

6 January 2006

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

We have received a notice dated 5 January 2006 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 5 January 2006, 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 5.17% 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 177,432,419 ordinary shares.

Registered Holder	Holding	Percentage
Nortrust Nominees Ltd	3,748,421	2.11%
Mellon Nominees (UK) Ltd	2,092,000	1.18%
The Bank of New York (Nominees) Ltd	578,000	0.32%
State Street Nominees Ltd	2,761,936	1.56%
Totals	9,180,357	5.17% "

They have decreased their holding from 12,201,757 shares reported on 21 December 2005 to 9,180,357 shares which equates to 5.17% of the issued share capital.

Company Secretary
Countrywide plc