

4 May 2007

**Transparency Obligations Directive  
(Disclosure and Transparency Rules) Instrument 2006**

We have today received the following notice dated 2 May 2007 from an official of the Goldman Sachs Group, Inc.

In compliance with the Disclosure and Transparency Rules, they confirm that as at 30 April 2007, the Goldman Sachs Group, Inc., of 85 Broad Street, New York NY10004, USA, have a notifiable interest in and are the indirect holders of 15,365,123 ordinary shares of Countrywide plc. Such shares are registered in the names of

- Goldman Sachs & Co.,
- Goldman Sachs Asset Management International; and
- Goldman Sachs Asset Management L.P.

This equates to 8.91% of the issued share capital of 172,480,747 shares.

Of these 15,365,123 shares:

The interest in 14,883,102 shares arose from an interest held by Goldman Sachs & Co., a wholly-owned direct subsidiary of GS Inc, acting as custodian for its customers. These shares are, or will be, registered in the name of Goldman Sachs Securities (Nominees), Limited.

The interest in 482,021 shares arose from the interest held by Goldman Sachs Asset Management, a wholly owned subsidiary of GS Inc acting as discretionary manager. We believe that some of these shares are, or will be, registered in the name of GSSN.

They have increased their holding from 9,331,123 shares, as announced on 30 April 2007 to 15,365,123 shares.

Director/Secretary  
**Countrywide plc**

c.c. H D Hill  
M C Nower  
G Turner  
J Pleumeekers )  
J Coddington ) Hawkpoint  
M Luen )  
M Franklin )