

Under strict embargo until - 10am Thursday 1st April 2010

1st April 2010

Countrywide unveils new agreement with my|deposits

Countrywide Residential Lettings, the UK's largest letting agent, has announced a new agreement with my|deposits, which comes into effect from 1st April 2010.

The agreement will enable Countrywide Residential Lettings to move the protection of all deposits held under Assured Shorthold Tenancy Agreements to my|deposits.

Countrywide Residential Lettings helps more than 50,000 landlords and tenants every year through a UK-wide network of more than 200 offices and has championed industry regulation and the importance of deposit protection from the outset with an industry leading track record for dispute resolution.

John Hards, Co-managing Director of Countrywide Residential Lettings, announced the agreement by saying: "We have been impressed with my|deposits and their fantastic reputation for providing excellent customer service to resolve deposit disputes quickly and fairly. This decision is great news for both our landlords and tenants who have the reassurance of knowing that their deposits will continue to be protected by a government-approved scheme."

Countrywide Residential Lettings will continue to hold all deposits and the new service level agreement will enable Countrywide to move all existing landlords to my|deposits. All new landlords will automatically register with my|deposits from April onwards.

Eddie Hooker, Chief Executive, my|deposits, said: "Countrywide's commitment to its landlords and tenants has no doubt been integral to its success. At my|deposits, we pride ourselves on offering members an easy-to-use, business-focused and streamlined process and we look forward to working Countrywide going forward."

John Hards added: "All landlords have been written to and advised of the changes but there is no action to take on their part as it's all been taken care of. Meeting and exceeding the needs of our landlords and tenants lie at the heart of everything we do and we will continue to act in their best interests to ensure 2010 builds on the record-breaking success we enjoyed in 2009."

ENDS

To arrange interviews and find out more, please contact:

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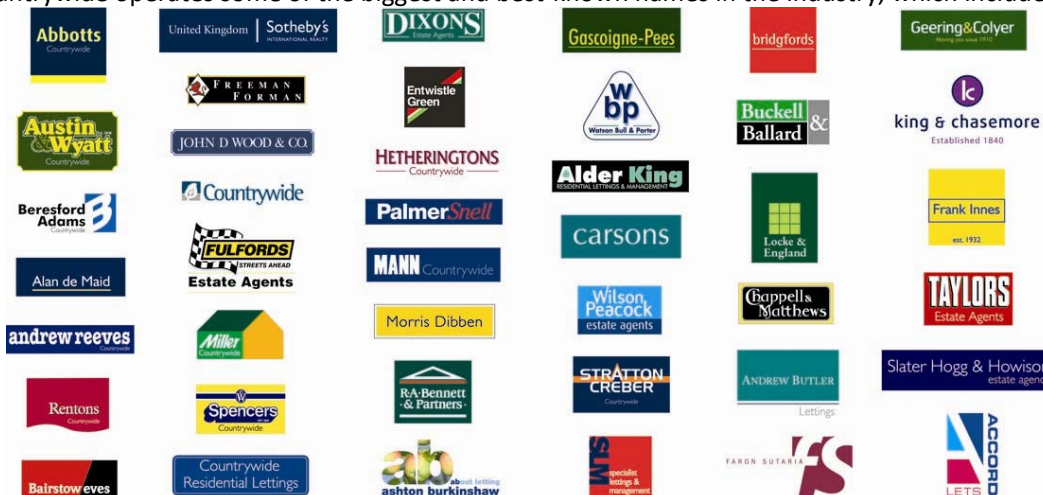
Email: gemma.stacey@countrywide.co.uk

Notes to editor:

Countrywide Residential Lettings (CRL) has grown over more than 25 years to become the UK's largest lettings agent, employing more than 1,200 staff across more than 200 branches in England, Scotland and Wales.

As an integral part of Countrywide, the UK's largest estate agency and property services business, CRL is one of the industry's best-known letting agents. All branches are ARLA-registered, with professionally trained staff offering a range of services, including property management, comprehensive insurance cover, specialist certifications, surveys, holiday accommodation, legal advice and more.

Countrywide operates some of the biggest and best-known names in the industry, which include:



All Countrywide agents can be found on



Mydeposits.co.uk protects over 400,000 tenants' deposits valued at over £360m. Mydeposits is the trading name of Tenancy Deposit Solutions Limited, a company jointly owned by the National Landlords Association and HFIS plc T/A Hamilton Fraser Insurance (the Scheme Administrator) to deliver an insurance-backed tenancy deposit protection scheme under contract from Communities & Local Government. Landlords and letting agents wishing to use this scheme are required to register with the Scheme Administrator. They can find out more and register by visiting www.mydeposits.co.uk. Registered members of the Scheme are able to protect and unprotect deposits at the beginning and end of tenancies. Fees are tax-deductible. In the event of a dispute at the end of the tenancy agreement, both parties are offered access to alternative dispute resolution (ADR). This procedure will be evidence-based, relying on documentation and records.