

10 March 2006

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

We have received a notice dated 10 March 2006 from an official of Prudential plc, the extract of which is as follows:-

“In reply to your request and in accordance with part VI of the Companies Act 1985 (as amended) ( the “Act”), we write to inform you that Prudential plc, and certain of its subsidiary companies, have a notifiable interest in the issued share capital of your company as detailed in the attached schedule.

For the purposes of s210 of the Act, the address for those companies identified in the attached schedule is Laurence Pountney Hill, London EC4R OHH”.

They have increased their shareholding from 5,911,374 reported on 30 January 2006 to 6,093,917 shares which equates to 3.43% of the issued share capital.

Director/Company Secretary  
**Countrywide plc**

Percentage holdings are calculated using an issued share capital of 177,438,405 ORD GBPO.05 shares

<b>Registered Holder</b>	<b>Holding</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
<b>Prudential plc</b>	<b>Total notifiable interest</b>	<b>6,093,917</b>
		<b>3.43%</b>
PRUCLT HSBC GIS NOM (UK) PAC AC +	5,365,842	
PRUCLT HSBC GIS NOM (UK) PPL AC +	728,075	
<b>The Prudential Assurance Company Limited</b>	<b>6,093,917</b>	<b>3.43%</b>
PRUCLT HSBC GIS NOM (UK) PAC AC	5,365,842	
PRUCLT HSBC GIS NOM (UK) PPL AC	728,075	

+ repeated in the columns below