



DIVISION OF  
CORPORATION FINANCE

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

December 18, 2014

Via Email

Anthony M. Stollings  
Chief Financial Officer  
First Financial Bancorp  
255 East Fifth Street  
Suite 700  
Cincinnati, Ohio 45202

**Re: First Financial Bancorp  
Form 10-K for Fiscal Year Ended December 31, 2013  
Filed February 25, 2014  
File No. 001-34762**

Dear Mr. Stollings:

We have completed our review of your filings. We remind you that our comments or changes to disclosure in response to our comments do not foreclose the Commission from taking any action with respect to the company or the filings and the company may not assert staff comments 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 filing to be certain that the filings include the information the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and all applicable rules require.

Sincerely,

/s/ John P. Nolan

John P. Nolan  
Senior Assistant Chief Accountant