

19 December 2005

**Notification of Share Interest  
Sections 198-203 of the Companies Act 1985**

We have received a notice dated 16 December 2005 from an official of Southeastern Asset Management, Inc., the extract of which is as follows:

"We hereby notify you that, as a result of sales made on December 16 2005, the clients of Southeastern Asset Management, Inc., a U.S. registered investment advisor, have total aggregate ownership in the ordinary shares of Countrywide plc equalling 7.72% as of the date of this letter. Pursuant to Section 198 of the Companies Act 1985 (as amended), Southeastern hereby gives notice of the interest held by its clients in the ordinary shares of Countrywide plc.

The following schedule details the registered holders of the ordinary shares. Percentage holdings were calculated using an issued share capital of 177,431,739 ordinary shares.

<b>Registered Holder</b>	<b>Holding</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Nortrust Nominees Ltd	4,751,921	2.68%
Mellon Nominees (UK) Ltd	3,345,936	1.89%
The Bank of New York (Nominees) Ltd	1,409,000	0.79%
State Street Nominees Ltd	3,285,000	1.85%
Harewood Nominees	910,000	0.51%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>13,701,757</b>	<b>7.72%</b> "

They have decreased their holding from 15,821,757 shares reported on 12 December 2005 to 13,701,757 shares which equates to 7.72 % of the issued share capital.

Company Secretary/Director  
**Countrywide plc**

c.c. H D Hill  
M C Nower