



UNITED STATES  
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549

DIVISION OF  
CORPORATION FINANCE

July 17, 2014

Via E-mail

Mr. Terrence J. Lillis  
Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer  
Principal Financial Group, Inc.  
711 High Street  
Des Moines, IA 50392

**Re: Principal Financial Group, Inc.  
Form 10-K for the Fiscal Year Ended December 31, 2013  
Filed February 12, 2014  
File No. 001-16725**

Dear Mr. Lillis:

We have completed our review of your filing. We remind you that our comment or changes to disclosure in response to our comment do not foreclose the Commission from taking any action with respect to the company or the filing and the company may not assert the staff comment as a defense in any proceeding initiated by the Commission or any person under the federal securities laws of the United States. We urge all persons who are responsible for the accuracy and adequacy of the disclosure in the filings to be certain that the filings include the information the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and all applicable rules require.

Sincerely,

/s/ Joel Parker

Joel Parker  
Accounting Branch Chief