

ASTERAND PLC

TR-1: Notification of major interests in shares

1. Identity of the issuer or the underlying issuer of existing shares to which voting rights are attached:	Asterand PLC									
2. Reason for the notification										
An acquisition or disposal of voting rights	YES									
An acquisition or disposal of qualifying financial instruments which may result in the acquisition of shares already issued to which voting rights are attached.										
An acquisition or disposal of instruments with similar economic effect to qualifying financial instruments										
An event changing the breakdown of voting rights										
Other (please specify):										
3. Full name of person(s) subject to the notification obligation:	Aberforth Partners LLP									
4. Full name of shareholder(s) (if different from 3.):	<table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;"><u>Shareholder</u></th> <th style="text-align: right;"><u>Shares</u></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1. Aberforth Smaller Companies Trust plc</td> <td style="text-align: right;">4,128,080</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2. Aberforth UK Small Companies Fund</td> <td style="text-align: right;">1,363,676</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2">All shares are registered in the name of Nortrust Nominees Ltd A/c Aberforth</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		<u>Shareholder</u>	<u>Shares</u>	1. Aberforth Smaller Companies Trust plc	4,128,080	2. Aberforth UK Small Companies Fund	1,363,676	All shares are registered in the name of Nortrust Nominees Ltd A/c Aberforth	
<u>Shareholder</u>	<u>Shares</u>									
1. Aberforth Smaller Companies Trust plc	4,128,080									
2. Aberforth UK Small Companies Fund	1,363,676									
All shares are registered in the name of Nortrust Nominees Ltd A/c Aberforth										
5. Date of the transaction (and date on which the threshold is crossed or reached if different):	22/10/2010									
6. Date on which issuer notified:	25/10/2010									
7. Threshold(s) that is/are crossed or reached:	5%									

8. Notified details:							
A: Voting rights attached to shares							
Class/type of shares if possible use the ISIN CODE	Situation previous to the triggering transaction		Resulting situation after the triggering transaction				
	Number of Shares	Number of Voting Rights	Number of shares	Number of voting rights		% of voting rights	
				Direct	Indirect	Direct	Indirect
Ordinary GB0009231639	8,548,676	8,548,676	5,491,756	N/A	5,491,756	N/A	4.85

B: Qualifying Financial Instruments				
Resulting situation after the triggering transaction				
Type of financial instrument	Expiration date	Exercise/ Conversion Period	Number of voting rights that may be acquired if the instrument is exercised/ converted.	% of voting rights
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

C: Financial Instruments with similar economic effect to Qualifying Financial Instruments						
Resulting situation after the triggering transaction						
Type of financial instrument	Exercise price	Expiration date	Exercise/ Conversion period	Number of voting rights instrument refers to	% of voting rights	
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Nominal	Delta
					N/A	N/A

Total (A+B+C)	
Number of voting rights	Percentage of voting rights
5,491,756	4.85

9. Chain of controlled undertakings through which the voting rights and/or the financial instruments are effectively held, if applicable:
Held by Aberforth Partners LLP

Proxy Voting:	
10. Name of the proxy holder:	N/A
11. Number of voting rights proxy holder will cease to hold:	N/A
12. Date on which proxy holder will cease to hold voting rights:	N/A

13. Additional information:	
14. Contact name:	Pauline Robson, Aberforth Partners LLP
15. Contact telephone number:	0131 220 0733