Pension Scheme with Pension Insurance Corporation
- the Trustee of the SCA UK Pension Plan on a £1.1 billion full buy-in of the Plan with Legal & General
- United Utilities on the partial buy-ins entered into with Legal & General by the trustees of two pension schemes sponsored by United Utilities
- Tata Steel UK on the full buy-in of the British Steel Pension Scheme, achieved by phased buy-ins with Legal & General totalling £7.5 billion of liabilities – BSPS is the largest scheme in the UK to have secured full insurance
- Intact Financial Corporation and RSA on the insurance of £6.5 billion of liabilities in total of RSA's two main defined benefit pensions schemes with Pensions Insurance Corporation
- PA Pension Trustees on the derisking of the PA Pension scheme with Pension Insurance Corporation
- Aviva on the derisking of the Aviva Staff Pension Scheme via an insurance “conduit” directly to the reinsurance market

Lloyd's of London

We have a very active practice advising on transactions in the Lloyd's sector, focusing in particular on equity investment, acquisitions and disposals and reinsurance arrangements. We advised:

- the Lime Group in connection with the establishment of a new Lloyd's Third Party Managing Agent
- MCI Holdco on the launch of a new "syndicate-in-a-box", Syndicate 1902, to write three core classes of business – life science and clinical trials, medical malpractice and commercial liability
- OMERS on the UK aspects of its acquisition of a 14% stake in BRIT from Fairfax Financial Holdings
- Blackstone's Tactical Opportunities business on its investment in Ki, the first fully digital and algorithmically-driven Lloyd's syndicate
- RiverStone Management on its reinsurance-to-close transactions ("RITCs") with ArgoGlobal and MS Amlin
- White Mountains on its investment of fresh capital and acquisition of a majority interest in Ark Insurance Holdings, the ultimate parent company of Ark Syndicate Management. Ark manages the underwriting of syndicates 4020 and 3092 at Lloyd's
- RiverStone on its acquisition of the Neon Group (including Lloyd's of London insurer, Neon) from American Financial Group and the associated disposal of Neon Sapphire to Spring Partners

Disputes, investigations and enquiries

We work closely with our Disputes and Investigations group to support insurance clients across a broad range of areas including regulatory investigations, competition enquiries, coverage disputes, policy interpretation issues, reinsurer insolvency, brokers' liability and claims litigation. We advised:

- Aviva / Direct Line Group in respect of the PRA's investigation and enforcement outcome relating to an historical miscalculation of Direct Line Group's Solvency II balance sheet during 2023 and 2024
- Novitas Loans Limited, a subsidiary of Close Brothers, in relation to two claims brought in the Commercial Court by Novitas against two separate after-the-event insurers for breach of contract in relation to a failed litigation funding scheme
- a client on the interpretation of trade credit reinsurance protection arrangements
- an insurer on a breach of warranty claim arising out of a business transfer agreement
- Aviva, Allianz, CNA, Liberty Mutual, MS Amlin and Zurich in relation to business interruption insurance claims brought by various English Premier League football clubs in respect of losses suffered during the COVID-19 pandemic
- a number of insurers in respect of other COVID-19 related business interruption insurance and reinsurance claims, including advice on the land-mark financial markets test case brought by the FCA and ongoing advice in relation to a number of complex reinsurance arbitrations
- a large insurer in relation to the impact of regulatory enforcement action on a senior executive's remuneration package
- an insurance client in respect of the FCA's thematic review of the sale of enhanced annuities and subsequent past business review and redress programme
- Standard Life Aberdeen on a contractual dispute with Lloyds Banking Group relating to agreements in respect of assets managed by SLA for Lloyds and customers of its insurance businesses
- a listed savings and investment company in relation to the recovery from insurers of significant costs and liabilities arising from an investigation by the Financial Conduct Authority

Insurance business transfer schemes

Insurance business transfer schemes are a key technique for internal restructurings, demutualisations and risk transfers as well as on the sale of a business or portfolio of business. We regularly advise on transfer schemes in all of these contexts. We advised:

- Zurich on the Part VII transfer of its UK legacy employers' liability portfolio to Catalina
- Chesnara on the Part VII transfer of a portfolio of life insurance policies from Canada Life Limited to Countrywide Assured plc
- Zurich Insurance plc on its Brexit-related Part VII transfer of the majority of its existing UK branch business, representing over £2bn of gross written premium, to a newly-authorized UK branch of Zurich Insurance Company Ltd
- Legal & General on the transfer of its Mature Savings business to ReAssure
- Canada Life on the transfer of insurance business to it from MGM Advantage Life
- Ageas and Riverstone on the transfer of general insurance and reinsurance policies from Ageas to Riverstone

Asset management

We advise insurance sector clients on a range of investment and asset management matters, including the restructuring of assets to meet regulatory requirements. We advised:

- Legal & General Capital on its growth equity investment in Kensa, the UK's leading manufacturer of ground source heat pumps and related technologies
- a number of clients on the restructuring of assets for matching adjustment purposes, including the repackaging of equity release mortgages, foreign currency denominated bonds and properties under construction using SPVs
- Legal & General on a number of transactions involving its real estate investment portfolio including the acquisition of Barking Rail Freight Terminal from Friends Life and the regeneration of Central Square, Cardiff
- Swiss Re on (i) its agreement with Pacific Century Group to invest up to US\$425 million in FWD Group and (ii) its acquisition from Zurich Insurance Company of a 4.9% shareholding in New China Life

Our Asia practice

We are a full-service law firm in Asia, and we were the first British law firm to open an office in Hong Kong. For over 50 years, we have been at the forefront of the local and regional Corporate and M&A market, particularly in the FIG sector, advising on the largest M&A, JV, and bancassurance transactions in the region. We act for many of the leading insurers in Asia, including Prudential, FWD, Aviva, Swiss RE, HSBC Insurance, Standard Life, ZhongAn Online P&C Insurance, and China Reinsurance. Key deals include advising:

- Morgan Stanley, Goldman Sachs, CMB International and HSBC on the HK\$3.5 billion global offering and listing of FWD Group Holdings on the Main Board of the Hong Kong Stock Exchange
- Prudential on matters including its \$1.15bn regional bancassurance arrangement with United Overseas Bank for Singapore and Southeast Asia, its bancassurance arrangement with SeABank in Vietnam, the demerger of Jackson and M&G, the sale of its life insurance subsidiary in Korea to Mirae Asset Life Insurance, its Hong Kong public offer and international placing, and its share buyback programmes
- FWD on various matters including its strategic investment in Gibraltar BSN Life in Malaysia, its US\$3bn life insurance acquisition and bancassurance agreement with Siam Commercial Bank in Thailand, the sale of its bancassurance agreement with TMB to Prudential, and its acquisition of AIG Fuji Life Insurance in Japan
- Aviva on matters including the sale of its remaining shareholding in Singlife, its exit from Vietnam by selling Vietnamese life insurance business to Manulife, its exit from Indonesia by selling its entire shareholding in its joint venture in PT Astra Aviva Life, the sale of its stake in its Hong Kong joint venture, Blue, and on the establishment, authorisation, and operational processes of a new digital distribution business
- HSBC Insurance on its joint acquisition, with Ping An Insurance (Group), of Fujian Asia Bank and its agreement to subscribe for new common shares of Ping An Insurance of China equivalent to 10% of Ping An's enlarged issued share capital
- Zhong An Online P&C Insurance on its US\$931.3mn first round of fundraising by investors Morgan Stanley, CICC, CDH Investments, SAIF Partners and Keywise Capital, valuing Zhong An at US\$8bn
- Bupa on matters including the acquisition of the largest private clinic network in Hong Kong, Quality HealthCare Medical Services, its exclusive distribution agreement with Hang Seng Bank and in support of its Customer Labs insurtech and healthcare incubator scheme
- Ageas on its agreement with China Taiping Insurance to acquire a 25% stake in the enlarged share capital of Taiping Reinsurance for HK\$3.1bn

Debt capital markets

We have a strong financing practice which regularly advises insurance clients on their debt capital markets programmes. In recent years we have been at the forefront of developing instruments to satisfy Solvency II requirements, including advising on the first UK public issuance of Restricted Tier 1 capital. We advised:

- Aviva on its issuance of GBP500m RT1 notes for regulatory capital purposes – the first RT1 issuance in the UK after the updates to the Solvency II rules came into effect at the start of 2025
- Prudential on its issuance of \$1 billion 2.95 per cent subordinated notes, intended to qualify as tier 2 capital under the Insurance (Group Capital) Rules of Hong Kong
- Just Group on the first issuances, by a UK insurer, of both a Green Bond comprising GBP250m fixed rate reset subordinated Tier 2 notes and a Sustainable Bond, comprising GBP 325m contingent convertible RT1 notes
- Athora on its EUR250,000,000 Tier 3 Term Loan Facility with a syndicate of banks. The term loans under the Facility constitute Tier 3 regulatory capital in Bermuda
- Bupa on its debt issuances of Tier 2 notes and contingent convertible RT1 notes under the Solvency II regime
- RSA Insurance Group on its issue of Floating Rate Perpetual Restricted Tier 1 Contingent Convertible Notes – the first public Solvency II compliant Restricted Tier 1 issuance by a UK insurer

Demergers, restructurings and demutualisations

We have an unparalleled track record of advising on major insurance company restructurings including demutualisations and the restructurings of life funds. We advised:

- Aviva on the post-acquisition integration of Direct Line Insurance Group plc, including advice in respect of corporate restructuring, regulatory and contractual matters
- Prudential on the demerger of Jackson Financial Inc. and its subsidiaries, which include Jackson National Life, the US life insurance business
- Prudential on the demerger of its UK and Europe business (M&G Prudential) from Prudential plc, resulting in two separately-listed companies
- each of the Department of Health and Social Care and the Welsh Government on the establishment of new clinical negligence schemes for GPs
- on the demutualisation and flotations of Standard Life, Old Mutual, Norwich Union, Colonial Mutual and Irish Life
- Standard Life on the extensive restructuring work required in connection with its demutualisation and flotation

Distribution, outsourcing and other commercial arrangements

We advise our insurance clients on a broad range of commercial arrangements, both in the context of wider transactions and on a stand-alone basis. This includes strategic partnerships, distribution arrangements and outsourcing transactions. We advised:

- Arrow Global, a pan-European investment manager specialising in private credit and real estate, on the launch of Arrow Global Insurance, a new business vertical designed to capture institutional investment opportunities across the insurance value chain
- an insurtech client on its bespoke distribution arrangements with a mutual insurer under which the insurer will underwrite term life and critical illness insurance products developed and distributed by our client
- Standard Life Aberdeen (now abrdn) on the simplification and extension of its strategic partnership with Phoenix Group, including an extension of the strategic asset management partnership and the acquisition by Phoenix Group of the Standard Life brand
- FWD on its agreement with TMB Bank Public Company Limited to sell its bancassurance contract to Prudential for a consideration of THB20 billion
- Prudential in connection with the entry into of an exclusive bancassurance partnership over a 20-year term between Prudential Vietnam Assurance Private Limited and Southeast Asia Commercial Joint Stock Bank
- FWD Group on a bancassurance arrangement with Siam Commercial Bank (SCB) for the distribution of FWD's life insurance products to SCB's customers in Thailand

Equity capital markets

As a market leader in the field of equity capital markets we are ideally placed to help our insurance sector clients on a range of capital issuances. Our work in this area includes advising on flotations, rights issues, placings and other issuances. We advised:

- Prudential on its US\$2 billion share buyback programme
- Prudential on its equity raise of up to five per cent of its issued share capital on the Hong Kong Stock Exchange, through a concurrent public offer in Hong Kong and an international placing to institutional investors
- esure and Gocompare.com Group plc on the demerger of Gocompare.com and listing on the main market of the London Stock Exchange
- China Re on the US\$2 billion (approx.) global offering and the listing on the Main Board of the Hong Kong Stock Exchange
- Standard Life on its return of around £1.75 billion to shareholders by way of a B/C share scheme
- Brit, esure and Direct Line on their IPOs

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Slaughter and May has a balance of *excellent technical skills* with commercial pragmatism. They are the go-to firm for high-value and complex transactions.

Chambers UK, 2026

Extremely knowledgeable and *experienced* in this sector. Responsive and easy to deal with.

Legal 500, 2026

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