the national archives

UNCLASSIFIED
RESTRICTED/UNCLASSIFIED

MOD Form 329D
(Revised 8/00)
PPQ = 100

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

Date opened (Date of first enclosure)
2-8-2006

Registered file number
D/DAS/10/2/8/13

Part No. 9

1. Attention is drawn to the notes on the inside flap.
2. Enter notes of related files on page 2 of this jacket

DIVISION/ESTABLISHMENT/UNIT/BRANCH
DGRP

[FULL ADDRESS & TELEPHONE NUMBER]

SUBJECT Information Management - Defence Information Management - The Freedom of Information Act - Requests for Information

[BLOCK CAPITALS]

RECORD OF KEYWORDS:

29/8/06

Referred to	Date	Min/ Encl	Referred to	Date	Min/ Encl	Referred to	Date	Min/ Encl	Referred to	Date	Min/ Encl

FOR DRO USE ONLY

1st Review date

2nd Review date

PA ACTION

(MOD Form 262F must be completed at the time of file closure)

Produced by MOD
DSDA (PC) Ky. Tel: 0117 9376256

RESTRICTED/UNCLASSIFIED
UNCLASSIFIED

Registered File Disposal Form

MOD Form 262F
(Revised 1/00)

FILE TITLE: (Main Heading - Secondary Heading - Tertiary Heading etc)
Information Management - Defence Information Management - Freedom of Information Act 2000 - Requests for Information

Reference:
(Prefix and Number): D/DPA/10/21/8/13

Part: 9

PROTECTIVE MARKING (including caveats & descriptors): Unclassified

Date of last enclosure: 29/08/06

Date closed: 29/08/06

PART 1. DISPOSAL SCHEDULE RECOMMENDATION
(To be completed when the file is closed)

	✔
Destroy after _____ years	
Forward to DR after _____ years	
No recommendation	

FOR DEFENCE RECORDS (DR) USE ONLY

Date of 1st review	Date of 2nd review	Forward Destruction Date

Reviewer's Signature: _____

Reviewer's Signature: _____

PART 2. BRANCH REVIEW
(To be fully completed at time of file closure)
(Delete as appropriate)

a. Of no further administrative value and not worthy of permanent preservation. DESTROY IMMEDIATELY (Remember that TOP SECRET and Codeword material cannot be destroyed locally and must be forwarded to DR. ✔

b. (i) To be retained for _____ years (from date of last enclosure) for the following reason(s):

For Permanent Preservation

	✔		✔	
LEGAL		DEFENCE POLICY + OPERATIONS		
CONTRACTUAL		ORIGINAL COMMITTEE PAPERS		
FINANCE/AUDIT		MAJOR EQUIPMENT PROJECT		[_____]
DIRECTORATE POLICY		OTHER (Specify)		

PPQ = 100

(Continued overleaf)

(ii) Key enclosures which support the recommendation are:

(iii) At the end of the specified retention period the file is to be:

Destroyed ☐ ✔

Considered by DR for permanent preservation ☐

c. Of no further administrative value but worthy of consideration by DR for permanent preservation. ☐ ✔

PART 3. BRANCH REVIEWING OFFICER (not below HEO/equivalent)

Signatur[redacted] Section 40

Name: [redacted]
(Block Capitals)

Grade/Rank: C2 Date: 13.8.10

Branch Title and Full Address:

RAF Bus Sec
HQ Air Comd
RAF High Wycombe
Bucks
HP14 4UG

Tel No:

PART 4 DESTRUCTION CERTIFICATE

It is certified that the specified file has been destroyed.

Signature: _____

Name: _____
(Block Capitals)

Grade/Rank: _____ Date: _____

Witnessed by (TOP SECRET* and SECRET only)

Signature: _____

Name: _____
(Block Capitals)

Grade/Rank: _____ Date: _____

*(FOR DR USE ONLY)

Produced by Ministry of Defence, DSDA(PC) KY Tel. 0117 9376256

ENCLOSURE	SUBJECT	NAME	AIT REF
1	UFO	Section 40 [redacted]	01-08-2006-091834-002
2	Low Flying		14-07-2006-123944-001
3	UFO		12-07-2006-104849-004
4	UFO		08-08-2006-145751-006
5	UFO		08-08-2006-143911-005
6	UFO		12-07-2006-103333-003
7	Aircraft Accidents		21-08-2006-063534-001
8	Aircraft Accidents		09-08-2006-141216-002
9	UFO		23-08-2006-105244-004
10	*Transferred to DE*		21-08-2006-153522-008
11	UFO		30-06-2006-124207-012
12	UFO		05-06-2006-143408-013
13	UFO		20-06-2006-103410-004

From: Section 40
Directorate of Air Staff - Freedom of Information
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
5th Floor, Zone H, Main Building, Whitehall, London SW1A 2HB

Telephone (Direct dial) 020 7218 2140
(Switchboard) 020 7218 9000
(Fax) Section 40
e-mail das-ufo-office@mod.uk

ENCLOSURE NUMBER 13

Section 40
Arnold
Nottingham
Section 40

Our Reference
20-06-2006-103410-004

Date
29th August 2006

Dear Section 40

I wrote to you on 30 June 2006 informing you that your request for copies of background briefing and advice provided in response to parliamentary questions by Lord Hill-Norton on 25 January and 3 May 2001 had been considered to fall within the scope of Section 36 (Prejudice to the effective conduct of public affairs) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and the Ministry of Defence was therefore required to consider whether there are overriding reasons why disclosure would not be in the public interest. These considerations have now concluded and I am writing to provide you with the outcome.

The Ministry of Defence holds a number of papers relevant to your requests including the two questions, the draft answers and background notes and internal advice which was used to compile the responses . This information falls within the scope of Section 36 (2)(b)(i) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 – Prejudice to the effective conduct of public affairs, as it relates to information that would, or would be likely to, inhibit the free and frank provision of advice.

Against disclosure of the information is the need to insure that officials are able to provide Ministers with free and frank opinions and advice in support of draft answers provided to parliamentary questions without this information becoming public. Routine release of such information could inhibit this process and therefore prejudice the effective conduct of public affairs. This would not be in the public interest.

However, this must be balanced against the public need to be assured that accurate information is given in answers provided by Ministers in response to parliamentary questions. All Freedom of Information requests are considered individually on their merits and in this case, the age and contents of the background information has been taken into account. It has been concluded that as the Defence Intelligence Staff, Unidentified Aerial Phenomena report to which the parliamentary questions refer has now been released into the public domain, there is no longer a harm with release of the majority of the background papers. The balance of public interest therefore falls in favour of release and I have enclosed copies of these documents with this letter. A few minor details have been removed as they are not relevant to your request. These consist of internal guidance notes for staff answering parliamentary correspondence, names of officials and information referring to other unconnected parliamentary questions.

I hope this is helpful. If you are unhappy with this response or wish to complain about any aspect of the handling of this request, then you should contact the undersigned in the first instance. Should you remain dissatisfied, then you may apply for an internal review by contacting the Director of Information Exploitation, 6th Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB (e-mail: Info-XD@mod.uk).

If you are still unhappy following an internal review, you may take your complaint to the Information Commissioner under the provisions of Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act. Please note that the Information Commissioner will not normally investigate your case until the MOD internal review process has been completed. Further details of the role and powers of the Information Commissioner can be found on the Commissioner's website, http://www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

[redacted]

LORDS WRITTEN PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION - URGENT ACTION REQUIRED

DATE FOR RETURN	:	**12:00 ON 18 January 2001**
PQ REFERENCE	:	PQ 0351L
PQ TYPE	:	LORDS WRITTEN
MINISTER REPLYING	:	-NOTFOUND-
LEAD BRANCH:	:	SEC (AS)
COPY ADDRESSEE(S)	:	[redacted]

REDACTED ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT

[redacted]

Peer's DETAIL: **Admiral of The Fleet The Lord Hill-Norton GCB**

QUESTION

To ask Her Majesty's Government To ask Her Majesty's Government what is the highest classification that has been applied to any Ministry of Defence document concerning Unidentified Flying Objects. (HL304)

Q 0351L - Lord Hill Norton

Question:

To ask HMG what is the highest classification that has been applied to any Ministry of Defence document concerning Unidentified Flying Objects.

Answer:

The highest classification is Secret.

Background Note: headed **UK RESTRICTED**

A [limited] search of material identified as relating to 'UFOs' indicates that the vast majority of the papers that exist on the subject, on open and closed files, are unclassified. Directorate Air Staff (Secretariat) has traced a small number of documents graded Secret. They relate to discussions concerning handling of correspondence and administrative arrangements not 'UFO' reports and appear to hold a higher classification than might be expected from the nature of the material they contain. The DIS has applied the classification of SECRET UK EYES ONLY to a recent report generated on Unidentified Aerial Phenomena (UAP). The report concluded a low priority study to database reports of UAP sightings that have been received within that area over a period of some 30 years. The main conclusion of the report was that sightings provided nothing of value to the DIS and a decision has been taken to cease work on the subject. The overall classification of the report was dictated by analysis material included on the UK Air Defence Ground Environment. The document is otherwise UK Restricted.

UNCLASSIFIED
~~UK RESTRICTED~~

POSSIBLE ANSWER TO PQ 03511

The DIS has applied the classification of SECRET UK EYES ONLY to a recent report generated on Unidentified Aerial Phenomena (UAP). The DIS has received copies of UAP sightings for about 30 years. These were filed without analysis. Recently, a low priority study was conducted to database the reports and carry out an analysis. The main conclusion was that the sightings provided nothing of value to the DIS in the assessment of weapon systems and that sightings can be explained as mis-reporting of man-made vehicles, natural but not unusual phenomena and natural but relatively rare and not completely understood phenomena. A decision has been made not to carry out any further work on the subject. The overall classification of the report was dictated by the analysis material included on the UK Air Defence Ground Environment otherwise it is UK RESTRICTED.

UNCLASSIFIED
~~UK RESTRICTED~~

REDACTED ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT

L [redacted]A1(SEC)

From: [redacted]
Sent: 17 January 2001 13:23
To: DAS4A1(SEC)
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: RE: UFO Related PQs

Importance: Low

Not a very comprehensive reply I am afraid, but it is as follows:

Records Classification

a. Our highest classification for UFO documents is RESTRICTED.

[redacted]

Please let me know if we can be of further assistance.

[redacted]

-----Original Message-----
From: [redacted]
Sent: 16 January 2001 10:38
To: [redacted]
Cc:
Subject: UFO Related PQs
Importance: High

[redacted]

Sorry for this fast ball but Lord Hill-Norton has submitted 4 PQs relating to a UFO report [redacted] We (I) have been asked to provide inputs to DAS4A1 (SEC) on 2 of the PQs:

The first question is ' What is the highest classification that has been applied to any MOD document concerning UFOs'

[redacted]

Answers have to be with DAS4A1(SEC) by cease work Wed 17 Jan 01. As I shall be out of office on that day, grateful if you would forward your inputs (including any pertinent background info and an indication of what, if anything, we would be happy to release to the public domain by way of a stated answer) on CHOtS direct to [redacted] (DAS4A1 (SEC)), info me. [redacted]

DAS4A1(SEC)

From: [redacted]
Sent: 17 January 2001 09:37
To: DAS4A1(SEC)
Subject: RE: PQ 0351L

[redacted]

How about something like this for the background note?

Identification of relevant records.

The Ministry of Defence has two main archives. One, the main archive located at Hayes that currently has in excess of 65 linear miles of records. A great majority of these are Services personnel records, but approximately, 10 linear miles are registered and unregistered files created by MOD HQ branches and outstations. These date back to the mid-1970s and are held awaiting review or for those already reviewed destruction. These records will carry a protective marking no higher than SECRET. A second, a much smaller archive, is located in central London holding approximately 3,000 linear feet of files with a protective marking at TOP SECRET level or requiring SPECIAL HANDLING).

There is no thematic index of files stored in either archive, although an exercise to create a database of archive holdings has been in place for a couple of years. But this is limited to recording basic file information such as file reference and the title as designated by the branch creating the record. The latter have proved to be particularly unhelpful on other exercises over the years for example a Ministerial file titled "USA" carried exchanges of correspondence of an ephemeral nature as well as significant details of "co-operation on special projects".

To undertake any search of the archives staff must be in the possession of at least - the abbreviate branch title and key words that might appear in the title. A physical search through MOD Form 262Fs (stored, in the main separately from files and totalling more than 1 million) ensures.

The identification of relevant files would then leads to the physical examination of the contents to establish the protective marking of individual documents and their relevancy to the subject.

Similar exercises in the past

PQs Vol. E. Re. PRO holdings

In 1998 Lord Hill Norton asked a number of PQs relating to departmental holding of files relating to the subject of ufos. As a consequence of the above research was limited to the identification only of Sec(AS) and predecessor files that carried the title "UFOs".

More recently, a member of the public ask for information relating to files on the same subject that also required a search of the archives. As with the previous occasion only a limited search was undertaken.

[PQ0351L *(you might wish to consider ending on an upbeat!)*

So far as this PQ is concerned, and in attempt to be helpful, a limited search through the holding of files held by DAS(Sec) on this subject has been carried out. With the following result.....]

I hope that this is helpful

Section 40

17/01/01

-----Original Message-----
From: DAS4A1(SEC)
Sent: 16 January 2001 15:53
To: [redacted]
Subject: PQ 0351L

[redacted]

Further to our discussion earlier today about the classification of documents concerning UFOs for one of the PQs we are answering, I would be grateful if you could send me something in writing that we can include in the background note. It may be helpful to mention the trawl of files you did for [redacted] query.

The question asked in the PQ is:

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is the highest classification that has been applied to any Ministry of Defence document concerning Unidentified Flying Objects.

As our deadline for the PQ is 1200 on Thursday 18 January, I would appreciate a response as soon as possible.

Thank you

[redacted]
DAS4a1(Sec)
[redacted]

REDACTED ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT

[redacted]A1(SEC)

From: [redacted]
Sent: 16 January 2001 16:07
To: DAS4A1(SEC)
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: UFO RELATED PQs

Importance: High

[redacted] requested that we provide input to you on the following 2 PQs:

a. "What is the highest classification that has been applied to any MOD document concerning UFOs?"

[redacted]

Records Classification :-

We have examined the file records of the Area Radar Units (LATCC (Mil) and ScATCC (Mil)) and the Headquarters STC Operations Support Air Traffic Control (formerly HQ MATO) for instances of UFO reports. We do not hold any files that contain data relating to UFOs at either the HQ or the Area Radar units. In any case the maximum classification of files held is SECRET, therefore if there had been any input in the past this would have been the likely maximum classification. What we can say is that reports of UFOs received by AIS (Mil), are reported to your office on an unclassified FAX using an insecure telephone line.

[redacted]

Signed on CHOtS

[redacted]

TEMPLATE TO BE USED FOR REPLY

Ministry of Defence

FRIDAY 4 MAY 2001

Admiral of The Fleet The Lord Hill-Norton GCB(X) (CB)

LORDS WRITTEN

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by the Baroness Symons of Vernham Dean on 25th January (WA 22), why the Unidentified Flying Objects documents referred to were classified secret; whether these documents had any caveats attached to them; and what was the reason for any such caveats. (HL1808)

Minister replying Baroness Symons

One document was classified 'Secret' with a 'UK Eyes Only' caveat because it contained information about the UK air defence ground environment that could be of significant value to hostile or potentially hostile states. Associated correspondence was given the same classification. Generally, however, notifications of and correspondence on the subject of 'UFO' sightings are unclassified.

April 01

PQ Ref 1432L

REDACTED ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT

[redacted]ACKGROUND NOTE

PQ 0351L, tabled by Lord Hill-Norton in January, asked for the highest classification applied to any MOD document concerning 'UFOs' and the answer given explained that was Secret. The Background Note indicated that a small number of documents had been traced by the Directorate of Air Staff (Secretariat) with a classification of Secret, including one which referred to a report by the DIS on 'Unidentified Aerial Phenomena'. The Background Note also contained comment on the document, its classification and the classification of associated correspondence, and that information is now used in answer to this latest question.

[redacted]

DRAFTED BY : [redacted] TEL: [redacted]

AUTHORISED BY : [redacted] TEL: [redacted]
GRADE/RANK : [redacted]
BRANCH : DAS [redacted]

[redacted]

for [redacted] absent on Ministerial business.

DECLARATION: I have satisfied myself that the above answer and background note are in accordance with the Government's policy on answering PQs, Departmental instructions (DCI GEN 150/97), and the Open Government Code (DCI GEN 54/98).

[redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: 27 April 2001 11:25
To: [redacted]
Cc:
Subject: PQ 1432L

Importance: High

REDACTED ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT

[redacted]

1. Apologies for the delay in getting back to you. [redacted] has approved the contribution to the answer to PQ 1432L that I sent to you yesterday.

2. As far as the background note is concerned, there is nothing more to add to the contribution we sent to you to you for the earlier PQ (25 Jan WA 22). Note, however, that the DIS report used the term Unidentified Aerial Phenomena - not UFOs.

3. Regards

[redacted]

REDACTED ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT

[redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: 26 April 2001 12:36
To: [redacted]
Cc:
Subject: PQ1432L [redacted]

Importance: High

UK Eyes A

[redacted]

1. My suggested answer to PQ 1436L is as follows:

" One report was classified Secret, with a UK Eyes Only caveat. The reason for this was that it contained information about the UK air defence ground environment that could have been of significant value to hostile or potentially hostile states. Associated correspondence was accordingly given the same classification and caveat".

2. The above is based on the assumption that your only Secret UFO documents were indeed correspondance relating to the DIS report. You also need to check whether your documents also had a UKEO caveat.

3. Grateful for sight of your final draft.

[redacted]

PS as agreed, we will wait out for your draft response to 1432L. You may want to consider the implications if any of the Freedom Of Information Act.

" Reports of UFO sightings and correspondence have not been classified SECRET. ...

[The classification of the documents referred to in the answer of 25 Jan. was not dictated by details of specific sightings of UFOs.]

The reason for the classification of one Secret report/document with a UK Eyes only caveat was that it...."

[redacted]432L -

To ask HMG, further to the Written Answer by the Baroness Symons . . . on 25 January (WA 22), why the Unidentified Flying Objects documents referred to were classified secret; whether these documents had any caveats attached to them; and what was the reason for any such caveats.

Draft Answer -

Notifications of and correspondence on the subject of 'UFO' sightings are generally unclassified. However, one particular document was found to be classified 'Secret', with a 'UK Eyes Only' caveat because it contained information about the UK air defence ground environment that could have been of significant value to hostile or potentially hostile states. Associated correspondence has been given the same classification.

Draft Background Note:

PQ 0351L, tabled by Lord Hill-Norton in January, asked for the highest classification applied to any MOD document concerning 'UFOs' and the answer given explained that was Secret. The Background Note indicated that a small number of documents had been traced by the Directorate Air Staff (Secretariat) with a classification of Secret, including one which referred to a report by the DIS on 'Unidentified Aerial Phenomena'. The Background Note also contained comment on the document, its classification and the classification of associated correspondence and that information is now used in answer to this latest question.

LORDS WRITTEN PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION - URGENT ACTION REQUIRED

DATE FOR RETURN	:	**12:00 ON 30 April 2001**
PQ REFERENCE	:	PQ 1432L
PQ TYPE	:	LORDS WRITTEN
MINISTER REPLYING	:	-NOTFOUND-
LEAD BRANCH:	:	SEC (AS)
COPY ADDRESSEE(S)	:	

[redacted]

[redacted]

REDACTED ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT

[redacted]

Peer's DETAIL: **Admiral of The Fleet The Lord Hill-Norton GCB**

QUESTION

To ask Her Majesty's Government To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by the Baroness Symons of Vernham Dean on 25th January (WA 22), why the Unidentified Flying Objects documents referred to were classified secret; whether these documents had any caveats attached to them; and what was the reason for any such caveats. (HL1808)

Written Answers

Thursday, 25th January 2001.

Chinook Helicopter Mk II: Conversion Training

Lord Chalfont asked Her Majesty's Government:

When the Chinook helicopter simulator training facility and its related training programme were upgraded to cater for the Mk. II version of the helicopter; and when Flight Lieutenants Tapper and Cook completed their upgraded training programme. [HL324]

The Minister of State, Ministry of Defence (Baroness Symons of Vernham Dean): The reconfiguration of the Chinook simulator to Mk2 standard was completed in the last quarter of 1993. The instructing training staff of the Operational Conversion Flight had completed conversion to the Mk2 version in August 1993.

Flt Lt Tapper and Flt Lt Cook completed their conversion training programmes on 28 February 1994 and 17 March 1994 respectively.

European Security and Defence Policy: Intelligence Management

Lord Shore of Stepney asked Her Majesty's Government:

What are the commitments which the United Kingdom has entered into, under the European Security and Defence Policy, for the gathering, analysis and distribution of intelligence material for European Union purposes. [HL405]

Baroness Symons of Vernham Dean: At the European Council at Nice, EU member states agreed the terms of reference of the EU Military Staff, which would perform "early warning, situation assessment and strategic planning for Petersberg tasks".

To carry out this task the staff will rely on appropriate national and multinational intelligence capabilities. The detailed arrangements for handling intelligence material will be subject to stringent safeguards and will take full account of existing national and multinational agreements.

Rendlesham Forest Incident

Lord Hill-Norton asked Her Majesty's Government:

Whether they are aware of any involvement by Special Branch personnel in the investigation of the 1980 Rendlesham Forest incident. [HL303]

Baroness Symons of Vernham Dean: Special Branch officers may have been aware of the incident but would not have shown an interest unless there was evidence of a potential threat to national security. No such interest appears to have been shown.

Lord Hill-Norton aked Her Majesty's Government:

Whether personnel from Porton Down visited Rendlesham Forest or the area surrounding RAF Walton in December 1980 or January 1981; and whether they are aware of any tests carried out in either of those two areas aimed at assessing any nuclear, biological or chemical hazard. [HL301]

Baroness Symons of Vernham Dean: The staff at the Defence Evaluation and Research Agency (DERA) Chemical and Biological Defence (CBD) laboratories at Porton Down have made a thorough search of their archives and have found no record of any such visits.

Lord Hill-Norton asked Her Majesty's Government:

Whether they are aware of any uncorrelated targets tracked on radar in November or December 1980; and whether they will give details of any such incidents. [HL302]

Baroness Symons of Vernham Dean: Records dating from 1980 no longer exist. Paper records are retained for a period of three years before being destroyed. Recordings of radar data are retained for a period of thirty days prior to re-use of the recording medium.

Unidentified Flying Objects

Lord Hill-Norton asked Her Majesty's Government:

What is the highest classification that has been applied to any Ministry of Defence document concerning Unidentified Flying Objects. [HL304]

Baroness Symons of Vernham Dean: A limited search through available files has identified a number of documents graded Secret. The overall classification of the documents was not dictated by details of specific sightings of "UFOs".

Arms Brokering and Trafficking: Licensing

Lord Hylton asked Her Majesty's Government:

When they expect to implement licensing for arms brokering and trafficking, which they announced at last year's Labour Party Conference. [HL343]

The Minister for Science, Department of Trade and Industry (Lord Sainsbury of Turville): The new licensing controls on arms brokering and trafficking announced last September will be introduced under new powers on trafficking and brokering to be contained in an Export Control Bill; The Queen's Speech announced that the Government will publish this Bill in draft during this session of Parliament. Full details of the new controls proposed on arms

Section 40

From: Section 40
Sent: 29 August 2006 16:12
To: Section 40
Subject: Internet-authorised: Freedom of Information Requests

Section 40

Thank you for responding so quickly. These will go out to the applicants today.

Regards

Section 40

-----Original Message-----
From: Section 40 GOV.UK]
Sent: 29 August 2006 15:32
To: Section 40
Subject: RE: Freedom of Information Requests

Hi Section 40

As promised I've taken a look at you responses. They all look fine to me. I note that you have been as factual as possible in your replies so apart from a small amount of exempt info they get the lot.

I'll assume that they are all going out in the next day or two. Well done.

Regards

Section 40

-----Original Message-----
From: Section 40 @defence.gsi.gov.uk]
Sent: 25 August 2006 14:57
To: Section 40
Subject: Freedom of Information Requests
Importance: High

Section 40

At last I have the Ministers approval to send the responses to four of the FOI requests referred to yourselves. Please see attached my draft responses. I have not attached all the papers as these are not held electronically and there are rather a lot of them. If you are content I will get these off to the applicants.

The Cases are:

Section 40 - Case Ref: 5438

Case Ref: 5437

- Case Ref: 5334

Case Ref:5338

The final case Section 40 is still being worked on and I will contact you about this asap.

Regards

Section 40

Section 40

Ministry of Defence

Directorate of Air Staff - Freedom of Information

5th Floor, Zone H, Section 40

Main Building

Whitehall

LONDON

SW1A 2HB

Email: Section 40 @mod.uk

LORDS WRITTEN PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION - URGENT ACTION REQUIRED

DATE FOR RETURN	:	**12:00 ON 18 January 2001**
PQ REFERENCE	:	PQ 0351L
PQ TYPE	:	LORDS WRITTEN
MINISTER REPLYING	:	-NOTFOUND-
LEAD BRANCH:	:	SEC (AS)
COPY ADDRESSEE(S)	:	

MDP Sec
DI(Sec) / DAO.
D NEWS
D AIR RP

- **The answer and background note must be authorised by a civil servant at Senior Civil Service level or a military officer at one-star level or above who is responsible for ensuring that the information and advice provided is accurate and reflects Departmental Instructions on answering PQs DCI GEN 150/97.**

- **Those contributing information for PQ answers and background notes are responsible for ensuring the information is accurate.**

- **The attached checklist should be used by those drafting PQ answers and background material, those contributing information and those responsible for authorising the answer and background note as an aid to ensuring that departmental policy is adhered to.**

- **If you or others concerned are uncertain about how PQs are answered seek advice from a senior civil servant in or closely associated with your area.**

Peer's DETAIL: Admiral of The Fleet The Lord Hill-Norton GCB

QUESTION

To ask Her Majesty's Government To ask Her Majesty's Government what is the highest classification that has been applied to any Ministry of Defence document concerning Unidentified Flying Objects. (HL304)

Copied from
D/DAS/64/4 Part F
UFOs – PQs/PEs – Enc 35/1

Unredacted copies.

PQ 0351L - Lord Hill Norton

Question:

To ask HMG what is the highest classification that has been applied to any Ministry of Defence document concerning Unidentified Flying Objects.

Answer:

The highest classification is Secret.

Background Note: headed **UK RESTRICTED**

A [limited] search of material identified as relating to 'UFOs' indicates that the vast majority of the papers that exist on the subject, on open and closed files, are unclassified. Directorate Air Staff (Secretariat) has traced a small number of documents graded Secret. They relate to discussions concerning handling of correspondence and administrative arrangements not 'UFO' reports and appear to hold a higher classification than might be expected from the nature of the material they contain. The DIS has applied the classification of SECRET UK EYES ONLY to a recent report generated on Unidentified Aerial Phenomena (UAP). The report concluded a low priority study to database reports of UAP sightings that have been received within that area over a period of some 30 years. The main conclusion of the report was that sightings provided nothing of value to the DIS and a decision has been taken to cease work on the subject. The overall classification of the report was dictated by analysis material included on the UK Air Defence Ground Environment. The document is otherwise UK Restricted.

POSSIBLE ANSWER TO PQ 03511

The DIS has applied the classification of SECRET UK EYES ONLY to a recent report generated on Unidentified Aerial Phenomena (UAP). The DIS has received copies of UAP sightings for about 30 years. These were filed without analysis. Recently, a low priority study was conducted to database the reports and carry out an analysis. The main conclusion was that the sightings provided nothing of value to the DIS in the assessment of weapon systems and that sightings can be explained as mis-reporting of man-made vehicles, natural but not unusual phenomena and natural but relatively rare and not completely understood phenomena. A decision has been made not to carry out any further work on the subject. The overall classification of the report was dictated by the analysis material included on the UK Air Defence Ground Environment otherwise it is UK RESTRICTED.

L S4A1(SEC)

From: 2GP-ISTAR2-2A-SO2 « SO1.
Sent: 17 January 2001 13:23
To: DAS4A1(SEC)
Cc: DAO ADGE1; STC-CMDSEC-SEC-PARL
Subject: RE: UFO Related PQs

Importance: Low

Not a very comprehensive reply I am afraid, but it is as follows:

Records Classification

a. Our highest classification for UFO documents is RESTRICTED.

b. We have no records dating back to Nov Dec 1980. Therefore it is impossible to give any information regarding the second question.

Please let me know if we can be of further assistance.

Section 40

Sqn Ldr Section 40
SO2 ASACS Ops1
Ext Section 40

Section 40

-----Original Message-----
From: DAO ADGE1
Sent: 16 January 2001 10:38
To: 2GP-ISTAR2-SO1; 2GP-ISTAR2-2A-SO2; STC-OPSSPT-ATC-AREA2/SO2
Cc: DAS4A1(SEC)
Subject: UFO Related PQs
Importance: High

Section 40

Sorry for this fast ball but Lord Hill-Norton has submitted 4 PQs relating to a UFO report about lights in Mendlesham Forest circa 1980!! We (I) have been asked to provide inputs to DAS4A1 (SEC) on 2 of the PQs:

The first question is ' What is the highest classification that has been applied to any MOD document concerning UFOs'

The second question is 'Is HMG aware of any uncorrelated targets tracked on radar in Nov or Dec 1980; and whether they (HMG) will give details of any such incidents'

I doubt we have any records remaining for this period, but we must go through the motions. Grateful therefore if you could check down the organisation to see if there are any files or logbooks that go back to 1980 and whether any record exists of such activity. On the AD side could you also check with STCOC (old DCON records) as well as the CRCs.

By way of interpretation, I would define 'uncorrelated targets' as 'radar tracks that have not been positively identified by normal means'.

Answers have to be with DAS4A1(SEC) by cease work Wed 17 Jan 01. As I shall be out of office on that day, grateful if you would forward your inputs (including any pertinent background info and an indication of what, if anything, we would be happy to release to the public domain by way of a stated answer) on CHOtS direct to Section 40 DAS4A1 (SEC)), info me. TVM

DAS4A1(SEC)

From: Info(Exp)-Records1
Sent: 17 January 2001 09:37
To: DAS4A1(SEC)
Subject: RE: PQ 0351L

Section 40

How about something like this for the background note?

Identification of relevant records.

The Ministry of Defence has two main archives. One, the main archive located at Hayes that currently has in excess of 65 linear miles of records. A great majority of these are Services personnel records, but approximately, 10 linear miles are registered and unregistered files created by MOD HQ branches and outstations. These date back to the mid-1970s and are held awaiting review or for those already reviewed destruction. These records will carry a protective marking no higher than SECRET. A second, a much smaller archive, is located in central London holding approximately 3,000 linear feet of files with a protective marking at TOP SECRET level or requiring SPECIAL HANDLING).

There is **no thematic index** of files stored in either archive, although an exercise to create a database of archive holdings has been in place for a couple of years. But this is limited to recording basic file information such as file reference and the title as designated by the branch creating the record. The latter have proved to be particularly unhelpful on other exercises over the years for example a Ministerial file titled "USA" carried exchanges of correspondence of an ephemeral nature as well as significant details of "co-operation on special projects".

To undertake any search of the archives staff must be in the possession of at least - the abbreviate branch title and key words that might appear in the title. A physical search through MOD Form 262Fs (stored, in the main separately from files and totalling more than 1 million) ensures.

The identification of relevant files would then leads to the physical examination of the contents to establish the protective marking of individual documents and their relevancy to the subject.

Similar exercises in the past

PQs Vol. E. Re. PRO holdings

In 1998 Lord Hill Norton asked a number of PQs relating to departmental holding of files relating to the subject of ufos. As a consequence of the above research was limited to the identification only of Sec(AS) and predecessor files that carried the title "UFOs".

More recently, a member of the public ask for information relating to files on the same subject that also required a search of the archives. As with the previous occasion only a limited search was undertaken.

[PQ0351L *(you might wish to consider ending on an upbeat!)*

So far as this PQ is concerned, and in attempt to be helpful, a limited search through the holding of files held by DAS(Sec) on this subject has been carried out. With the following result.....]

I hope that this is helpful

Section 40

-----Original Message-----
From: DAS4A1(SEC)
Sent: 16 January 2001 15:53
To: Info(Exp)-Records1
Subject: PQ 0351L

Section 40

Further to our discussion earlier today about the classification of documents concerning UFOs for one of the PQs we are answering, I would be grateful if you could send me something in writing that we can include in the background note. It may be helpful to mention the trawl of files you did for Section 40 query.

The question asked in the PQ is:

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is the highest classification that has been applied to any Ministry of Defence document concerning Unidentified Flying Objects.

As our deadline for the PQ is 1200 on Thursday 18 January, I would appreciate a response as soon as possible.

Thank you

Section 40

DAS4a1(Sec)
MB8245 Section 40

[redacted]S4A1(SEC)

From: STC-OPSSPT-ATC-AREA2/SO2
Sent: 16 January 2001 16:07
To: DAS4A1(SEC)
Cc: DAO ADGE1; STC-OPSSPT-ATC-AREA/SO1; STC-OPSSPT-ATC-Gp Capt
Subject: UFO RELATED PQs

Importance: High

DAO ADGE 1 requested that we provide input to you on the following 2 PQs:

a. "What is the highest classification that has been applied to any MOD document concerning UFOs?"

b. "Is HMG aware of any uncorrelated targets tracked on radar in Nov or Dec 1980; and whether they (HMG) will give details of any such incidents?"

Records Classification :-

We have examined the file records of the Area Radar Units (LATCC (Mil) and ScATCC (Mil)) and the Headquarters STC Operations Support Air Traffic Control (formerly HQ MATO) for instances of UFO reports. We do not hold any files that contain data relating to UFOs at either the HQ or the Area Radar units. In any case the maximum classification of files held is SECRET, therefore if there had been any input in the past this would have been the likely maximum classification. What we can say is that reports of UFOs received by AIS (Mil), are reported to your office on an unclassified FAX using an insecure telephone line.

Uncorrelated targets :-

In so far as the question of an awareness of any "uncorrelated targets tracked on radar in Nov or Dec 1980" our records do not extend that far back. Unusual incidents would be noted in the Air Traffic Control Watch Logs at LATCC (Mil) or ScATCC (Mil); The ATC Watch Logs are retained for a period of 3 years and are then subsequently destroyed. Recordings of radar data are retained for a period of 30 days prior to the re-use of the recording medium.

Signed on CHOtS

Section 40
Sqn Ldr
SO2 ATC (Area) 2
Section 40

[redacted]S4A1(SEC)

DAO

From: DAO ADGE1
Sent: 16 January 2001 10:38
To: 2GP-ISTAR2-SO1; 2GP-ISTAR2-2A-SO2; STC-OPSSPT-ATC-AREA2/SO2
Cc: DAS4A1(SEC)
Subject: UFO Related PQs

Importance: High

Section 40 [redacted]

Sorry for this fast ball but Lord Hill-Norton has submitted 4 PQs relating to a UFO report about lights in Mendlesham Forest circa 1980!! We (I) have been asked to provide inputs to DAS4A1 (SEC) on 2 of the PQs:

The first question is ' What is the highest classification that has been applied to any MOD document concerning UFOs'

The second question is 'Is HMG aware of any uncorrelated targets tracked on radar in Nov or Dec 1980; and whether they (HMG) will give details of any such incidents'

I doubt we have any records remaining for this period, but we must go through the motions. Grateful therefore if you could check down the organisation to see if there are any files or logbooks that go back to 1980 and whether any record exists of such activity. On the AD side could you also check with STCOC (old DCON records) as well as the CRCs.

By way of interpretation, I would define 'uncorrelated targets' as 'radar tracks that have not been positively identified by normal means'.

Answers have to be with DAS4A1(SEC) by cease work Wed 17 Jan 01. As I shall be out of office on that day, grateful if you would forward your inputs (including any pertinent background info and an indication of what, if anything, we would be happy to release to the public domain by way of a stated answer) on CHOtS direct to Section 40 [redacted] (DAS4A1 (SEC)), info me. TVM

Section 40 [redacted]
DAO ADGE1

Section 40

Fro Section 40
Sent: 24 August 2006 17:34
To: Section 40
Cc:
Subject: RE: Ministerial Submission

Section 40

In the last of several discussions this afternoon with Section 40 asked me why the Minister had been asked to take a view on disclosure when the advice we were all giving him implied that there was effectively no choice (I refrained from saying that it was therefore perverse to disagree!). We then discussed whether it had been appropriate for the Minister to be consulted in the first place and, having seen your submissions, my inclination is to think not – or if he was approached it should just have been to ask him to note the intention to release the information.

Although the Background Notes are within the scope of s.36, the same could be said about virtually all information. It is obviously necessary to secure Ministerial endorsement when the exemption needs to be invoked, but this is not invariably the case when a decision has been reached that release is appropriate. In cases where the subject is particularly high profile and therefore likely to be reported by the media then a 'to note' submission/press lines are advisable, but otherwise – and particularly where there is a Working Assumption that advises disclosure – I think it is possible/better to limit clearance to those involved at working level. I therefore agreed with Section 40 that we would *not* broach the Minister again and that you would proceed on the basis that you had the necessary ticks in the box from your own higher management (and I know that you also intend to involve DCA).

I hope you are content with this and that it will allow you to meet your deadline. I am out of office on Friday, but if you want to discuss the principles further both Section 40 and Section 40 will be around.

Section 40

From Section 40
Sent: 24 August 2006 16:21
To: Section 40
Subject: FW: Ministerial Submission
Importance: High

Section 40
Assistant Private Secretary / Under Secretary of State
Section 40

From: Section 40
Sent: 10 August 2006 11:48
To: Section 40
Subject: Ministerial Submission
Importance: High

Section 40

Please see attached another Ministerial Submission regarding a Freedom of Information Request involving Section 36 (Prejudice to the Effective of Public Affairs) of the Freedom of Information Act. Please let me know if you wish to see the documents we propose to release. I have one more FOI request relating to Section 36 which I am currently working on and will send in due course.

Regards

Section 40
DAS-FOI

25/08/2006

Section 40

Fro Section 40

Sent: 10 August 2006 15:17

To: Section 40

Subject: Internet-authorised:Freedom of Information Request 20-06-2006-103410-004

Dear Section 40

On the 30th June I informed you that I was conducting a Public Interest Test for your Freedom of Information request regarding Parliamentary questions in 2001 and I estimated that I would be able to provide you with a response by the 11 August 2006. Unfortunately it will not be possible to provide you with a substantive response by this date and your request will take a little longer than first estimated. I expect to be able to provide you with a final response by 25 August 2006. If there are any further delays I will, of course, inform you.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

Ministry of Defence
Directorate of Air Staff - Freedom of Information
5th Floor, Zone H, Section 40
Main Building
Whitehall
LONDON
SW1A 2HB

e-mail:das-ufo-office@mod.uk

10th August 2006

From: Section 40
Directorate of Air Staff - Freedom of Information
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
5th Floor, Zone H, Main Building, Whitehall, London SW1A 2HB

Telephone (Direct dial) 020 7218 2140
(Switchboard) 020 7218 9000
(Fax) Section 40
e-mail das-ufo-office@mod.uk

Section 40
Arnold
Nottingham
Section 40

Our Reference
20-06-2006-103410-004

Date
10th August 2006

Dear Section 40

On the 30th June I informed you that I was conducting a Public Interest Test for your Freedom of Information request regarding Parliamentary questions in 2001 and I estimated that I would be able to provide you with a response by the 11 August 2006. Unfortunately it will not be possible to provide you with a substantive response by this date and your request will take a little longer than first estimated. I expect to be able to provide you with a final response by 25 August 2006. If there are any further delays I will, of course, inform you.

A message informing you of this has also been sent to your email address but I note you are out of the office until 29 August. I therefore thought you would appreciate being informed at your home address.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

D/DAS/10/2/8/13

28 July 2006

PS/US of S

Copied to:

DAS-XO
DCT&UKOps – SOI Airspace Integrity
DI BCR- CG3
DGMC-D News- Armed Forces 4
TOG-CTL

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000

ISSUE

1. The MOD has received a Freedom of Information request for background briefing papers to two official responses to Parliamentary Questions concerning Unidentified Flying Objects. Details of the full request are attached at Annex A. This information falls within the scope of a qualified exemption of the Freedom of Information Act, namely: Section 36 – Prejudice to the effective conduct of public affairs.

RECOMMENDATION

2. That the Minister approves this proposal to release this information for the following reasons.

TIMING
3. Routine.

BACKGROUND

4. The applicant has requested copies of the background papers to two Parliamentary Questions from Admiral of the Fleet The Lord Hill-Norton GCB(X)(CB) in January and May 2001 regarding the classification of documents on Unidentified Flying Objects.

5. This information falls within the scope of a qualified exemption of the Freedom of Information Act: Section 36 (2)(b)(i) – Prejudice to the effective conduct of public affairs, as it relates to information that would, or would be likely to, inhibit the free and frank provision of advice. As it is a qualified exemption it is necessary for the MOD to consider whether there are overriding reasons why disclosure would not be in the public interest.

6. Against disclosure of the information is the need to insure that officials are able to provide Ministers with free and frank advice in support of draft answers

provided to parliamentary questions without this advice becoming public knowledge. Routine release of such information could inhibit this process and therefore prejudice the effective conduct of public affairs. This would not be in the public interest.

7. However, this must be balanced against the public need to be assured that the official answers provided by Ministers to Parliamentary questions are accurate. In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000 each request for information must be considered on its individual merits. The age and the contents of the background information must be taken into account when judging the potential harm that could be caused by release. In this case, the background information to both of the parliamentary questions refers to a Defence Intelligence Staff report on 'Unidentified Aerial Phenomena' which was classified Secret UK Eyes Only. At the time the answers to the Parliamentary Questions were written the report was not in the public domain, but has subsequently been released and can now be viewed in the MOD Freedom of Information Publication Scheme. The background papers do not reveal any information which is not now in the public domain and the public interest therefore falls in favour of release. A few minor details will be removed as they are not relevant to the request. These consist of internal guidance notes for MOD staff answering Parliamentary correspondence, information concerning other parliamentary questions and details of MOD personnel. A draft letter to the applicant in response to his request is attached at Annex B.

PRESENTATIONAL ISSUES

8. The subject of UFOs attracts a lot of public and media attention. This applicant frequently appears on internet websites and it is likely that any information released to him could be shared with a wider audience.

Section 40
DAS–FOI
5-H Section 40

Authorised by:
Section 40
DAS-Sec AD
5-H Section 40

Annex A

I want to request copies of records relating to questions about MOD UFO documents asked by the late Lord Hill-Norton in the House of Lords on 25 January and 3 May 2001 (referred to in Lords Hansard), Written Answers). These questions included: What is the highest classification that has been applied to any MOD document concerning UFOs (25 January). The follow up on 3 May asked about caveats attached to the documents classified Secret and also asked the Government to give an undertaking not to destroy files on UFOs reports.

I have copies of the responses from Baroness Symons in the Lords but I would like copies of any background papers including briefings or advice she was given by the MOD departments concerned with answering questions on this subject.

Annex B

DRAFT

1. I wrote to you on 30 June 2006 informing you that your request for copies of background briefing and advice provided in response to parliamentary questions by Lord Hill-Norton on 25 January and 3 May 2001 had been considered to fall within the scope of Section 36 (Prejudice to the effective conduct of public affairs) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and the Ministry of Defence was therefore required to consider whether there are overriding reasons why disclosure would not be in the public interest. These considerations have now concluded and I am writing to provide you with the outcome. Each request will be addressed separately.

2. The Ministry of Defence holds a number of papers relevant to your requests including the two questions, the draft answers and background notes and internal advice which was used to compile the responses . This information falls within the scope of Section 36 (2)(b)(i) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 – Prejudice to the effective conduct of public affairs, as it relates to information that would, or would be likely to, inhibit the free and frank provision of advice.

3. Against disclosure of the information is the need to insure that officials are able to provide Ministers with free and frank opinions and advice in support of draft answers provided to parliamentary questions without this information becoming public. Routine release of such information could inhibit this process and therefore prejudice the effective conduct of public affairs. This would not be in the public interest.

4. However, this must be balanced against the public need to be assured that accurate information is provided in answers provided by Ministers in response to parliamentary questions. All Freedom of Information requests are considered individually on their merits and in this case, the age and contents of the background information has been taken into account. It has been concluded that as the Defence Intelligence Staff, Unidentified Aerial Phenomena report to which the parliamentary questions refer has now been released into the public domain, there is no longer a harm with release of the majority of the background papers. The balance of public interest therefore falls in favour of release. A few minor details have been removed as they are not relevant to your request. These consist of internal guidance notes for staff answering parliamentary correspondence, names of officials and information referring to other unconnected parliamentary questions.

5. If you are unhappy with this response or wish to complain about any aspect of the handling of this request, then you should contact the undersigned in the first instance. Should you remain dissatisfied, then you may apply for an internal review by contacting the Director of Information Exploitation, 6th Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB (e-mail: Info-XD@mod.uk).

6. If you are still unhappy following an internal review, you may take your complaint to the Information Commissioner under the provisions of Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act. Please note that the Information Commissioner will not normally investigate your case until the MOD internal review process has been completed. Further details of the role and powers of the Information Commissioner can be found on the Commissioner's website, http://www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

Fr Section 40
Sent: 26 July 2006 11:32
To: Section 40
Subject: RE: FOI Request

Section 40

As discussed earlier today, we have looked through the background note and DIS input to PQ0351L and consider that it can be released in total. In view of the fact that the UAP report is now in the public domain, it does not contain anything that is still sensitive.

For your information, I am also copying to you (below) an email from Section 40 in Info Access regarding guidance for the release of PQ related documents, which you may find of interest.

Section 40
DI BCR CG3
WH306 Section 40

Section 40

There is a Working Assumption on answering requests for information relating to written PQs (also one for oral PQs). This is available on the DCA website, but it basically breaks down the most likely types of content and says:

Factual biographical info about MP/Peer: release

Opinion and speculation about motivation for the PQ: withhold under s.36

Background facts and stats: release

As Section 40 says it is very important to look at each case on its merits. I can't recall exact chapter and verse, but I know that we have released Background Notes in the past.

Section 40

From: Section 40
Sent: 20 July 2006 09:28
To: Section 40
Subject: FOI Request

Section 40

One of the FOI request I have for background information to PQs contains some information supplied by DIS. The PQ asked "what is the highest classification that has been applied to any Ministry of Defence document concerning Unidentified Flying Objects". The answer given was "The highest classification is Secret".

Please see attached the advice provided by DIS and the background note both of which refer to the UAP report. Although this information is internal advice and falls under S.36 of the Act, I feel we can not justify withholding it now that the report has been release and I propose to release it, but before I do so, I would appreciate your views.

Regards

Section 40

Section 40

Fr Section 40

Sent: 20 July 2006 11:14

To: Section 40

Subject: RE: FOI Request

Section 40

I am content for my email to be released. Since then Hayes has closed and the OWOB element the subject of asbestos contamination!

Section 40

From: Section 40

Sent: 20 July 2006 09:39

To: Section 40

Subject: FOI Request

Section 40

I am currently dealing with an FOI request for background information to a PQ in January 2001. The PQ asked "what is the highest classification that has been applied to any Ministry of Defence document concerning Unidentified Flying Objects". The answer given was "The highest classification is Secret".

The background papers contain the attached email from you giving information about MOD file holdings and classifications and I would be grateful if you could advise me whether you are happy for this to be released. Your name and contact details will be removed. I also attach a copy of the background note so you can see what was said there.

Regards

Section 40

DCA Access to Information Central Clearing House Referral Form – New Requests

1/ Please complete this form as thoroughly as possible. Referral forms must be used when referring cases to the Clearing House.

2/ If possible, please include with this form details of information falling within the scope of the request. However, referrals should be made at the earliest opportunity. If relevant information has not yet been collated, please refer the case and forward the information and your detailed analysis of the request subsequently.

3/ You should continue to process the request until a Clearing House case officer contacts you. However, please do not issue a final response before agreement with the Clearing House.

Contact Details of Departmental FOI Practitioner	
Name:	Section 40
Department:	**Ministry of Defence**
E – mail (check accuracy):	Section 40 @mod.uk
Telephone Number:	Section 40
Fax:	
Departmental Case Ref:	
Is this person the first point of contact for this case? (Please check box)	**Yes** ☒ **No** ☐ *(If no, please indicate first point of contact in **Key Contacts** section)*

Timeframes	
Date request received:	16 June 2006
Date Clearing House advice required by:	4 August 2006
Deadline for response to applicant:	11 August 2006
Is there a prospect of using NCND?	**No**

Case Details:	
Name / organisation of applicant and exact wording of request:	Section 40 Copies of records relating to questions about MoD UFO documents asked by the late Lord Hill-Norton in the House of Lords on 25 January and 3 May 2001 (referred to in Lords Hansard, Written Answers). These questions included : what is the highest classification that has been applied to any MoD document concerning UFOs (25 January). The follow up on 3 May asked about caveats attached to the documents classified secret and also asked the Government to give an undertaking not to destroy files on UFOs reports. I have copies of the responses from Baroness Symons in the Lords but I would like copies of any background papers including briefings or advice she was given by the MoD departments concerned with answering questions on this subject. Part of request referring to S.36 information. Copy of the full request is attached.
Please give detailed background information on the subject matter and sensitivities (including media interest) surrounding the request:	The subject of UFOs attracts a lot of public and media attention. The applicant is well known amongst "Ufologists" and appears on many internet websites. He is likely to share any information provided widely.

What Clearing House triggers are engaged by this request? (Refer to Clearing House toolkit at http://www.foi.gov.uk/guidance/pdf/toolkit.pdf)	The information consists of background briefing provided for a Minister.
Does/will the National Security Liaison Group (NSLG) have an interest in this case? Is there a possibility of a s23 or s24 certificate being issued?	**No**

Exemptions:

Which exemptions may apply to the information held, and why?	S.36 (2) (b) (i) This information consists of background advice by officials to Ministers in order for them to provide informed responses to Parliamentary Questions. Release of this information could inhibit the free and frank provision of such advice.

Internal Departmental action to date:

Summary of case action (including contact with applicant) taken by Department so far:	Some relevant information has been located. Searches for further information is ongoing. The applicant has been informed that the MOD holds relevant information and a Public Interest Test is being conducted under S.36. Other parts of this request not relevant to S.36 have been answered in full.
Next steps for Department (including internal clearance procedures) and timeframes:	A Public Interest Test is now being conducted. This will be followed by a submission to seek ministerial agreement and approval for a course of action as a result of the PIT. Once ministerial approval has been achieved, the documents will be referred back to the Clearing House for final approval. A response will then be sent to the applicant.

Involvement of Other Government Departments/NDPBs:

Is this a suspected Round Robin request? (Please check box)

Yes ☐ **No** ☒

If not a Round Robin, are any other Government Departments or NDPBs likely to be involved? (Please check box)

Yes ☐ **No** ☒ **Possibly** ☐

If **"Yes"** or **"possibly"**, please state why and provide contact details where possible:

	Department 1	**Department 2**	**Department 3**
Name of Department			
Reasons for (possible) involvement:			
Contact details			

Key Contact Details – Policy Official / first point of contact (if not already specified)

		Please check if this is

		first point of contact
Name:	Section 40	
E – mail:	@mod.uk	☒
Tele[redacted]ne Number:	Section 40	
Key Contact Details – Departmental Lawyer		
		Please check if this is first point of contact
Name:		
E – mail:		☐
Telephone Number:		

From: Section 40
Directorate of Air Staff - Freedom of Information
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
5th Floor, Zone H, Main Building, Whitehall, London SW1A 2HB

Telephone (Direct dial) 020 7218 2140
(Switchboard) 020 7218 9000
(Fax) Section 40
e-mail das-ufo-office@mod.uk

Section 40
Arnold
Nottingham
Section 40

Our Reference
20-06-2006-103410-004

Date
30th June 2006

Dear Section 40

Your correspondence dated 12 June has been considered to be a request for information in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000. Your request asked for copies of papers held by the MOD relating to a "mini-debate" in the House of Lords on UFOs on 4 March and 7 April 1982 on UFOs and copies of background papers concerning two parliamentary questions asked by Lord Hill-Norton in 2001. You also requested information concerning Lord Hill-Norton's involvement with the release of papers relating to the Rendlesham Forest incident.

With regard to your request concerning information relating to a debate in the House of Lords in 1982, I can inform you that the Ministry of Defence no longer holds information relevant to this request. I am therefore unable to provide any information in this case.

You also asked about Lord Hill-Norton's role in the release of papers on the Rendlesham Forest incident and requested any related documents. Lord Hill-Norton played no role in the release of these papers and there are therefore no records relevant to this request. A request for copies of these documents was made by a member of the public in accordance with the Code of Practice on Access to Government Information and the documents were released in May 2001. When the MOD Freedom of Information Publication Scheme was created in 2002, the documents were amongst the first to be made available on the Ministry of Defence website.

With regard to your request for copies of background briefing papers and advice provided in response to parliamentary questions by Lord Hill-Norton on 25 January and 3 May 2001, I can confirm that the Ministry of Defence holds information relevant to your request. We believe this information falls within the scope of a qualified exemption: S.36 – Prejudice to the effective conduct of public affairs. As a qualified exemption, it is necessary for the Ministry of Defence to consider whether there are overriding reasons why disclosure would not be in the public interest.

The Freedom of Information Act requires us to respond to requests promptly and in any case no later than 20 working days after receiving your request. However, when a qualified exemption applies to the information and the public interest test has to be conducted, the Act allows the time for response to be longer than 20 working days. A full response must be provided within such time as is reasonable in all circumstances of the

case and, in relation to your request, it is estimated that it will take a further 30 working days to make a final decision on where the balance of public interest lies. It is therefore planned to let you have a response by 11 August 2006. If it appears that it will take longer than this to reach a conclusion I will let you know.

If you are unhappy with the response or wish to complain at this stage about any aspect of the handling of this request, then you should contact myself in the first instance. Should you remain dissatisfied, then you may apply for an internal review by contacting the Director of Information Exploitation, 6th Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB **(e-mail Info-XD@mod.uk)**.

If you are still unhappy following an internal review, you may take your complaint to the Information Commissioner under the provisions of Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act. Please note that the Information Commissioner will not normally investigate your case until the MOD internal review process has been completed. Further details of the role and powers of the Information Commissioner can be found on the Commissioner's website, http://www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40 [redacted]

Section 40

Unidentified Flying Objects

Lord Hill-Norton asked Her Majesty's Government:

What is the highest classification that has been applied to any Ministry of Defence document concerning Unidentified Flying Objects.[HL304]

Baroness Symons of Vernham Dean: A limited search through available files has identified a number of documents graded Secret. The overall classification of the documents was not dictated by details of specific sightings of "**UFOs**".

25 January 2001.

Section 40

Unidentified Flying Objects

Lord Hill-Norton asked Her Majesty's Government:

> Further to the Written Answer by the Baroness Symons of Vernham Dean on 25 January (WA 22), why the unidentified flying objects documents referred to were classified secret; whether these documents had any caveats attached to them; and what was the reason for any such caveats.[HL1808]

Baroness Symons of Vernham Dean: One document was classified "Secret" with a "UK Eyes Only" caveat because it contained information about the UK air defence ground environment that could be of significant value to hostile or potentially hostile states. Associated correspondence was given the same classification. Generally, however notifications of and correspondence on the subject of "**UFO**" sightings are unclassified.

Lord Hill-Norton asked Her Majesty's Government:

> Whether, in line with previous ministerial commitments, they will give an undertaking not to destroy any files containing information on unidentified flying objects.[HL1811]

Baroness Symons of Vernham Dean: The Public Records Acts of 1958 and 1967 place a responsibility on all government departments to review the records which are generated within the department, to select those which are worthy of permanent preservation and transfer them to the Public Record Office.

It was generally the case that before 1967 all "**UFO**" files were destroyed after five years, as there was unsufficient public interest in the subject to merit their permanent retention. However, since 1967, given the general levels of public and occasional academic interest, it has been Ministry of Defence policy to preserve "**UFO**" report files. There are no plans to change this policy.

3 May 2001.

Section 40

From: Section 40
Sent: 16 June 2006 14:46
To: DAS-UFO-Office
Subject: FoI Request

Attachments: Section 40 FOI2.doc

Section 40
Section 40 FOI2.doc (40 K

For the attention of Section 40

I would like to lodge a further request under the Freedom of Information Act, I enclose the request as an attachment.

Many thanks for your assistance in this matter,

Section 40

20-06-2006-10324-004
Expiry 14 July 2006

Section 40
Arnold
Nottingham
Section 40
email: Section 40

To:
MoD Freedom of Information officer
Main Building
Whitehall
London SW1A 2HB

12 June 2006

Dear Section 40

Thanks for your recent letter enclosing the results of my FOI made in April. I'd like to make a further request under the Freedom of Information Act. Please use the address above for correspondence.

Firstly, I would like copies of papers held by MoD relating to the mini-debate held in the House of Lords on UFOs on 4 March and 7 April 1982 on the subject of UFOs, including briefing papers to Viscount Long.

No Parl files for this period. No Pol files No relevant DIS

Secondly, I'd like to know what role the late Lord Hill-Norton played in the release by the Ministry, in 2001/2 (?) of the papers relating to the Rendlesham Forest UFO incident. Could you send me copies of any papers relating to requests made by Hill-Norton or persons acting on his behalf which led to the release of these papers.

None

Thirdly and finally, I want to request copies of records relating to questions about MoD UFO documents asked by the late Lord Hill-Norton in the House of Lords on 25 January and 3 May 2001 (referred to in Lords Hansard, Written Answers). These questions included : what is the highest classification that has been applied to any MoD document concerning UFOs (25 January). The follow up on 3 May asked about caveats attached to the documents classified secret and also asked the Government to give an undertaking not to destroy files on UFOs reports.

I have copies of the responses from Baroness Symons in the Lords but I would like copies of any background papers including briefings or advice she was given by the MoD departments concerned with answering questions on this subject.

I look forward to hearing from you in due course. I understand that I am entitled to a reply within 28 days under the FOIA.

Yours Faithfully,

Section 40

From: Section 40
Directorate of Air Staff - Freedom of Information
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
5th Floor, Zone H, Main Building, Whitehall, London SW1A 2HB

Telephone (Direct dial) 020 7218 2140
(Switchboard) 020 7218 9000
(Fax) Section 40
e-mail das-ufo-office@mod.uk

Section 40
Stoke-on-Trent
Section 40

Our Reference
05-06-2006-143408-013
Date
29th August 2006

Dear Section 40

I wrote to you on 28 June 2006 informing you that your request for background information relating to the Secretary of State for Defence response to a parliamentary question from Mr Hayes MP, had been considered to fall within the scope of Section 36 of the Freedom of Information Act and the MOD was therefore required to consider whether there are overriding reasons why disclosure would not be in the public interest. This consideration has now concluded and I am writing to provide you with the outcome.

The information you requested falls within the scope of Section 36 (2)(b)(i) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 – Prejudice to the effective conduct of public affairs, as it relates to information that would, or would be likely to, inhibit the free and frank provision of advice. Against disclosure of the information is the need to insure that officials are able to provide Ministers with free and frank advice in support of draft answers provided to parliamentary questions. Routine release of such information could inhibit this process and therefore prejudice the effective conduct of public affairs. This would not be in the public interest.

However, this must be balanced against the public need to be assured that accurate information is provided in answers provided by Ministers in response to parliamentary questions. All Freedom of Information requests are considered individually on their merits and it has been concluded in this particular case that the balance of public interest falls in favour of release. Please therefore see attached at Annex A a full response to your five individual requests for information.

If you are unhappy with this response or wish to complain about any aspect of the handling of this request, then you should contact the undersigned in the first instance. Should you remain dissatisfied, then you may apply for an internal review by contacting the Director of Information Exploitation, 6th Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB (e-mail: Info-XD@mod.uk).

If you are still unhappy following an internal review, you may take your complaint to the Information Commissioner under the provisions of Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act. Please note that the Information Commissioner will not normally investigate your case until the MOD internal review process has been completed.

Further details of the role and powers of the Information Commissioner can be found on the Commissioner's website, http://www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40 [redacted]

Annex A

1. The department that the desk officer responsible for airspace integrity works in is the Directorate of Counter Terrorism and UK Operations (CT&UKOps), an integrated civilian/military team, which formulates policy, and provides policy advice and military strategic planning and direction for military operations within its remit. It leads Defence participation in the formulation and execution of the Government's plans for crisis and consequence management in the United Kingdom (including operations in Northern Ireland) and for counter-terrorism world-wide.

2. You asked for an overview of the procedures to determine the evidence of a risk to the integrity of UK airspace from an unidentified flying object and response options to such a perceived risk. In light of your previous requests, it may be useful if I explain the difference between objects detected by the Quick Reaction Alert system and UFO sightings reported to the MOD. Quick Reaction Alert surveillance of the UK airspace is focussed on the detection of airborne objects such as aircraft and missiles. If an object is detected and its origin does not correlate with known activities or patterns it is classified as unknown. From this point onwards, in real time, information is sought to assist with its identification and if necessary Quick Reaction Alert aircraft may be employed and consequently risk is further assessed. There have been no occasions when such incidents have remained classified as "an Unidentified Flying Object posing a risk to UK airspace". In contrast, Unidentified Flying Object sightings reported to the MOD are assessed by the Directorate of Air Staff and any which are worthy of further examination are passed to the Directorate of Counter Terrorism and UK Operations. The risk posed is subjectively assessed against the reported object's position, height, time and nature of activity. There have been no incidents when such reports have been assessed as posing a risk.

3. Summaries of the 12 occasions in the last five years when UFO sighting reports have been assessed by the Directorate of Counter Terrorism and UK Operations, as referred to in the Parliamentary Question answer, are as follows;

DATE / TIME	LOCATION	DETAILS
5 November 2001 00.30 – 3.30 Z	Hamilton, Lanarkshire	A Policeman reported a half saucer shaped object, mostly white lights, but also red and green. Moved from the horizon at 00.30Z to overhead Hamilton at 03.30Z.
11 November 2001 08.40 Z	SW of Seaford	A civilian pilot reported one red object, 10-20 metres in size, at FL160 (16,000 ft), approximately 10 nautical miles ahead of his aircraft.
15 November 2001 05.59Z	Armthorpe, South Yorkshire	Two Policemen in a Police vehicle on Nutwell Lane travelling towards Armthorpe saw an object to their right side falling from the sky. It was a bright orange ball, approximately the size of a tennis ball, appeared to have a black inner line around the circumference and two bright green flare trails. The object then disappeared.
17 October 2002 02.39Z	Hull	Two Police officers and a member of the public reported two objects in the sky, one over the Eastern Cemetery, Preston Road, Hull and the other one over BP Saltend. One object appeared to move fast then stop and repeatedly changed

		shape and colour, faded and became brighter. The Humberside Police Helicopter attended the area and perceived it to be a star or satellite.
4 January 2003 19.20 -1935Z	Benbecula	An Air Traffic Controller at Benbecula Airport reported one object with a very bright light like an aircraft's landing light, with a smaller dimmer light on top. Seen to the South East of Eaval over the small island of Flodaigh Beag 7nm East of the airport.
29 January 2003 18.15 Z	Albrighton	Sgt at RAF Cosford reported two triangular shaped objects flying in perfect synchronisation. Low humming noise. Travelling S/SW to N/NE at approximately 2000 feet.
11 April 2003 22.21 Z	Stansted	A Captain and First Officer of a civilian aircraft flying into Stansted Airport reported a very bright ball of fire which passed very quickly down the left side of the aircraft.
13 September 2003 21.40 Z	Heckmondwike, West Yorkshire	Employee of the Royal Armouries Museum reported two circular objects about half the apparent size of the moon, travelling in straight lines, on parallel courses, towards the Southwest.
17 November 2003 02.25 Z	Bromley, Kent	A Policeman, 2 adults and a child saw 20-30 red flashing lights in the sky accompanied by a whirring noise. The Policeman using a lamppost as a marker concluded the lights were zigzagging across the sky. A crew of a police helicopter airborne at the time also confirmed the lights but they thought they may have been aircraft on the approach in to London Heathrow.
13 August 2005 17.11 Z	10 miles west of Gatwick	A Pilot of a civilian aircraft reported a cylindrical object, 1 to 2 metres in length, coloured yellow. Flying 10 miles west of Gatwick at FL300 (30,000 feet)
4 September 2005 0235Z	Durham	Four Police Officers saw a three dimensional diamond shaped object the size of a large helicopter. Green lights on either side and a red and white light on centre of the body. Travelled in front of the aircraft, right to left, moving North East.
17 September 2005 15.58 Z	9 miles west of Clacton- on-Sea	A pilot reported one dark brown, military shape object, fast moving at approximately 300 feet above his aircraft when he was at FL210 (21,000 feet).

4. The 12 sighting reports referred to above are contained in the files D/DAS/64/2- UFO Reports , Parts N, O, P, R and S.

5. Please find attached a copy of the background briefing note provided to the Secretary of State for Defence. Information not relevant to your request has been removed.

TEMPLATE TO BE USED FOR REPLY

Ministry of Defence

THURSDAY 4 MAY 2006

John Hayes Esq MP (SOUTH HOLLANDS & THE DEEPINGS) (CON)

WRITTEN

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, pursuant to his Answer to the hon. Member for Lewes of 28th March 2006, Official Report, column 904W, on Unidentified Flying Objects, on how many occasions there has been an assessment of evidence of risk to the integrity of UK airspace in the last five years; and what the job title is of desk officers assigned to this task. 68757

Minister replying Don Touhig MP

Over the last 5 years evidence of risk to the integrity of UK airspace from a reported Unidentified Flying Object has been assessed on 12 occasions; in no case was there considered to be any actual risk. Analysis of reports for this purpose is made by the Military desk officer responsible for Airspace Integrity within the UK Operations Branch.

BACKGROUND NOTE

John Hayes has been the Member of Parliament for the South Holland & the Deepings since the May 1997 General Election. He has no declared interest in Defence issues, although he has tabled sixteen questions to the Secretary of State for Defence during this Parliament. He has not previously asked any questions regarding Unidentified Flying Objects, or the integrity of UK airspace.

It is not known what may have prompted this Question (or, indeed, the previous Question from Mr Baker).

The majority of reports of "UFO sightings" made to the Directorate of Air Staff are simply recorded and filed, with no further action being taken. A very small number are referred to SO1 Airspace Integrity in CT & UK Ops to consider whether there is any reason to believe that UK airspace has been compromised by the reported activity. 12 incidents (all reports from "reliable witnesses" (Police/Military/aircrew) have been referred to CT & UK Ops over the last 5 years; none of these have been determined as posing any risk to the integrity of UK airspace.

Please send to <u>PARLIAMENTARY QUESTIONS</u>.

DRAFTED BY:
AUTHORISED BY:
GRADE/RANK:
BRANCH:

DECLARATION: I have satisfied myself that the above answer and background note are in accordance with the Government's policy on answering PQs and Departmental Instructions.

TEMPLATE TO BE USED FOR REPLY

Ministry of Defence
THURSDAY 4 MAY 2006

John Hayes Esq MP (SOUTH HOLLANDS & THE DEEPINGS) (CON)

WRITTEN

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, pursuant to his Answer to the hon. Member for Lewes of 28th March 2006, Official Report, column 904W, on Unidentified Flying Objects, on how many occasions there has been an assessment of evidence of risk to the integrity of UK airspace in the last five years; and what the job title is of desk officers assigned to this task. 68757

Minister replying Don Touhig MP

DRAFT REPLIES SHOULD BE SENT TO **PARLIAMENTARY QUESTIONS** AND NOT PQMAIL

Over the last 5 years evidence of risk to the integrity of UK airspace from a reported Unidentified Flying Object has been assessed on 12 occasions; in no case was there considered to be any actual risk. Analysis of reports for this purpose is made by the Military desk officer responsible for Airspace Integrity within the UK Operations Branch.

If a PQ is sent to you incorrectly, please discuss the transfer with the correct branch, send the template on and inform Parliamentary Branch immediately on Section 40 [redacted]

Unredacted Copies

June 06

PQ Ref 4149S

BACKGROUND NOTE

John Hayes has been the Member of Parliament for the South Holland & the Deepings since the May 1997 General Election. He has no declared interest in Defence issues, although he has tabled sixteen questions to the Secretary of State for Defence during this Parliament. He has not previously asked any questions regarding Unidentified Flying Objects, or the integrity of UK airspace.

It is not known what may have prompted this Question (or, indeed, the previous Question from Mr Baker).

The majority of reports of "UFO sightings" made to the Directorate of Air Staff are simply recorded and filed, with no further action being taken. A very small number are referred to SO1 Airspace Integrity in CT & UK Ops to consider whether there is any reason to believe that UK airspace has been compromised by the reported activity. 12 incidents (all reports from "reliable witnesses" (Police/Military/aircrew) have been referred to CT & UK Ops over the last 5 years; none of these have been determined as posing any risk to the integrity of UK airspace.

REMEMBER you are accountable for the accuracy and timeliness of the advice you provide. Departmental Instructions on answering PQs can be viewed on the Ministers and Parliamentary DII intranet site: http://main.defence.mod.uk/min_parl/.

Please send to PARLIAMENTARY QUESTIONS.

DRAFTED BY: Section 40
AUTHORISED BY:
GRADE/RANK: B1
BRANCH: DAS DD

DECLARATION: I have satisfied myself that the above answer and background note are in accordance with the Government's policy on answering PQs and Departmental Instructions.

Section 40

From: Section 40
Sent: 24 August 2006 17:34
To: Section 40
Cc:
Subject: RE: Ministerial Submission

Section 40

In the last of several discussions this afternoon with Section 40 he asked me why the Minister had been asked to take a view on disclosure when the advice we were all giving him implied that there was effectively no choice (I refrained from saying that it was therefore perverse to disagree!). We then discussed whether it had been appropriate for the Minister to be consulted in the first place and, having seen your submissions, my inclination is to think not – or if he was approached it should just have been to ask him to note the intention to release the information.

Although the Background Notes are within the scope of s.36, the same could be said about virtually all information. It is obviously necessary to secure Ministerial endorsement when the exemption needs to be invoked, but this is not invariably the case when a decision has been reached that release is appropriate. In cases where the subject is particularly high profile and therefore likely to be reported by the media then a 'to note' submission/press lines are advisable, but otherwise – and particularly where there is a Working Assumption that advises disclosure – I think it is possible/better to limit clearance to those involved at working level. I therefore agreed with Section 40 that he would *not* broach the Minister again and that you would proceed on the basis that you had the necessary ticks in the box from your own higher management (and I know that you also intend to involve DCA).

I hope you are content with this and that it will allow you to meet your deadline. I am out of office on Friday, but if you want to discuss the principles further both Section and Section 40 will be around.

Section 40

From: Section 40
Sent: 24 August 2006 16:21
To: Section 40
Subject: FW: Ministerial Submission
Importance: High

Section 40
Assistant Private Secretary / Under Secretary of State
Section 40

From: Section 40
Sent: 10 August 2006 11:48
To: Section 40
Subject: Ministerial Submission
Importance: High

Section 40

Please see attached another Ministerial Submission regarding a Freedom of Information Request involving Section 36 (Prejudice to the Effective of Public Affairs) of the Freedom of Information Act. Please let me know if you wish to see the documents we propose to release. I have one more FOI request relating to Section 36 which I am currently working on and will send in due course.

Regards

Section 40
DAS-FOI

29/08/2006

Section 40

From: Section 40

Sent: 10 August 2006 15:59

To: Section 40 @ntlworld.com'

Subject: Internet-authorised:Freedom of Information Request 05-06-2006-143408-013

Dear Section 40

On the 28 June I informed you that I was conducting a Public Interest Test for your Freedom of Information request regarding a Parliamentary question in May 2006 and I estimated that I would be able to provide you with a response by the 11 August 2006. Unfortunately it will not be possible to provide you with a substantive response by this date and your request will take a little longer than first estimated. I expect to be able to provide you with a final response by 25 August 2006. If there are any further delays I will, of course, inform you.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

Ministry of Defence
Directorate of Air Staff - Freedom of Information
5th Floor, Zone H, Section 40
Main Building
Whitehall
LONDON
SW1A 2HB

e-mail:das-ufo-office@mod.uk

10th August 2006

Section 40

From: Section 40
Sent: 29 August 2006 16:12
To: Section 40
Subject: Internet-authorised: Freedom of Information Requests

Section 40

Thank you for responding so quickly. These will go out to the applicants today.

Regards

Section 40

-----Original Message-----
From: Section 40 GSI.GOV.UK]
Sent: 29 August 2006 15:32
To: Section 40
Subject: RE: Freedom of Information Requests

Hi Section 40

As promised I've taken a look at you responses. They all look fine to me. I note that you have been as factual as possible in your replies so apart from a small amount of exempt info they get the lot.

I'll assume that they are all going out in the next day or two. Well done.

Regards

Section 40

-----Original Message-----
From: Section 40 @defence.gsi.gov.uk]
Sent: 25 August 2006 14:57
To: Section 40
Subject: Freedom of Information Requests
Importance: High

Section 40

At last I have the Ministers approval to send the responses to four of the FOI requests referred to yourselves. Please see attached my draft responses. I have not attached all the papers as these are not held electronically and there are rather a lot of them. If you are content I will get these off to the applicants.

The Cases are:

Section 40 Case Ref: 5438

ase Ref: 5437

Case Ref: 5334

Case Ref:5338

The final case Section 40 is still being worked on and I will contact you about this asap.

Regards

Section 40

Section 40

Ministry of Defence

Directorate of Air Staff - Freedom of Information

5th Floor, Zone H, Section 40

Main Building

Whitehall

LONDON

SW1A 2HB

Email:Section 40 @mod.uk

Section 40

From: Section 40
Sent: 30 June 2006 08:29
To: Section 40
Subject: RE: FoIA request received?

Section 40

Thanks

Section 40
-----Original Message-----
From: Section 40
Sent: 30 June 2006 08:29
To: Section 40
Subject: RE: FoIA request received?

Section 40

I have written to Section 40 because his request falls under S.36 of the FOIA and a PIT test is being conducted. He may not have got the letter yet. I will email him.

Regards

Section 40

-----Original Message-----
From: Section 40
Sent: 30 June 2006 07:52
To: Section 40
Subject: FW: FoIA request received?

One of yours under reference

05-06-2006-143408-013

Thanks

Section 40
FOI Helpdesk

-----Original Message-----
From: Section 40 @ntlworld.com]
Sent: 29 June 2006 15:40
To: Info-Access-Office
Subject: FoIA request received?

Hello,

I submitted the following request via the MoD FoIA web page on 5th June, but I have had no acknowledgement.

Please can you confirm whether or not you have received it?

Regards,
Section 40

[submitted via MOD website 5/6/06]

Hello,

In relation to the following written answer in the House of Commons:

---- Begin quote ----
Written Answers to Questions [10 May 2006] Column 290W, 291W

UFOs

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to his Answer to the hon. Member for Lewes (Norman Baker) of 28 March 2006, Official Report, column 904W, on [redacted] identified flying objects, on how many occasions there has been an assessment of evidence of risk to the integrity of UK airspace in the last five years; and what the job title is of desk officers assigned to this task. [68757]

Mr. Watson: Over the last five years evidence of risk to the integrity of UK airspace from a reported unidentified flying object has been assessed on 12 occasions; in no case was there considered to be any actual risk. Analysis of reports for this purpose is made by the military desk officer responsible for airspace integrity within the UK operations branch.
---- End quote ----

Please can you provide:

1. The department title and any other identifier for the department that the desk officer responsible for airspace integrity works in. (hypothetical example: UKADGE(ops) and DI63)

2. Overview of assessment procedures used to determine evidence of a risk to the integrity of UK airspace from an unidentified flying object and response options to such a perceived risk, including document and file references and titles.

3. Summaries of the 12 specific incidents referred to above.

4. File references and titles for files containing details of the 12 incidents referred to above.

5. Any internal and external correspondence related to the written answer.

For the record, my contact details are as follows:

Section 40 [redacted]
Stoke-on-Trent
Section 40 [redacted]
Tel: Section 40 [redacted]
Mob: [redacted]
Email: Section 40 [redacted]@ntlworld.com

Regards,
Section 40 [redacted]

D/DAS/10/2/8/13

28 June 2006

PS/US of S

Copy to :**DAS-XO**
DCT&UKOps – SOI Airspace Integrity
DGMC-D News- Armed Forces 4
TOG-CTL

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000

ISSUE

1. The MOD has received a Freedom of Information request for background briefing papers to an official response to a Parliamentary Question. This information falls within the scope of a qualified exemption of the Freedom of Information Act, namely: Section 36 – Prejudice to the effective conduct of public affairs.

RECOMMENDATION

2. That the Minister considers this proposal to release this information for the following reasons.

TIMING
3. Routine.

BACKGROUND

4. The applicant has requested five pieces of information relating to a Parliamentary Question from John Hayes MP (South Hollands & the Deepings), and the response from the Secretary of State for Defence on 10 May 2006. Details of the full request is attached at Annex A. The applicant has made previous Freedom of Information requests and on one occasion a request for specific details of Quick Reaction Alert aircraft sorties was refused. It is possible that the applicant believes (incorrectly) that this Parliamentary Question is connected to QRA sorties, so this has been clarified in the draft response.

5. This information falls within the scope of a qualified exemption of the Freedom of Information Act: Section 36 (2)(b)(i) – Prejudice to the effective conduct of public affairs, as it relates to information that would, or would be likely to, inhibit the free and frank provision of advice. As it is a qualified exemption it is necessary for the MOD to consider whether there are overriding reasons why disclosure would not be in the public interest.

6. Against disclosure of the information is the need to insure that officials are able to provide Ministers with free and frank advice in support of draft answers provided to parliamentary questions without this advice becoming public knowledge. Routine release of such information could inhibit this process and therefore prejudice the effective conduct of public affairs. This would not be in the public interest.

7. However, this must be balanced against the public need to be assured that the official answers provided by Ministers to Parliamentary questions are accurate. In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000 each request for information must be considered on its individual merits and in this particular case the information provided in the background note to the Parliamentary Question is similar to information already provided to the public during routine UFO correspondence. The MOD consistently informs the public that only a few reported UFO sightings warrant further examination and none have revealed a threat. It is also publicly known that Air Defence experts examine these reports and one of the departments quoted by the applicant (UKADGE(Ops)- UK Air Defence and Ground Environment (Operations)) is a predecessor to the current post tasked with this role, namely the Directorate of Counter Terrorism and UK Operations (CT&UKOps). The desk officer concerned has been consulted and is content for the branch title to be released. He has also provided a brief description of their role. Summaries of sighting reports have also been provided on a number of occasions in response to Freedom of Information requests. We conclude that the balance of public interest is in favour of release on this occasion and seek the Minister's approval for release of information including a copy of the background note. A draft letter to the applicant in response to his request is attached at Annex B.

PRESENTATIONAL ISSUES

8. The subject of UFOs attracts a lot of public and media attention. This applicant makes frequent Freedom of Information requests and regularly appears on internet websites and in the media. It is likely that any information released to him could be shared with a wider audience.

9. Over the past 5 years the MOD has received 647 UFO sighting reports and the release of this information will reveal that only 12 of these were considered to be worthy of any attention. This may not be well received by those who report UFO sightings and have not been considered as "reliable". This is, however, consistent with our policy of not investigating all UFO reports.

Section 40 [redacted]

DAS–FOI
5-H Section 40 [redacted]

Authorised by:
Section 40
DAS-Sec AD
5-H Section 40

ANNEX A

Freedom of Information request from [redacted]
Case Reference 05-06-2006-143408-013

In relation to the following written answer in the House of Commons:

Written Answers to Questions [10 May 2006] Column 290W, 291W

UFOs

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to his Answer to the hon. Member for Lewes (Norman Baker) of 28 March 2006, Official Report, column 904W, on unidentified flying objects, on how many occasions there has been an assessment of evidence of risk to the integrity of UK airspace in the last five years; and what the job title is of desk officers assigned to this task. [68757]

Mr. Watson: Over the last five years evidence of risk to the integrity of UK airspace from a reported unidentified flying object has been assessed on 12 occasions; in no case was there considered to be any actual risk. Analysis of reports for this purpose is made by the military desk officer responsible for airspace integrity within the UK operations branch.

Please can you provide:

1. The department title and any other identifier for the department that the desk officer responsible for airspace integrity works in. (hypothetical example: UKADGE(ops) and DI63)

2. Overview of assessment procedures used to determine evidence of a risk to the integrity of UK airspace from an unidentified flying object and response options to such a perceived risk, including document and file references and titles.

3. Summaries of the 12 specific incidents referred to above.

4. File references and titles for files containing details of the 12 incidents referred to above.

5. Any internal and external correspondence related to the written answer.

ANNEX B

DRAFT LETTER TO [redacted]

Dear [redacted]

I wrote to you on 28 June 2006 informing you that your request for background information relating to the Secretary of State for Defence response to a parliamentary question from Mr Hayes MP, had been considered to fall within the scope of Section 36 of the Freedom of Information Act and the MOD was therefore required to consider whether there are overriding reasons why disclosure would not be in the public interest. This consideration has now concluded and I am writing to provide you with the outcome.

The information you requested falls within the scope of Section 36 (2)(b)(i) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 – Prejudice to the effective conduct of public affairs, as it relates to information that would, or would be likely to, inhibit the free and frank provision of advice. Against disclosure of the information is the need to insure that officials are able to provide Ministers with free and frank advice in support of draft answers provided to parliamentary questions. Routine release of such information could inhibit this process and therefore prejudice the effective conduct of public affairs. This would not be in the public interest.

However, this must be balanced against the public need to be assured that accurate information is provided in answers provided by Ministers in response to parliamentary questions. All Freedom of Information requests are considered individually on their merits and it has been concluded in this particular case that the balance of public interest falls in favour of release. Please therefore see attached a full response to your five individual requests for information.

If you are unhappy with this response or wish to complain about any aspect of the handling of this request, then you should contact the undersigned in the first instance. Should you remain dissatisfied, then you may apply for an internal review by contacting the Director of Information Exploitation, 6th Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB (e-mail: Info-XD@mod.uk).

If you are still unhappy following an internal review, you may take your complaint to the Information Commissioner under the provisions of Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act. Please note that the Information Commissioner will not normally investigate your case until the MOD internal review process has been completed. Further details of the role and powers of the Information Commissioner can be found on the Commissioner's website, http://www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk.

Yours sincerely,

1. The department that the desk officer responsible for airspace integrity works in is the Directorate of Counter Terrorism and UK Operations (CT&UKOps), an integrated civilian/military team, which formulates policy, and provides policy advice and military strategic planning and direction for military operations within its remit. It leads Defence participation in the formulation and execution of the Government's plans for crisis and consequence management in the United Kingdom (including operations in Northern Ireland) and for counter-terrorism world-wide.

2. You asked for an overview of the procedures to determine the evidence of a risk to the integrity of UK airspace from an unidentified flying object and response options to such a perceived risk. In light of your previous requests, it may be useful if I explain the difference between objects detected by the Quick Reaction Alert system and UFO sightings reported to the MOD. Quick Reaction Alert surveillance of the UK airspace is focussed on the detection of airborne objects such as aircraft and missiles. If an object is detected and its origin does not correlate with known activities or patterns it is classified as unknown. From this point onwards, in real time, information is sought to assist with its identification and if necessary Quick Reaction Alert aircraft may be employed and consequently risk is further assessed. There have been no occasions when such incidents have remained classified as "an Unidentified Flying Object posing a risk to UK airspace". In contrast, Unidentified Flying Object sightings reported to the MOD are assessed by the Directorate of Air Staff and any which are worthy of further examination are passed to the Directorate of Counter Terrorism and UK Operations. The risk posed is subjectively assessed against the reported object's position, height, time and nature of activity. There have been no incidents when such reports have been assessed as posing a risk.

3. Summaries of the 12 occasions in the last five years when UFO sighting reports have been assessed by the Directorate of Counter Terrorism and UK Operations, as referred to in the Parliamentary Question answer, are as follows;

DATE / TIME	LOCATION	DETAILS
5 November 2001 00.30 – 3.30 Z	Hamilton, Lanarkshire	A Policeman reported a half saucer shaped object, mostly white lights, but also red and green. Moved from the horizon at 00.30Z to overhead Hamilton at 03.30Z.
11 November 2001 08.40 Z	SW of Seaford	A civilian pilot reported one red object, 10-20 metres in size, at FL160 (16,000 ft), approximately 10 nautical miles ahead of his aircraft.
15 November 2001 05.59Z	Armthorpe, South Yorkshire	Two Policemen in a Police vehicle on Nutwell Lane travelling towards Armthorpe saw an object to their right side falling from the sky. It was a bright orange ball, approximately the size of a tennis ball, appeared to have a black inner line around the circumference and two bright green flare trails. The object then disappeared.

17 October 2002 02.39Z	Hull	Two Police officers and a member of the public reported two objects in the sky, one over the Eastern Cemetery, Preston Road, Hull and the other one over BP Saltend. One object appeared to move fast then stop and repeatedly changed shape and colour, faded and became brighter. The Humberside Police Helicopter attended the area and perceived it to be a star or satellite.
4 January 2003 19.20 -1935Z	Benbecula	An Air Traffic Controller at Benbecula Airport reported one object with a very bright light like an aircraft's landing light, with a smaller dimmer light on top. Seen to the South East of Eaval over the small island of Flodaigh Beag 7nm East of the airport.
29 January 2003 18.15 Z	Albrighton	Sgt at RAF Cosford reported two triangular shaped objects flying in perfect synchronisation. Low humming noise. Travelling S/SW to N/NE at approximately 2000 feet.
11 April 2003 22.21 Z	Stansted	A Captain and First Officer of a civilian aircraft flying into Stansted Airport reported a very bright ball of fire which passed very quickly down the left side of the aircraft.
13 September 2003 21.40 Z	Heckmondwike, West Yorkshire	Employee of the Royal Armouries Museum reported two circular objects about half the apparent size of the moon, travelling in straight lines, on parallel courses, towards the Southwest.
17 November 2003 02.25 Z	Bromley, Kent	A Policeman, 2 adults and a child saw 20-30 red flashing lights in the sky accompanied by a whirring noise. The Policeman using a lamppost as a marker concluded the lights were zigzagging across the sky. A crew of a police helicopter airborne at the time also confirmed the lights but they thought they may have been aircraft on the approach in to London Heathrow.
13 August 2005 17.11 Z	10 miles west of Gatwick	A Pilot of a civilian aircraft reported a cylindrical object, 1 to 2 metres in length, coloured yellow. Flying 10 miles west of Gatwick at FL300 (30,000 feet)
4 September 2005 0235Z	Durham	Four Police Officers saw a three dimensional diamond shaped object the size of a large helicopter. Green lights on either side and a red and white light on centre of the body. Travelled in front of the aircraft, right to left, moving North East.
17 September 2005 15.58 Z	9 miles west of Clacton- on-Sea	A pilot reported one dark brown, military shape object, fast moving at approximately 300 feet above his aircraft when he was at FL210 (21,000 feet).

4. The 12 sighting reports referred to above are contained in the files D/DAS/64/2- UFO Reports , Parts N, O, P, R and S.

5. Please find attached a copy of the background briefing note provided to the Secretary of State for Defence. Information not relevant to your request has been removed.

From: Section 40
Directorate of Air Staff - Freedom of Information
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
5th Floor, Zone H, Main Building, Whitehall, London SW1A 2HB

Telephone (Direct dial) 020 7218 2140
(Switchboard) 020 7218 9000
(Fax) Section 40
e-mail das-ufo-office@mod.uk

Section 40

Stoke-on-Trent
Section 40

Our Reference
05-06-2006-143408-013

Date
28 June 2006

Dear Section 40

Your correspondence dated 4 June 2006 has been considered to be a request for information in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000. Your request asked for background information concerning the Secretary of State for Defence response to a parliamentary question from Mr Hayes MP on 10 May 2006. This letter is to inform you that the Ministry of Defence holds the information requested.

We believe the information you have requested falls within the scope of a qualified exemption: S.36 – Prejudice to the effective conduct of public affairs. As a qualified exemption, it is necessary for the Ministry of Defence to consider whether there are overriding reasons why disclosure would not be in the public interest.

The Freedom of Information Act requires us to respond to requests promptly and in any case no later than 20 working days after receiving your request. However, when a qualified exemption applies to the information and the public interest test has to be conducted, the Act allows the time for response to be longer than 20 working days. A full response must be provided within such time as is reasonable in all circumstances of the case and, in relation to your request, it is estimated that it will take a further 32 working days to make a final decision on where the balance of public interest lies. It is therefore planned to let you have a response by 11 August 2006. If it appears that it will take longer than this to reach a conclusion I will let you know.

If you are unhappy with the response or wish to complain at this stage about any aspect of the handling of this request, then you should contact myself in the first instance. Should you remain dissatisfied, then you may apply for an internal review by contacting the Director of Information Exploitation, 6th Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB **(e-mail Info-XD@mod.uk)**.

If you are still unhappy following an internal review, you may take your complaint to the Information Commissioner under the provisions of Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act. Please note that the Information Commissioner will not normally investigate your case until the MOD internal review process has been completed. Further details of the role and powers of the Information Commissioner can be found on the Commissioner's website, http://www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40 [redacted]

DCA Access to Information Central Clearing House
Referral Form – New Requests

1/ Please complete this form as thoroughly as possible. Referral forms must be used when referring cases to the Clearing House.

2/ If possible, please include with this form details of information falling within the scope of the request. However, referrals should be made at the earliest opportunity. If relevant information has not yet been collated, please refer the case and forward the information and your detailed analysis of the request subsequently.

3/ You should continue to process the request until a Clearing House case officer contacts you. However, please do not issue a final response before agreement with the Clearing House.

Contact Details of Departmental FOI Practitioner	
Name:	Section 40
Department:	**Ministry of Defence**
E – mail (check accuracy):	Section 40 @mod.uk
Telephone Number:	Section 40
Fax:	
Departmental Case Ref:	
Is this person the first point of contact for this case? (Please check box)	**Yes** ☒ **No** ☐ *(If no, please indicate first point of contact in **Key Contacts** section)*

Timeframes	
Date request received:	5 June 2006
Date Clearing House advice required by:	4 August 2006
Deadline for response to applicant:	11 August 2006
Is there a prospect of using NCND?	**No**

Case Details:	
Name / organisation of applicant and exact wording of request:	Section 40 05-06-2006-143408-013 With regard to a Written Parliamentary Question in the House of Commons (10 May 2006) Column 290W, 291W in response to Mr Hayes MP the Secretary of State for Defence said "Over the last five years evidence of risk to the integrity of UK airspace from a reported unidentified flying object has been assessed on 12 occasions; in no case was there considered to be any actual risk. Analysis of reports for this purpose is made by the military desk officer responsible for airspace integrity within the UK operations branch". The applicant has requested: 1. The department title and any other identifier for the department that the desk officer responsible for airspace integrity works in. 2. Overview of assessment procedures used to determine evidence of a risk to the the integrity of UK airspace from an unidentified flying object and response options to such a perceived risk, including document and file references and titles. 3. Summaries of the 12 specific incidents referred to above. 4. File references and titles for files containing details of the 12 incidents referred to above. 5. Any internal and external correspondence related to the written answer.
	The subject of UFOs attracts a great deal of public and media

Please give detailed background information on the subject matter and sensitivities (including media int[redacted]t) surrounding the request:	attention and is amongst the most requested information to the MOD under the FOIA. Section 40 makes frequent requests for information and appears on a number of internet websites and in the media. He recently made a request for details of incursions into UK airspace (not UFO reports) since 9/11 and when this information was refused in accordance with S26, he requested an internal review. It is likely that any information released to the applicant will appear in the media shortly after release.
What Clearing House triggers are engaged by this request? (Refer to Clearing House toolkit at http://www.foi.gov.uk/guidance/pdf/toolkit.pdf)	The information consists of background briefing to a Minister.
Does/will the National Security Liaison Group (NSLG) have an interest in this case? Is there a possibility of a s23 or s24 certificate being issued?	**No**

Exemptions:

Which exemptions may apply to the information held, and why?	S.36 (2) (b) (i) This information consists of background advice by officials to a Minister in order for him to provide an informed response to a Parliamentary Question. Release of this information could inhibit the free and frank provision of such advice.

Internal Departmental action to date:

Summary of case action (including contact with applicant) taken by Department so far:	Relevant information has been located. The applicant has been informed that the MOD holds relevant information and a Public Interest Test is being conducted under S.36.
Next steps for Department (including internal clearance procedures) and timeframes:	A Public Interest Test is now being conducted. This will be followed by a submission to seek ministerial agreement and approval for a course of action as a result of the PIT. Once ministerial approval has been achieved, the documents will be referred back to the Clearing House for final approval. A response will then be sent to the applicant.

Involvement of Other Government Departments/NDPBs:

Is this a suspected Round Robin request? (Please check box)

Yes ☐ **No** ☒

If not a Round Robin, are any other Government Departments or NDPBs likely to be involved? (Please check box)

Yes ☐ **No** ☒ **Possibly** ☐

If **"Yes"** or **"possibly"**, please state why and provide contact details where possible:

	Department 1	Department 2	Department 3
Name of Department			
Reasons for (possible) involvement:			
Contact details			

Key Contact Details – Policy Official / first point of contact (if not already specified)		
		Please check if this is first point of contact
Name:	Section 40	
E – mail:	@mod.uk	☒
Telephone Number:		

Key Contact Details – Departmental Lawyer		
		Please check if this is first point of contact
Name:		
E – mail:		☐
Telephone Number:		

Section 40 [redacted]

From: Section 40 [redacted]
Sent: 09 June 2006 17:33
To: Section 40 [redacted]
Subject: FW: Section 40 RFI

Section 40 [redacted]

Suggest the following in response to Section 40 [redacted] question 1:

The department that the desk officer responsible for airspace integrity works in is the Directorate of Counter Terrorism and UK Operations (CT&UKOps), an integrated civilian/military team, currently around 30 strong, which formulates policy, and provides policy advice and military strategic planning and direction for military operations within its remit. It leads Defence participation in the formulation and execution of the Government's plans for crisis and consequence management in the United Kingdom (including operations in Northern Ireland) and for counter-terrorism world-wide. It is the first point of contact in the MOD for other Government departments seeking support from the Armed Forces under the long-standing arrangements for Military Assistance to the Civil Authorities (MACA): the major recent example of such a task was Op FRESCO, the provision of emergency fire cover in the event of industrial action by members of the Fire Brigades Union.

You may think this is too much info so happy to reduce it – the key is that whilst we want to anticipate questions and be helpful on the one hand, we don't want to generate even more questions.

Section 40 [redacted] has suggested an answer to question 2 below, which you may wish to adapt.

Grateful if you could run your draft response by us in due course and please let me know if I can help further in the interim,

Section 40 [redacted]
CT&UKOps-MACA & Resilience Sec
Section 40 [redacted] @mod.uk
Section 40 [redacted]

From: Section 40 [redacted] Wg Cdr
Sent: 08 June 2006 13:23
To: Section 40 [redacted]
Subject:

Section 40 [redacted]

Start to response to question 2 as follows:

You asked for an overview of the procedures to determine the evidence of a risk to integrity of UK airspace from an unidentified flying object. Quick Reaction Alert surveillance of the UK airspace is focussed on the detection of airborne objects such as aircraft and missiles. If an object is detected and its origin does not correlate with known activities or patterns it is classified as unknown. From this point onwards in real time information is sought to assist with its identification and if necessary Quick Reaction Alert aircraft may be employed and consequently risk is further assessed. There have been no occasions when such incidents have remained classified as "an Unidentified Flying Object posing a risk to UK airspace". When reports of Unidentified Flying Objects not detected by the system conducting continuous surveillance of UK airspace are received by the Ministry of Defence, the risk posed is subjectively assessed by the Directorate of Counter-Terrorism and United Kingdom Operations against the reported object's position, height, time and nature of activity. There have been no incidents assessed as posing a risk.

Then we should invoke para 6 to Section 40 [redacted] from Section 40 [redacted] the piece on QRA:

The response to airborne risks to the integrity of UK airspace remains the principal function of the Quick Reaction Alert system as explained to you at para 6....

You cannot have the docs as we explained at para 6 blah.....

Section 40 [redacted]

[redacted]

Section 40

m: Section 40
Sent: 08 June 2006 11:24
To: Section 40
Subject: FW: Parliamentary Question - UFOs
Importance: High
Attachments: 20060503 U John Hayes PQ 4130S.doc

Section 40
DAS-Secretariat
MB5.H. Section 40
DII: DAS-Sec e-mail: Section 40 @mod.uk

From Section 40
Sent: 04 May 2006 18:13
To Section 40 Wg Cdr
Subject: Parliamentary Question - UFOs

Wg Cdr Section 40

I work in DAS Sec (I sit opposite Section 40 who is AOL). In her absence we hjave the attached PQ to deal with by 12.00 Friday. Grateful if you could look at the draft response and advise whether you agree it, or if you have any suggested amndments. REsponse by 11.00 appreciated if possible.

Many Thanks

Section 40
DAS Sec
MB5.H. Section 40

TEMPLATE TO BE USED FOR REPLY

Ministry of Defence

THURSDAY 4 MAY 2006

John Hayes Esq MP (SOUTH HOLLANDS & THE DEEPINGS) (CON)

WRITTEN

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, pursuant to his Answer to the hon. Member for Lewes of 28th March 2006, Official Report, column 904W, on Unidentified Flying Objects, on how many occasions there has been an assessment of evidence of risk to the integrity of UK airspace in the last five years; and what the job title is of desk officers assigned to this task. 68757

Minister replying Don Touhig MP

DRAFT REPLIES SHOULD BE SENT TO **PARLIAMENTARY QUESTIONS** AND NOT PQMAIL

On no occasion during the last 5 years has there been sufficient evidence to adjudge that there has been any risk to the integrity of UK airspace from a reported Unidentified Flying Object. Analysis of reports for this purpose is made by the Military desk officer responsible for Airspace Integrity within the UK Operations Branch.

If a PQ is sent to you incorrectly, please discuss the transfer with the correct branch, send the template on and inform Parliamentary Branch immediately on Section 40 [redacted]

June 06

PQ Ref 4149S

BACKGROUND NOTE

John Hayes has been the Member of Parliament for the South Holland & the Deepings since the May 1997 General Election. He has no declared interest in Defence issues, although he has tabled sixteen questions to the Secretary of State for Defence during this Parliament. He has not previously asked any questions regarding Unidentified Flying Objects, or the integrity of UK airspace.

It is not known what may have prompted this Question (or, indeed, the previous Question from Mr Baker).

The majority of reports of "UFO sightings" made to the Directorate of Air Staff are simply recorded and filed, with no further action being taken. A very small number are referred to SO1 Airspace Integrity in CT & UK Ops to consider whether there is any reason to believe that UK airspace has been compromised by the reported activity. 12 incidents (all reports from "reliable witnesses" (Police/Military/aircrew) have been referred to CT & UK Ops over the last 5 years; none of these have been determined as posing any risk to the integrity of UK airspace.

REMEMBER you are accountable for the accuracy and timeliness of the advice you provide. Departmental Instructions on answering PQs can be viewed on the Ministers and Parliamentary DII intranet site: http://main.defence.mod.uk/min_parl/.

Please send to PARLIAMENTARY QUESTIONS.

DRAFTED BY:	*	TEL:
AUTHORISED BY:	*	TEL:
GRADE/RANK:	*	
BRANCH:	*	

DECLARATION: I have satisfied myself that the above answer and background note are in accordance with the Government's policy on answering PQs and Departmental Instructions.

Relevant UFO Reports

No defence concern.

Section 40

Section 40

7 Oct 05

Section 40

7/10

I have enclosed two UFO reports for you to have a look at.

Credible witnesses.

① 4 Police Officers.

② Pilot - there is no name - area etc.

Can you tell the position over the land by CLN 185° 9d - Speak we don't understand.

Can you please let me know if any defence concern.

Thank you.

Section 40

Dir Sec.

ENCLOSURE 6 NUMBER

No reply address not given

Precedence:	ROUTINE
DTG	050320Z SEP 05 **Transmission at:** 050435Z SEP 05
From:	BMEWS III RAF FYLINGDALES MEWS UK/CMDR//
To:	MODUK AIR
SICs:	Z6F
SUBJECT:	ACTN: 050320Z SEP 05/FYL/0001/MSG ID

SUBJECT: : 050320Z SEP 05/FYL/0001/MSG ID

SUBJECT: AERIAL PHENOMENON
1. FOLLOWING SIGHTING OF A POSSIBLE UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECT IS REPORTED
A. 040235Z SEP 05, DURATION 120 SECONDS
B. THREE DIMENSIONAL DIAMOND SHAPE, APPROX SIZE OF A LARGE HELICOPTER. GREEN LIGHTS ON EITHER SIDE AND A RED AND WHITE LIGHT ON CENTRE OF BODY
C. SIGHTED ON WEAR BANK ROAD BETWEEN WOLSINGHAM AND HAMSTRLY FOREST, GRID NZ072365
D. SIGHTED ABOVE FIELD ADJACENT TO ROAD
E. APPROX 100-200 M, NO ANGLE GIVEN
F. LESS THAN 200 M
G. WHEN LIGHTS FROM CAR SHONE ON OBJECT IT MOVED SLOWLY OFF TO THE NORTH. NO SOUND WAS HEARD
H. CLEAR SKIES
I. NIL GIVEN
J. REPORTED TO DURHAM POLICE, AIR SUPPORT UNIT
K. PC Section 40 [redacted] DURHAM POLICE AIR SUPPORT UNIT, DURHAM AND TEES VALLEY AIRPORT
L. NIL
M. OBJECT WAS SEEN BY 4 POLICE OFFICERS. TWO OF THEM WERE PC Section 40 AND PC Section 40 IN CALLSIGN M30P, OTHER OFFICERS NOT NAMED. PC Section 40 [redacted] DID NOT SEE OBJECT
N. 030301Z SEP 05
P. NIL
R. OFFICERS WHO SAW OBJECT WERE ON DUTY ABOUT TO CARRY OUT A DOG TRAINING EXERCISE.
END OF X.400 TEXT

ACP Message Identifier:	RBDBIA 5917 2480438
Military Message ID:	3948 050905043948Z
AMRAD Received Time:	050435Z SEP 05

UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS

A controller receiving a report about an unidentified flying object must obtain as much as information as possible required to complete a report in format shown below.

Report of Unidentified Flying Object

A Date, Time and Duration of Sighting

Local times to be quoted

15.58Z 17.09.2005

B Description of Object

Number of objects, size, shape, colours, brightness, sound, smell, etc

ONE OBJECT "DARK BROWN, MILITARY SHAPE, FAST MOVING"

C Exact Position of Observer

Geographical location, indoors or outdoors, stationary or moving

FL210 CLN 185° 9d 300ft ABOVE 9 miles west of Clacton-on-Sea

D How Observed?

(Naked eye), binoculars, other optical device, still or movie camera

E Direction in which Object was first seen

A landmark may be more useful than a badly estimated bearing.

RECIPRICAL HDG TO HIS A/C - SEEN BEARING 130°

F Angular Elevation of Object

Estimated heights are reliable.

300ft ABOVE FL210

G Distance of Object from Observer

By reference to a known landmark, wherever possible.

300ft

H Movement of Object

Changes in E, F and G may be more useful than estimates of course and speed.

FROM PILOT REPORT - PROBABLY 045°

J Meteorological Conditions during observations

Moving clouds, haze, mist etc.

GOOD VMC ABOVE CLOUD

K Nearby Objects

Telephone or high voltage lines, reservoir, lake or dam, swamp or marsh, river, high buildings, tall chimneys, steeples, spires, TV or radio masts, airfields, generating plant, factories, pits or other sites with floodlights or other lighting.

L To whom reported

Police, military organisations, the press etc.

LTCC Section 40 CONTROLLER

M Name and Address of informant

N Any background information on the informant that may be volunteered

O Other witnesses

P Date and Time of receipt of report

The details are to be telephoned immediately to AIS (Military), LTCC. The completed report is to be sent by the originating ATSU to the Ministry of Defence Sec (AS).

ENCLOSURE 42 NUMBER

FILE NOTE

The UK Airprox Board have confirmed that this was likely to be a meteorological balloon from Reading. The Pilot has been informed and has withdrawn his report.

No further action required.

Section 40

DAS-FOI
5-H
Section 40

25th August 2005

300 AIR FRANCE AFR2569 6311 E145/W T450 | LAS5 F270 SFD/F250 OPR/RA E F270 | EGCC LFPG

NATS

DAS 102No. 17 AUG 2005 FILE

Unidentified Flying Object (UFO) Reports

Report of Unidentified Flying Object	
Date	13 AUG 05
Time	1711
Sighting Duration	10 SECONDS
Description of Object	1 TO 2 METRES IN LENGTH. COLOUR, YELLOW. SHAPE - CYLINDRICAL. NOT A BALLOON SHAPE.
Exact Position of Observer	10 MILES WEST OF GATWICK FL300
How Object was Observed	PILOTS VIEW THROUGH COCKPIT WINDOWS
Direction in which Object was First Seen	TRAVELLING IN FRONT OF A/C RIGHT TO LEFT. MOVING NORTH EAST
Angular Elevation of Object	LEVEL
Distance of Object from Observer	NOT KNOWN
Movement of Object	MOVING NORTH EAST SPOT WIND CHECK AT 1749 285° AT 75KTS
Meteorological Conditions During Observations	VMC
Nearby Objects	/
To Whom Reported	ATC SWANWICK
Name of Informant	PILOT OF AFR 2569
Address of Informant	NOT KNOWN
Background Information on Informant that may be Volunteered	/
Other Witnesses	NONE.

Date of Receipt of Report	13AUG05
Time of Receipt of Report	1730

Actions	Time
Complete report of UFO with as many details as possible and send to FOI1	
Telephone details immediately and leave a message on 0207 218 2140.	1910.

om: UK AIRPROX BOARD

omment:

Start Time: 17-08-2005 09:32 a.m.

Pages: 2 (except this sheet)

Fax number: Section 40 [redacted]

142/05

Régional
COMPAGNIE AÉRIENNE EUROPÉENNE

ASR
Air Safety Report

Sécurité des Vols
Réf. : 608/ER4/05
Niveau de gravité : B

1.Type de rapport : Airprox

2. Cdb : BKR	**OPL :** VMK	**OBS :**	**PNC:** GGS
Vol N° : AFR2569	**De :** MAN	**à :** CDG	**4. DATE et heure approximative de l'évènement :** 13/8/2005 17:10 UTC
6. Lieu de l'événement (*) : Abeam WOD VOR 50 NM before SFD	**7. Parking (*) :**		**8. Type d'avion :** ER4
9. Immat : F-GUAM	**10. Type d'approche (*) :**		**11. Piste (*) :**
12. Phase de vol : Croisière			
13. Etat Piste (*) :	**14. Conditions :** VMC		
15. MTO : Vent : 0 ° 0 kt **Nébulosité :** 0 ft			**Visibilité :** 0 m **QNH :** 0 Hpa
16. Temps significatif : Turbulences Faible	**17. IAS / MACH :** 1013	**18. Altitude : FL** 30000 Ft	**19. Réf. CRM :**

20. Configuration : vertical : Maintien Altitude — autopilote : ON
PA-DV : ON — latéral : HDG — automanette : NC — train : UP — volets : 0 — aérofreins : OFF

21. RVSM (*) : OUI
22. B-RNAV (*) : OUI
23. Titre de l'événement (*) : Incident ATC
Conséquence Exploitation (*) : Sans conséquence

24. Description de l'événement : (description, actions correctives entreprises et résultat) en **MAJUSCULES**, anglais pour les AIRPROX, R/ATC et RA TCAS survenus à l'étranger :

While cruising, a UFO crossed our route (more likely a drone, no met balloon), opposite direction, same ight/level. A ma,oeuvre to avoid was not performable due to the quickness of crossing. We left the object on e left hand side, and roughly distant from 15 meters. Its size estimated around 2-3 meters wide. TC informedof event.

FAX Section 40
UKAB Section 40
17/8/05

Post-it Notes 7690

ION OISEAUX
nithologique :
e d'oiseaux aperçus :
bre d'oiseaux touchés :
aille des oiseaux :
Phares d'atterrissage allumés :
Pilote averti de la présence d'oiseaux :
DECRIRE CASE 24 LES PARTIES DE L'AERONEF ATTEINTES ET LES DOMMAGES SUBIS

26. AIRPROX / RECLAMATION ATC
Gisement de l'autre ATC : 1
Trajectoire horizontale de l'autre ATC :
Degré de sévérité : Elevé
Signalé à l'ATC (organisme) : OUI
Votre indicatif d'appel : AFR2569
Cap : 155 degré
Séparation minimal vertical : 0 ft
Alerte TCAS : Aucune
RA suivi :
RA était :
Question PN :
Réponse à la question du PN :
Adresse de réponse :
Trajectoire horizontale de l'autre ATC :
Manœuvre d'évitement : NON
Instructions / infos ATC :
Fréquence :
Altitude autorisée : 0
Séparation minimal horizontal : 0,01 NM
Méssage RA :
Déviation verticale si RA suivi : 0

27 – TURBULENCE
Caractéristiques du phénomène :

Remarques :

Conformément à l'OPS1.420 , tout incident qui a menacé , ou aurait pu menacer la sécurité du vol doit être déclaré au moyen de ce formulaire et transmis par Fax à l'ASV dans un délai de 48 heures, l'original étant transmis par courrier ou via le dossier de vol.

28 – FOUDROIEMENT
Description du foudroiement :
a) VISUELLE :

b) AUDITIVE :

c) ODEURS :

d) AUTRES REMARQUES :

COORDONNEES DU SERVICE ASV :

REGIONAL –ASV / ASR –Aéroport NANTES Atlantique –44345 BOUGUENAIS Cedex
Tél secrétariat : Section 40
E-mail Section 40
Fax : Section 40

ENCLOSURE NUMBER 1

From: Section 40
Directorate of Air Staff (Lower Airspace)
Operations & Policy 1a
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Room 6/73, Metropole Building, Northumberland Avenue, London, WC2N 5BP

Telephone (Direct dial) 020 7218 2140
(Switchboard) 020 7218 9000
(Fax) Section 40
E-Mail das-laopspol1a@defence.mod.uk

Section 40
Ministry of Defence
SATIC
Armouries Drive
Leeds
LS10 1LT

Your Reference

Our Reference
D/DAS/64/2

Date
9 October 2003

Dear Section 40

Thank you for your letter dated 16 September, in which you provided details of a sighting of an 'unidentifed flying object' on 13 September over Heckmondale, West Yorkshire by the Senior Curator of Arms at the Royal Armouries Museum.

First, it may be helpful if I explain that the Ministry of Defence examines any reports of 'unidentified flying objects' it receives solely to establish whether what was seen might have some defence significance; namely, whether there is any evidence that the United Kingdom's might have been compromised by hostile or unauthorised air activity. Unless there is evidence of a potential threat, and to date no 'UFO' report has revealed such evidence, MOD does not attempt to identify the precise nature of each reported sighting. We believe it is possible that rational explanations, such as aircraft lights or natural phenomena, could be found for them, but it is not the function of the MOD to provide this kind of aerial identification service. We could not justify expenditure of public funds on investigations which go beyond our specific defence remit.

The details of the sighting were passed to the appropriate Air Defence experts in the MOD, who were satisfied that the report did not represent anything of air defence interest. We are satisfied that there is no corroborating evidence to suggest that on the 13 September the United Kingdom's airspace was breached by unauthorised air activity.

Yours Sincerely

Section 40

OSE MINUTE

D/DAS/64/2

25 September 2003

DAO-AIRC2-SO1

CREDIBLE WITNESS 'UFO' SIGHTING REPORT –13 SEPTEMBER 2003

1. Please see the attached enquiry regarding an 'unidentified flying object' seen by Section 40 Section 40 at the Royal Armouries Museum on 13 September 2003 at approx 21:40.

2. I would be grateful if you could let me know if the report represents anything of air defence interest.

Section 40

DAS(LA)Ops+Pol1a
MT 6/73 Section 40
CHOTS: DAS-LA-Ops + Pol1a

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE SATIC
ARMOURIES DRIVE
LEEDS LS10 1LT
Tel: Section 40
Fax:
Email:

Ref D/PR RAS
Date 16 September 2003

Directorate of Air Staff (Lower Airspace)
Operations & Policy 1
Rm 6/73
Metropole Building
Northumberland Avenue
London
WC2N 5BP

Dear Colleague

UFO SIGHTING

Please see attached report complied by Section 40 who is Section 40 at the Royal Armouries Museum (we are currently housed in the Royal Armouries as a MoD unit).

I would consider Section 40 account to be reliable and worthy of investigation.

Thanking you for your assistance.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

C2
Ministry of Defence

Email Section 40

Sighting of UFOs

Date: 13th September 2003.
Time: Approximately 9.40 p.m.
Weather: Warm clear night with very thin, high, transparent wisps of clouds.
Location: Heckmondwike, West Yorkshire.

On the night of the 13th of September, my son, his wife, my wife and I were returning from dinning out in Leeds. As normal we parked the car at the rear of the house and were making our way down a path at the side. My son and his wife were helping my wife locate a small step in the path, her night vision being limited. I was behind the others, looking upwards and admiring the clarity of the night and the remarkable number of stars visible.

Two circular objects, about half the apparent size of the moon, came into view from over the roof of my house. They were travelling in straight lines, on parallel courses, towards the Southwest. As they moved away from me, they appearance changed from circular to elliptical suggesting that they were disc-shaped rather than spherical. As soon as I had grasped what was happening, I shouted to my son who looked up and saw the same phenomena as myself. After having covered about half of the distance between my house and the roof of the houses on the other side of the drive, the two objects moved together, almost touched and then separated to resume their original courses and spacing before disappearing over the neighbour's rooftop. During this manoeuvre their speeds, that were not excessive, remained unchanged. The changes of direction of both objects being smooth and controlled.

The appearance of both objects was the same, of a very dull yellow, not bright but definitely self-luminous. The outer edges of both objects were not well defined, giving the impression of being either jagged or fuzzy. There were darker areas inside the shape but not easily defined. With no point of reference it was impossible to be definite about height or size, but the impression was that they were not very high, maybe a few hundreds of feet. The whole sighting lasted no more than about five seconds.

Ops+Pol1a

ject: D UK-SO1 AIR OPS 2
01 October 2003 15:11
DAS-LA-Ops+Pol1; DAS-LA-Ops+Pol1a
Credible Witness UFO Sighting Report 13 Sep 03

Section 40

I have reviewed in concert with 2 Gp Staffs, the credible witness report dated 13 Sep (D/DAS/64/2 letter dated 25 Sep 03) and can confirm that the incident does not represent anything of air defence interest.

Section 40

Wg Cdr
DUK, SO1 Air Ops 2
MT466
Section 40

D UK/270/1/13

18 Nov 03

DAS Sec 3

CREDIBLE WITNESS 'UFO' REPORT – 17 NOV 03

Reference:

A. D/Sec(AS)/64/2 dated 17 Nov 03.

At Reference, you asked whether the report submitted by Sgt Section 40 from New Scotland Yard, through Plt Off Section 40 at CRC Neatishead, regarding "20-30 red flashing lights in the sky accompanied by a whirring noise" at 0225hrs on 17 Nov 03 at Bromley in Kent, represented anything of air defence interest. CRC Neatishead have reviewed the radar tapes for the time period specified and other than routine air traffic in the area, nothing additional was detected in the area despite good radar coverage. Therefore, I can now confirm that the incident does not represent anything of air defence interest.

Signed on CHOtS
Section 40
Wg Cdr
DUK SO1 Air Ops 2
MT466 Section 40

Action:
Sgt Section 40 at New Scotland Yard is not on duty. Message of outcome passed to control room. No details of the people reporting this sighting so unable to reply direct. Police given my telephone number in-case Sgt Section 40 wanted to contact me or pass us the address of those reporting the sighting.

19/11/03.

LOOSE MINUTE

D/Sec(AS)/64/2

17 November 2003

D UK-SO1 AIR

17 NOV 03.

CREDIBLE WITNESS REPORT DATED 3 NOVEMBER 1999.

1. In line with our current policy, please find below a 'UFO' report which you may wish to be aware of. Although the report was originally from a member of the public, these lights were also seen by Police Officers and a Police helicopter crew. Swanwick and RAF Neatishead have also become involved. I would be grateful if you could let me know if the report represents anything of air defence interest.

Section 40

DAS-Sec3
(CHOTS: DAS-LA-Ops+Pol1)
MT6/73 Section 40

Follow-up UFO Report – 170612z Nov 03

UFO report relayed to STCDO from the Duty Surveillance Officer Fg Off Section 40 at RAF Neatishead who had received the report from F/Sgt Section 40 at Swanick Mil Section 40 Fg Off Section 40 has also passed this report to M0D Sec (AS) 2a and to CAOC 9 –Flt Lt Section 40

F/Sgt Section 40 had received the report from Sgt Section 40 of New Scotland Yard Ref. No CAD 625
contact Tel No Section 40

'At 2.25am 17 Nov 03 2 adults and 1 child in Bromley, Kent saw 20-30 red flashing lights in the sky accompanied by a whirring noise and they recorded the occurrence on video tape. The family called the police who confirmed the sighting. The policeman using a lamppost as a marker concluded the lights were zigzagging / turning across the sky at a speeds faster than any man-made aircraft.
A crew of a police helicopter airborne at the time also confirmed the lights but they thought they might be lights of aircraft on the approach in to LHR. However Swanick Mil declared that there were no aircraft in the approach pattern at that time all aircraft on their radar were at high level.'

S/L FO Section 40
STCDO-C
Section 40

Section 40

Message left on DAS answerphone at 05.34 Monday 17th Nov by Pilot Officer Section 40 of RAF Neatisheacl. UFO sighting details as above reported to Neatisheacl at 04.00 by Swanwick ATC. The sighting was confirmed by the Police and Scotland Yard reported it to Swanick Mil. Police helicopter in the area thought they were aircraft approaching Heathrow but Swanwick say there were no such aircraft in the area.

Pilot Officer Section 40 is on Neatisheacl Crew Room Section 40 or mobile number Section 40

NFA

D/DAO/1/13

72

25 Oct 02

DAS(LA)Ops+Pol1a

CREDIBLE WITNESS REPORT – 17 OCT 02

Reference:

A. Your Loose Minute dated 21 Oct 02.

1. At Reference, you asked whether the credible witness report submitted by 2 police officers from Humberside represented anything of air defence interest. Following enquiries through HQ 2 Gp and RAF Neatishead, there is no evidence that unauthorised military activity or any other activity of air defence interest occurred on 17 Oct 02 in the Hull area.

Signed on CHOtS

Section 40

Wg Cdr
DAO ADGE 1
MT4/05 Section 40

LOOSE MINUTE

DAO ADGE 1
D10AS/64/2
21 October 2002

CREDIBLE WITNESS UFO SIGHTING – 17/10/2002

1. In line with our current policy, please find attached a 'UFO' report two police officers from Humberside in the early hours of 17 October 2002.

2. I would be grateful if you could let me know if the report represents anything of air defence interest.

Section 40

DAS(LA)OPS&POL1
RM 6/73MT Section 40
CHOTS: DAS-LA-OPS & POL 1A

HUMBERSIDE POLICE
Northern Command Centre
Hessle Police Station
Hessle Road
Kingston Upon Hull
HU4 7BA

Tel No. Section 40
Fax No [redacted]

Northern Command Centre

Date 17th October 2002

FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

From: Inspector Section 40 Force Duty Officer

For the attention of: ***Ministry of Defence***

Page one of 2 Pages

Message

Sighting Of Unidentified Flying Object

Humberside Police Incident Log Number 70 of 17/10/02 timed at 0239hrs Thursday 17/10/02 refers

At 0239 hrs on Thursday 17th October 2002 a member of the public contacted Humberside Police to report seeing a UFO. The adult male caller wished to remain anonymous but it is believed he lives in Hull (eastern area of the City). Whilst making the report the caller stated he could see two lit objects in the sky - one over the the Eastern Cemetary, Preston Road, Hull and the other one over B.P. Saltend. He stated the objects appeared to be 'communicating' with each other. He described one of the objects as having a blue light in the middle, a white light and two green lights with a red light going around the top. The object was spinning around and hovering.The caller was looking through binoculars.

Local Police Officers were alerted and sighted what they believed to be the object being reported by the caller. The below report is from two Police Officers rather than from the initial caller who was reluctant to become involved. Other officers also saw the 'object'.

a) Police Officers involved - PC Section 40 and Pc Section 40
b) 0254 hrs 17/10/02 - duration of approx 45 minutes
c) Appeared as the size of a 'normal' bright star but of different colours - blue, green, red and white
d) Viewed from various locations in the Hedon area (east of Hull) from a police vehicle
e) Viewed with naked eye
f) First viewed by officers to be in the sky over B.P. Chemicals Plant at Saltend near Hull and then in the Thorgumbald area.
g) Angular elevation of approx 45 degrees
h) Distance from observers is difficult to estimate (but not near to them)

The object appeared to move fast and then stop - it stopped and started on a couple of occasions and repeatedly changed its colour/shape, fading and also becoming brighter at times

j) Meteorological conditions - weather fine and dry with no cloud initially and no other objects nearby to obstruct the view.

k) A chemical plant is nearby and also the River Humber with industrial/chemical plants on the south bank at Killingholme/Immingham

l) The Humberside Police Helicopter attended the area and perceived the object to be a star or satellite and the colour changes being an optical effect due to possible gasses emmitted from the nearby industrial plants. It has to be said however that the above officers were not convinced of this explanation.

This report is submitted for your information and attention. If further details or clarification are required please contact the Humberside Police Northern Command Centre

Section 40

Section 40

Inspector

D/DAO/1/13

8 Jan 02

17/2

DAS(LA)Ops+Pol1a

CREDIBLE WITNESS REPORT – 15 Nov 01

Reference:

A. D/DAS/64/2 dated 4 Dec 01.

1. At Reference, you asked whether the credible witness report represented anything of air defence interest. There is no evidence that unauthorised military activity or any other activity of air defence interest occurred in the Armthorpe area at that time.

[redacted]

[redacted]
Wg Cdr
DAO ADGE 1
MT4/51 [redacted]

[redacted]LOOSE MINUTE

D/DAS/64/2

4 December 2001

ADGE1

CREDIBLE WITNESS REPORT DATED 15 NOVEMBER 2001.

1. In line with our current policy, please find attached a 'UFO' report from Police Constable Section 40 on 15 Nov 2001 at 00:59.

2. I would be grateful if you could let me know if the report represents anything of air defence interest.

Section 40 [redacted]
DAS(LA)Ops+Pol1a
MT 6/73 Section 40 [redacted]
CHOTS: DAS-LA-Ops + Pol1a

SOUTH YORKSHIRE POLICE

FROM: PC Section 40

TO: Section 40

LONDON AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL

REF:

DCU/DEPT: ARMTHORPE

EXT: Section 40

DATE: 22/11/01

SUBJECT: **INCIDENT 15/11/01**

At 0559 hours on 15th November 2001 I was in a Police vehicle in company with PS Section 40 Section 40 Hatfield Lane travelling towards Armthorpe when I saw an object to my right side falling from the sky.
I would describe this one item as follows:-
Approximately the size of a tennis ball or just slightly larger but round in shape. the centre of the ball was bright orange in colour with what appeared to have a black inner line around the circumference. It was travelling in the same direction as the vehicle at an angle of "07.00 hrs". From the rear of the ball were two bright green flare trails.

As I have said we were inside a vehicle, the weather was dry and mild. it was very dark and so it was impossible to estimate what speed the object was travelling at, or what the approximate height was, as there was nothing to compare it with. We were stationary approximately 800 metres away from the M18 motorway, which was to our right. The object disappeared before going to ground.
It was seen only with the naked eye.

Another officer who was on duty at the same time also states that she saw the object but from a different location, which was not far from ours.

Submitted for your information

Section 40

South Yorkshire
POLICE
JUSTICE WITH COURAGE

ARMTHORPE
MERE LANE
ARMTHORPE
DONCASTER DN3 2DG

Facsimile Transmission

Date: 22/11/01

To: LONDON AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL

For the attention of: Section 40

Comments:

ATTACHED REPORT REFERENCE OBJECT SEEN IN SKY ON 15/11/01 NUTWELL LANE ARMTHORPE. DONCASTER, SOUTH YORKSHIRE.

Received. 21 Nov 01

AIS (Mil)

Section 40

COMMUNICATIONS CENTRE
21 NOV 2001
WEST DRAYTON

From: PC Section 40

Telephone Number: Section 40 **FAX:** Section 40

Number of Pages (including this page) 2 (TWO)

In the event of a poor copy, please contact:-

South Yorkshire Police - PC Section 40
Telephone Number Section 40

9

From: Section 40 Directorate of Air Staff (Lower Airspace)
Operations and Policy 1a, Room 6/73
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Metropole Building, Northumberland House, London, WC2N 5BP

Telephone (Direct dial) 0207 218 2140
(Fax) Section 40

Section 40

Hamilton.
Scotland
Section 40

Your Reference

Our Reference
D/DAS/64/2

Date
4 December 2001

Dear Section 40

I am writing with reference to your report of a sighting of an 'unidentified flying object' on 5 November 2001, which was passed to the Ministry of Defence by Scottish Airways. We are the focal point within the MOD for correspondence relating to 'UFOs.'

First, it may be helpful if I explain that the Ministry of Defence examines any reports of 'unidentified flying objects' it receives solely to establish whether what was seen might have some defence significance; namely, whether there is any evidence that the United Kingdom's airspace might have been compromised by hostile or unauthorised air activity. Unless there is evidence of a potential threat, and to date no 'UFO' report has revealed such evidence, MOD does not attempt to identify the precise nature of each reported sighting. We believe it is possible that rational explanations, such as aircraft lights or natural phenomena, could be found for them, but it is not the function of the MOD to provide this kind of aerial identification service. We could not justify expenditure of public funds on investigations which go beyond our specific defence remit.

With regard to your particular observation, I have looked back through our sighting report files and can confirm that we received no other reports of 'UFO' sightings for 5 November from anywhere in Scotland. We are satisfied that there is no corroborating evidence to suggest that the United Kingdom's airspace was breached by unauthorised air activity.

Yours sincerely

Section 40

D/DAO/1/13

20 Nov 01

DAS(LA)Ops+Pol1a

CREDIBLE WITNESS REPORT – 5 Nov 01

Reference:

A. D/DAS/64/2 dated 13 Nov 01.

1. At Reference, you asked whether the credible witness report represented anything of air defence interest. There is no evidence that unauthorised military activity or any other activity of air defence interest occurred in the Hamilton area at that time.

Section 40

Wg Cdr
DAO ADGE 1
MT4/51 Section 40

LOOSE MINUTE

D/DAS/64/2

13 November 2001

ADGE1

CREDIBLE WITNESS REPORT DATED 5 NOVEMBER 2001.

1. In line with our current policy, please find attached a 'UFO' report from Hamilton for 5 Nov at 00:30-03:30 from a police officer.

2. I would be grateful if you could let me know if the report represents anything of air defence interest.

Section 40

DAS(LA)Ops+Pol1a
MT 6/73 Section 40
CHOTS: DAS-LA-Ops + Pol1a

Report of Unidentified Flying Object

a) **Date, Time and Duration of Sighting.** 5th Nov. 00·30 – 03·30

b) **Description of Object** LOOKS LIKE ½ SAUCER, MOSTLY WHITE LIGHTS BUT ALSO RED & GREEN SILENT, APPEARED TO HAVE RINGS ROUND IT.

c) **Exact Position of** OBSERVED FROM GARDEN. MOVED FROM HORIZON AT 0030 TO ABOVE AT 03·30 HAMILTON, LANARKSHIRE

d) **How Observed** NAKED EYE. FILMED ON VIDEO CAM

e) **Direction in which Object was First Seen** UNABLE TO GET COMPASS BEARING. TOWARDS STRATHAVEN FROM HAMILTON

f) **Angular Elevation of Object** 015 – 90°.

g) **Distance of Object from Observer**
COULDN'T SAY

h) **Movements of Object** FROM BEING HORIZONTAL TO VERTICAL OVER HAMILTON.

j) **Meteorological Conditions During Observations**
CLEAR SKY

k) **Nearby Objects**

l) **To Whom Reported**
INFORMANT SAYS HE IS POLICE OFFICER

m) **Name and Address of Informant** Section 40 Section 40
TEL Section 40
HAMILTON

n) **Any Background Information on the Informant that may be Volunteered**
See L

o) **Other witnesses** NONE. PHONED HAMILTON POLICE – NO REPORTS
GLASGOW AIRPORT – NOTHING SEEN
RADAR – NOTHING SEEN

p) **Date and Time of Receipt of Report**
5th Nov. 0330

D/DAO/1/13

20 Nov 01

DAS(LA)Ops+Pol1a

CREDIBLE WITNESS REPORT – 11 Nov 01

Reference:

A. D/DAS/64/2 dated 12 Nov 01.

1. At Reference, you asked whether the credible witness report represented anything of air defence interest. There is no evidence that unauthorised military activity or any other activity of air defence interest occurred in the Seaford area at that time.

Section 40

Section 40
Wg Cdr
DAO ADGE 1
MT4/51 Section 40

LOOSE MINUTE

D/DAS/64/2

12 November 2001

ADGE1

CREDIBLE WITNESS REPORT DATED 11 NOVEMBER 2001.

1. In line with our current policy, please find attached a 'UFO' report from the Captain of Swissair SWR 801 from Heathrow to Zurich on 11 Nov at 08:40.

2. I would be grateful if you could let me know if the report represents anything of air defence interest.

Section 40

DAS(LA)Ops+Poll a
MT 6/73 Section 40
CHOTS: DAS-LA-Ops + Poll a

REPORT OF AN UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECT

TRANSMISSION DETAILS:	DTG of Transmission:
From: AIS(M), LATCC(M), Porters Way, West Drayton Middlesex UB7 9AU Fax No: Section 40	To: Section 40 DAS Operations and Policy, Rm 673 Metropole Building, Northumberland Avenue London WC2N 5BP Fax No: Section 40
AUTHORISING OFFICER:	TRANSMISSION OPERATOR:
RANK, NAME & APPOINTMENT:	RANK/GRADE & NAME: SAC Section 40
SIGNATURE:	SIGNATURE: Section 40

A	DATE: 11 NOV 01	TIME: 0840 Z	DURATION OF SIGHTING: NK.		
B	DESCRIPTION OF OBJECT: Number 1 Size 10-20M Shape NK Colour RED Brightness NK	Sound? NK Smell? NK. Other			
C	EXACT POSITION OF OBSERVER: Geographical location: AIRCRAFT IN FLIGHT – 10NM SW OF SEAFORD VOR/DME (SFD) Indoors/Outdoors/Stationary/Moving				
D	HOW OBJECT WAS OBSERVED: (Naked eye)/Binoculars/Camera/Video camera				
E	DIRECTION IN WHICH OBJECT WAS FIRST SEEN: (A landmark may be useful) AHEAD – HDG° @300° AT FL 160				
F	ANGLE OF SIGHT: BELOW				
G	DISTANCE (By reference to a known landmark if possible): 10 NM				
H	MOVEMENT OF OBJECT: ONCOMING				
J	MET CONDITIONS DURING OBSERVATION (Moving clouds, mist, haze etc): NK				
K	NEARBY OBJECTS OR BUILDINGS: NONE				
L	TO WHOM REPORTED: Press: Police: Military Organisation: Airport: Other: SEAFORD SECTOR CONTROLLER – LATCC (CIV)				
M	INFORMANTS' DETAILS. Name: CAPT. SWISSAIR SWR 801 (SQK1170) Address: H'ROW TO ZURICH				
N	ANY BACKGROUND OF THE INFORMANT THAT MAY BE VOLUNTEERED: NA				
O	OTHER WITNESS? NK				
P	DATE/TIME OF REPORT: 1108552 NOV 01				

64/2
NKA

19/6

D/DAO/1/13

15 Jan 03

DAS(LA)Ops+Pol1a

CREDIBLE WITNESS REPORT – 4 JAN 03

Reference:

A. D/DAS/64/2 dated 7 Jan 03.

1. At Reference, you asked whether the credible witness report submitted by the SATCO at Benbecula Airport represented anything of air defence interest. There is no evidence that unauthorised military activity or any other activity of air defence interest occurred on 4 Jan 03 in the Benbecula area.

Signed on CHOtS

Section 40

Wg Cdr
DAO SO1 Air C2
MT4/05 Section 40

LOOSE MINUTE

D/DAS/64/2

7 January 2003

ADGE1

CREDIBLE WITNESS REPORT DATED 4 JANUARY 2003.

1. In line with our current policy, please find attached a 'UFO' sighting report from the senior Air Traffic Control officer at Benbecula Airport.

2. I would be grateful if you could let me know if the report represents anything of air defence interest.

Section 40

DAS(LA)Ops+Pol1a
MT 6/73 Section 40
CHOTS: DAS-LA-Ops + Pol1a

Report of Unidentified Flying Object

A Date, Time and Duration of Sighting
Saturday 4th January 2003, between 1920 and 1935, 15 mins

B Description of Object
One object with a very bright light like an aircraft's landing light with a smaller dimmer light on top of the bright light

C Exact Position of Observers
Two miles west of Benbecula Airport on first sighting and then from the control Tower at the Airport and again One-mile east of the Airport before it dimmed And then disappeared

D How Observed
At first with the naked eye as a passenger in a vehicle driving towards Benbecula Airport from the west and then with Binoculars from the control Tower at the Airport and again with the naked eye.

E Direction in which Object was First Seen
Aprox bearing 080 degrees from Benbecula Airport just south of Eaval

F Angular Elevation of Object
Aprox. 45 degrees to 60 degrees (500ft to 1000ft agl)

G Distance of Object from Observers
South East of Eaval over the small island of Flodaigh Beag 7nm East of Benbecula Airport

H Movements of Object
Stationary but moving up and down

J Meteorological Conditions During Observations
The Benbecula Automatic met. Observation at 1920 was :-
Calm 9999 Wxnil Few035 01/-01 Q1020

K Nearby Objects
The Mountain "Eaval"

L To Whom Reported
HM coastguard at Stornoway Local Police, Watch Supervisor ScATCC

M Name and Address of Informant
Section 40 Section 40 LIMBER North Lincolnshire
Section 40 Mobile Section 40
E-mail Section 40

N Any Background Information on the Informant that may be Volunteered
I was the on-call Air Traffic Control Officer and I am the Part time Senior Air Traffic Control Officer at Benbecula Airport

O Other Witnesses

Section 40 Senior Security Officer QinetiQ Hebrides Rangers

P Date and Time of Receipt of Report

As A

D/DAO/1/13

21 Feb 03

DAS(LA)Ops+Pol1a

CREDIBLE WITNESS REPORT – 29 JAN 03

Reference:

A. D/DAS/64/2 dated 17 Feb 03.

At Reference, you asked whether the report submitted by Sgt [redacted] regarding a sighting of 2 triangular shaped objects over Wolverhampton on 29 Jan 03 represented anything of air defence interest. I have checked with the operational air defence community and can confirm that the incident does not represent anything of air defence interest.

Signed on CHOtS

[redacted]
Wg Cdr
DAO SO1 Air C2
MT4/05 [redacted]

LOOSE MINUTE

D/DAS/64/2

17 February 2003

ADGE1

CREDIBLE WITNESS 'UFO' SIGHTING REPORT – 19 JANUARY

1. In line with current policy, please find attached a 'UFO' sighting report from Sgt Section 40 at RAF Cosford.

2. I would be grateful if you could let me know if the report represents anything of air defence interest.

Section 40

DAS(LA)Ops+Pol1a
MT 6/73 Section 40
CHOTS: DAS-LA-Ops + Pol1a

REPORT OF AN UNEXPLAINED AERIAL SIGHTING

1.	**Date and time of sighting.** (Duration of sighting.)	29/1/03 18:15 hrs. 40 seconds.
2.	**Description of object.** (No of objects, size, shape, colour, brightness, noise.)	 Looked like two triangular shaped objects flying in perfect synchronisation. Low humming noise, not like normal commercial airliner.
3.	**Exact position of observer. Geographical location.** (Indoors/outdoors, stationary/moving.)	out doors, Standing in back garden in Albrighton WV7 3PZ.
4.	**How object was observed.** (Naked eye, binoculars, other optical device, camera or camcorder.)	Naked eye.
5.	**Direction in which object was first seen.** (A landmark may be more helpful than a roughly estimated bearing.)	Traveling in straight line from SSW to NNE.
6.	**Approximate distance.**	unable to tell size of craft or height above ground - guess 2000ft.
7.	**Movements and speed.** (side to side, up or down, constant, moving fast, slow)	It took 40 seconds to move from overhead to out of sight.
8.	**Weather conditions during observation.** (cloudy, haze, mist, clear)	Clear night sky. no mist or fog.

9.	**To whom reported.** (Police, military, press etc)	None.
10.	**Name, address and telephone no of informant.**	Sgt Section 40 CO RAF Cosford Wolverhampton. WV7 3EX. Section 40 (TILL MAR03) Section 40 RAF COSFORD TRAVELLING FROM TELFORD TO NEWPORT ON A518 APPROX SAME TIME OBSERVED A NUMBER OF WHITE LIGHTS NEAR TO LILLESHALL HILL.
11.	**Other witnesses.**	
12.	**Remarks.**	
13.	**Date and time of receipt.**	

D/DAO/1/13

9 Jun 03

DAS(LA)Ops+Pol1a

CREDIBLE WITNESS REPORT – 11 APR 03

Reference:

A. D/DAS/64/2 dated 23 Apr 03.

At Reference, you asked whether the report submitted by a civilian airline pilot regarding a sighting of a ball of fire on the approach to Stansted Airport on 11 Apr 03 represented anything of air defence interest. Further to our discussions on the incident, there appears to be no direct operational implication from an air defence perspective.

Signed on CHOtS

Section 40

Wg Cdr
DAO SO1 Air C2
MT4/05 Section 40

[redacted]OOSE MINUTE

D/DAS/64/2

23 April 2003

ADGE1

CREDIBLE WITNESS 'UFO' SIGHTING REPORT – 11 APRIL 2003

1. In line with current policy, please find attached a 'UFO' sighting report from a civilian airline pilot, approaching Stansted Airport on 11 April 2003 @ 22:21.

2. I would be grateful if you could let me know if the report represents anything of air defence interest.

Section 40 [redacted]

DAS(LA)Ops+Pol1a
MT 6/73 Section 40
CHOTS: DAS-LA-Ops + Pol1a

AFFIC SERVICES LTD
Building, Bassingbourn Road, Stansted Airport, Stansted, Essex CM24 1AH.
Section 40 Fax: Section 40

NATS

Air Traffic Manager
Stansted Airport
Section 40

Deputy – Section 40

23 April Gp Capt Section 40
DAS-Ix-AD

Flight into Heathrow
Aircraft to the NW of London, holding
Estimated height 3,000 Time: 18.15-18.20
Aircraft handed around 18.30
Ball of light, no colour, passed under the aircraft, front to back, very fast.

REPORT OF UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECT **MATS PART 1**

8SD/1/11

RYR426 B732 SSR 5442 From EGPK

A **Date, Time and Duration of Sighting** - Local times to be quoted.

11-APR-2003 22:21h VERY QUICK!

B **Description of Object** - Number of objects, size, shape, colours, brightness, sound, smell, etc.

A BALL OF FIRE VERY BRIGHT NO COLOUR

C **Exact Position of Observer** - Geographical location, indoors or outdoors, stationary or moving.

CAPTAIN & FIRST OFFICER OF B732 FINAL APPCH RWY23 @ STANSTED 970FT QFE

D **How Observed** - Naked eye, binoculars, other optical device, still or movie camera.

NAKED EYE

E **Direction in which Object was First Seen** - A landmark may be more useful than a badly estimated bearing.

PASSING QUICKLY DOWN LEFT SIDE

F **Angular Elevation of Object** - Estimated heights are unreliable.

RYR426 WAS AT 940 Ft QFE OBJECT WAS AT SAME HEIGHT

G **Distance of Object from Observer** - By reference to a known landmark wherever possible.

ABOUT 100 FT TO THE LEFT

H **Movements of Object** - Change in E, F and G may be of more use than estimates of course and speed.

OPPOSITE DIRECTION ON LEFTHAND SIDE

J **Meteorological Conditions During Observations** - Moving cloud, haze, mist, etc.

W/V 160° 6KT CAVOK OAT +4 DP M01 QNH 1010mb

K **Nearby Objects** - Telephone or high voltage lines; reservoir, lake or dam; swamp or marsh; river; high buildings, tall chimneys, steeples, spires, TV or radio masts; airfields, generating plant; factories; pits or other sites with floodlights or other lighting.

AIRCRAFT STRUCTURE, WING, AIRPORT & RUNWAY

L **To Whom Reported** - Police, military organisation, the press, etc.

AIRPORT POLICE - (LOCAL SEARCH NOTHING FOUND)

M **Name and Address of Informant**

CAPT Section 40 C/O RYANAIR OPS STANSTED AIRPORT

N **Any Background Information on the Informant that may be Volunteered**

NOTHING MORE

O **Other Witnesses**

CO PILOT

P **Date and Time of Receipt of Report**

11-APR-2003 23:20h

020-7218-2140

The details are to be telephoned immediately to AIS (Military), LATCC on ~~7-144-6153/6717~~.

The completed form report is to be sent by the originating air traffic service unit to the Ministry of Defence Sec (AS), RAF Main Building, Whitehall, London, SW1A 2HB.

DAS
APR 2003
RLF

CLOSURE

PRINTED BY OPERATOR FROM ADIS25 - 11-APR-2003 21:59:57.69
to EGSSZTZX

SAUK31 EGGY 112120
METAR EGBB 112120Z 17004KT 9999 FEW045 01/M02 Q1009=
METAR EGCC 112120Z 28002KT 9999 SCT040 BKN060 08/02 Q1009 NOSIG=
METAR EGKK 112120Z 07003KT CAVOK 01/M03 Q1010=
METAR EGLL 112120Z 12004KT CAVOK 07/M00 Q1010 NOSIG=
METAR EGPF 112120Z 23005KT CAVOK 04/01 Q1007=
METAR EGPH 112120Z 25007KT 9999 FEW035 SCT250 04/00 Q1006=
METAR EGPK 112120Z 00000KT CAVOK 06/01 Q1008=
METAR EGSS 112120Z 16006KT CAVOK 04/M01 Q1010=

Section 40

GxAITESTPTCDAS

28 June 06

Home | My Cases | Log New Request | Policy Guidance | Help

Request: Section 40 05-06-2006-143408-013

Days Left: 33

Received: 05 Jun 06
Expiry Date: 11 Aug 06
Status: Time Ext Hold FOI

All sources

Workflow Options
- Holding Response

View
- Audit Trail
- Comments Log
- Saved Search Result
- Contact Details
- Documents

Actions
- Assign Within My Group
- Change Alert Settings
- Edit Request Details
- Upload Document
- Close Case
- Take Ownership

Editing the request details will initiate a new search.
The new search results will be saved and will replace the existing save search results.

Date request received: 05 June 2006

Applicant Details

Title: Section 40 Other:

First Name: *Surname: Section 40

Organisation: Section 40

Applicant Type: Not Specified Other:

Contact Details (Mailing or email address required)

Address Line1: Section 40

Address Line2:

Address Line3: Stoke on Trent

Town/City: Staffordshire

Postcode: Section 40 Country: United Kingdom

Email: @ntlworld

Telephone: Fax:

Clear | Back | Next | Cancel

Section 40

GxAITESTPTCDAS

28 June 06

Home | My Cases | Log New Request | Policy Guidance | Help

Request: Section 40 05-06-2006-143408-013

Days Left: 33

Received: 05 Jun 06
Expiry Date: 11 Aug 06
Status: Time Ext Hold FOI

All sources

Workflow Options
- Holding Response

View
- Audit Trail
- Comments Log
- Saved Search Result
- Contact Details
- Documents

Actions
- Assign Within My Group
- Change Alert Settings
- Edit Request Details
- Upload Document
- Close Case
- Take Ownership

Editing the request details will initiate a new search.
The new search results will be saved and will replace the existing save search results.

Request Details

Response Format Requested: hardcopy

Language Requested ☐ Welsh

*Enter the request for information:

Hello,

In relation to the following written answer in the House of Commons:

---- Begin quote ----
Written Answers to Questions [10 May 2006] Column 290W, 291W

Record storage location of Applicant request (or upload document).

To be held with the helpdesk until allocated

Clear | Back | Next | Cancel

Section 40

From: Section 40
Sent: 05 June 2006 15:53
To: Section 40 Wg Cdr
Cc: Section 40
Subject: FW: FOI INFORMATION REQUEST PS 05-06-2006-143408-013 Section 40

Section 40

Please see below a new FOI request from Section 40 I did not answer this PQ, I suspect someone in your area did. Equally I believe this request falls to your department.

Care will need to be taken here. You may remember Section 40 has made a previous request (25-05-2005-092509-001) concerning very similar information regarding the scrambling of QRA Aircraft and this was withheld under Section 26 of the FOIA. Section 40 then requested an internal review and although I only saw the draft response I believe the departments decision to withhold was upheld. It looks to me as if Section 40 is now trying to get this information by asking slightly different questions. If you agree this is the case, Info-Access may be able to advise whether he could be consider vexatious on this issue.

I am happy to discuss further if you wish.

Regards

Section 40
DAS-FOI
5-H
Section 40

-----Original Message-----
From: Section 40
Sent: 05 June 2006 14:35
To: Section 40
Subject: FW: FOI INFORMATION REQUEST PS 05-06-2006-143408-013 Section 40

Section 40

Can I interest you with this FOI request?

Regards

Section 40
FOI Helpdesk

-----Original Message-----
From: feedback@www.mod.uk [mailto:feedback@www.mod.uk]
Sent: 04 June 2006 14:27
To: Info-Access-Office
Subject: FOI INFORMATION REQUEST PS 05-06-2006-143408-013 Section 40

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted on Sunday, June 4, 2006 at 14:26:49

FirstName Section 40

LastName:

occupation: Network Engineer

Company: Section 40

Address1

Address2: Section 40

City: Stoke on Trent

State: Staffordshire

Zip: Section 40

Country: United Kingdom

e-mail: Section 40 @ntlworld.com

telephone: Section 40

preferred format: hardcopy

infosubject: Hello,

In relation to the following written answer in the House of Commons:

---- Begin quote ----
Written Answers to Questions [10 May 2006] Column 290W, 291W

UFOs

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to his Answer to the hon. Member for Lewes (Norman Baker) of 28 March 2006, Official Report, column 904W, on unidentified flying objects, on how many occasions there has been an assessment of evidence of risk to the integrity of UK airspace in the last five years; and what the job title is of desk officers assigned to this task. [68757]

Mr. Watson: Over the last five years evidence of risk to the integrity of UK airspace from a reported unidentified flying object has been assessed on 12 occasions; in no case was there considered to be any actual risk. Analysis of reports for this purpose is made by the military desk officer responsible for airspace integrity within the UK operations branch.
---- End quote ----

Please can you provide:

1. The department title and any other identifier for the department that the desk officer responsible for airspace integrity works in. (hypothetical example: UKADGE(ops) and DI63)

2. Overview of assessment procedures used to determine evidence of a risk to the integrity of UK airspace from an unidentified flying object and response options to such a perceived risk, including document and file references and titles.

3. Summaries of the 12 specific incidents referred to above.

4. File references and titles for files containing details of the 12 incidents referred to above.

5. Any internal and external correspondence related to the written answer.

For the record, my contact details are as follows:

Section 40

Stoke-on-Trent

Section 40

Tel: Section 40
Mob:
Email: @ntlworld.com

Regards,

Section 40

submit: Send Form

From: Section 40
Directorate of Air Staff - Freedom of Information
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
5th Floor, Zone H, Main Building, Whitehall, London SW1A 2HB

Telephone (Direct dial) 020 7218 2140
(Switchboard) 020 7218 9000
(Fax) Section 40
e-mail das-ufo-office@mod.uk

ENCLOSURE 11 NUMBER

Section 40

Beckenham
Kent
Section 40

Our Reference
30-06-2006-124207-012

Date
29th August 2006

Dear Section 40

I wrote to you on 4 July 2006 informing you that your request for background information relating to Baroness Symons response to a parliamentary question from Admiral of the Fleet, The Lord Hill-Norton, had been considered to fall within the scope of Section 36 of the Freedom of Information Act and the Ministry of Defence was therefore required to consider whether there are overriding reasons why disclosure would not be in the public interest. This consideration has now concluded and I am writing to provide you with the outcome.

The Ministry of Defence holds a number of papers relevant to your request including a copy of the Hansard entry for the previous parliamentary question referred to by Lord Hill-Norton, two internal pieces of advice, the draft answer and a background note. This information falls within the scope of Section 36 (2)(b)(i) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 – Prejudice to the effective conduct of public affairs, as it relates to information that would, or would be likely to, inhibit the free and frank provision of advice.

Against disclosure of the information is the need to insure that officials are able to provide Ministers with free and frank opinions and advice in support of draft answers provided to parliamentary questions without this information becoming public. Routine release of such information could inhibit this process and therefore prejudice the effective conduct of public affairs. This would not be in the public interest.

However, this must be balanced against the public need to be assured that accurate information is provided in answers provided by Ministers in response to parliamentary questions. All Freedom of Information requests are considered individually on their merits and in this case, the age and contents of the background information has been taken into account. It has been concluded that as the Defence Intelligence Staff, Unidentified Aerial Phenomena report to which the parliamentary question refers has now been released into the public domain, there is no longer a harm with release of the majority of the background papers. The balance of public interest therefore falls in favour of release and a copy of these papers are enclosed with this letter. A few minor details have been removed as they are not relevant to your request. These consist of internal guidance notes for staff answering parliamentary correspondence and names of officials.

I hope this is helpful. If you are unhappy with this response or wish to complain about any aspect of the handling of this request, then you should contact the undersigned in the first instance. Should you remain dissatisfied, then you may apply for an internal review by contacting the Director of Information Exploitation, 6th Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB (e-mail: Info-XD@mod.uk).

If you are still unhappy following an internal review, you may take your complaint to the Information Commissioner under the provisions of Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act. Please note that the Information Commissioner will not normally investigate your case until the MOD internal review process has been completed. Further details of the role and powers of the Information Commissioner can be found on the Commissioner's website, http://www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

TEMPLATE TO BE USED FOR REPLY

Ministry of Defence

FRIDAY 4 MAY 2001

Admiral of The Fleet The Lord Hill-Norton GCB(X) (CB)

LORDS WRITTEN

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by the Baroness Symons of Vernham Dean on 25th January (WA 22), why the Unidentified Flying Objects documents referred to were classified secret; whether these documents had any caveats attached to them; and what was the reason for any such caveats. (HL1808)

Minister replying Baroness Symons

One document was classified 'Secret' with a 'UK Eyes Only' caveat because it contained information about the UK air defence ground environment that could be of significant value to hostile or potentially hostile states. Associated correspondence was given the same classification. Generally, however, notifications of and correspondence on the subject of 'UFO' sightings are unclassified.

April 01 PQ Ref 1432L

LORDS WRITTEN PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION - URGENT ACTION REQUIRED

[redacted] FOR RETURN	:	**12:00 ON 30 April 2001**
PQ REFERENCE	:	PQ 1432L
PQ TYPE	:	LORDS WRITTEN
MINISTER REPLYING	:	-NOTFOUND-
LEAD BRANCH:	:	SEC (AS)
COPY ADDRESSEE(S)	:	

[redacted]

[redacted]

REDACTED ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT

[redacted]

Peer's DETAIL: **Admiral of The Fleet The Lord Hill-Norton GCB**

QUESTION

To ask Her Majesty's Government To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by the Baroness Symons of Vernham Dean on 25th January (WA 22), why the Unidentified Flying Objects documents referred to were classified secret; whether these documents had any caveats attached to them; and what was the reason for any such caveats. (HL1808)

BACKGROUND NOTE

PQ 0351L, tabled by Lord Hill-Norton in January, asked for the highest classification applied to any MOD document concerning 'UFOs' and the answer given explained that was Secret. The Background Note indicated that a small number of documents had been traced by the Directorate of Air Staff (Secretariat) with a classification of Secret, including one which referred to a report by the DIS on 'Unidentified Aerial Phenomena'. The Background Note also contained comment on the document, its classification and the classification of associated correspondence, and that information is now used in answer to this latest question.

REDACTED ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT

[redacted]

DRAFTED BY : [redacted] TEL: [redacted]

AUTHORISED BY : [redacted] TEL: [redacted]
GRADE/RANK : [redacted]
BRANCH : DAS [redacted]

[redacted]

for [redacted] absent on Ministerial business.

DECLARATION: I have satisfied myself that the above answer and background note are in accordance with the Government's policy on answering PQs, Departmental instructions (DCI GEN 150/97), and the Open Government Code (DCI GEN 54/98).

PQ 1432L -

To ask HMG, further to the Written Answer by the Baroness Symons . . . on 25 January (WA 22), why the Unidentified Flying Objects documents referred to were classified secret; whether these documents had any caveats attached to them; and what was the reason for any such caveats.

Draft Answer -

Notifications of and correspondence on the subject of 'UFO' sightings are generally unclassified. However, one particular document was found to be classified 'Secret', with a 'UK Eyes Only' caveat because it contained information about the UK air defence ground environment that could have been of significant value to hostile or potentially hostile states. Associated correspondence has been given the same classification.

Draft Background Note:

PQ 0351L, tabled by Lord Hill-Norton in January, asked for the highest classification applied to any MOD document concerning 'UFOs' and the answer given explained that was Secret. The Background Note indicated that a small number of documents had been traced by the Directorate Air Staff (Secretariat) with a classification of Secret, including one which referred to a report by the DIS on 'Unidentified Aerial Phenomena'. The Background Note also contained comment on the document, its classification and the classification of associated correspondence and that information is now used in answer to this latest question.

[redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: 27 April 2001 11:25
To: [redacted]
Cc:
Subject: PQ 1432L

Importance: High

REDACTED ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT

[redacted]

1. Apologies for the delay in getting back to you. [redacted] has approved the contribution to the answer to PQ 1432L that I sent to you yesterday.

2. As far as the background note is concerned, there is nothing more to add to the contribution we sent to you to you for the earlier PQ (25 Jan WA 22). Note, however, that the DIS report used the term Unidentified Aerial Phenomena - not UFOs.

3. Regards

[redacted]

REDACTED ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT

[redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: 26 April 2001 12:36
To: [redacted]
Cc:
Subject: PQ1432L [redacted]

Importance: High

UK Eyes A

[redacted]

1. My suggested answer to PQ 1436L is as follows:

" One report was classified Secret, with a UK Eyes Only caveat. The reason for this was that it contained information about the UK air defence ground environment that could have been of significant value to hostile or potentially hostile states. Associated correspondence was accordingly given the same classification and caveat".

2. The above is based on the assumption that your only Secret UFO documents were indeed correspondance relating to the DIS report. You also need to check whether your documents also had a UKEO caveat.

3. Grateful for sight of your final draft.

[redacted]

PS as agreed, we will wait out for your draft response to 1432L. You may want to consider the implications if any of the Freedom Of Information Act.

" Reports of 'UFO' sightings and correspondence have not been classified SECRET. ...

[The classification of the documents referred to in the answer of 25 Jan. was not dictated by details of specific sightings of UFOs.

The reason for the classification of one Secret report/document with a UK Eyes only caveat was that it...."

Written Answers

Thursday, 25th January 2001.

Chinook Helicopter Mk II: Conversion Training

Lord Chalfont asked Her Majesty's Government:

When the Chinook helicopter simulator training facility and its related training programme were upgraded to cater for the Mk. II version of the helicopter; and when Flight Lieutenants Tapper and Cook completed their upgraded training programme. [HL324]

The Minister of State, Ministry of Defence (Baroness Symons of Vernham Dean): The reconfiguration of the Chinook simulator to Mk2 standard was completed in the last quarter of 1993. The instructing training staff of the Operational Conversion Flight had completed conversion to the Mk2 version in August 1993.

Flt Lt Tapper and Flt Lt Cook completed their conversion training programmes on 28 February 1994 and 17 March 1994 respectively.

European Security and Defence Policy: Intelligence Management

Lord Shore of Stepney asked Her Majesty's Government:

What are the commitments which the United Kingdom has entered into, under the European Security and Defence Policy, for the gathering, analysis and distribution of intelligence material for European Union purposes. [HL405]

Baroness Symons of Vernham Dean: At the European Council at Nice, EU member states agreed the terms of reference of the EU Military Staff, which would perform "early warning, situation assessment and strategic planning for Petersberg tasks".

To carry out this task the staff will rely on appropriate national and multinational intelligence capabilities. The detailed arrangements for handling intelligence material will be subject to stringent safeguards and will take full account of existing national and multinational agreements.

Rendlesham Forest Incident

Lord Hill-Norton asked Her Majesty's Government:

Whether they are aware of any involvement by Special Branch personnel in the investigation of the 1980 Rendlesham Forest incident. [HL303]

Baroness Symons of Vernham Dean: Special Branch officers may have been aware of the incident but would not have shown an interest unless there was evidence of a potential threat to national security. No such interest appears to have been shown.

Lord Hill-Norton asked Her Majesty's Government:

Whether personnel from Porton Down visited Rendlesham Forest or the area surrounding RAF Walton in December 1980 or January 1981; and whether they are aware of any tests carried out in either of those two areas aimed at assessing any nuclear, biological or chemical hazard. [HL301]

Baroness Symons of Vernham Dean: The staff at the Defence Evaluation and Research Agency (DERA) Chemical and Biological Defence (CBD) laboratories at Porton Down have made a thorough search of their archives and have found no record of any such visits.

Lord Hill-Norton asked Her Majesty's Government:

Whether they are aware of any uncorrelated targets tracked on radar in November or December 1980; and whether they will give details of any such incidents. [HL302]

Baroness Symons of Vernham Dean: Records dating from 1980 no longer exist. Paper records are retained for a period of three years before being destroyed. Recordings of radar data are retained for a period of thirty days prior to re-use of the recording medium.

Unidentified Flying Objects

Lord Hill-Norton asked Her Majesty's Government:

What is the highest classification that has been applied to any Ministry of Defence document concerning Unidentified Flying Objects. [HL304]

Baroness Symons of Vernham Dean: A limited search through available files has identified a number of documents graded Secret. The overall classification of the documents was not dictated by details of specific sightings of "UFOs".

Arms Brokering and Trafficking: Licensing

Lord Hylton asked Her Majesty's Government:

When they expect to implement licensing for arms brokering and trafficking, which they announced at last year's Labour Party Conference. [HL343]

The Minister for Science, Department of Trade and Industry (Lord Sainsbury of Turville): The new licensing controls on arms brokering and trafficking announced last September will be introduced under new powers on trafficking and brokering to be contained in an Export Control Bill; The Queen's Speech announced that the Government will publish this Bill in draft during this session of Parliament. Full details of the new controls proposed on arms

TEMPLATE TO BE USED FOR REPLY

Ministry of Defence

FRIDAY 4 MAY 2001

Admiral of The Fleet The Lord Hill-Norton GCB(X) (CB)

LORDS WRITTEN

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by the Baroness Symons of Vernham Dean on 25th January (WA 22), why the Unidentified Flying Objects documents referred to were classified secret; whether these documents had any caveats attached to them; and what was the reason for any such caveats. (HL1808)

Minister replying Baroness Symons

One document was classified 'Secret' with a 'UK Eyes Only' caveat because it contained information about the UK air defence ground environment that could be of significant value to hostile or potentially hostile states. Associated correspondence was given the same classification. Generally, however, notifications of and correspondence on the subject of 'UFO' sightings are unclassified.

April 01 PQ Ref 1432L

Unredacted copy.

BACKGROUND NOTE

PQ 0351L, tabled by Lord Hill-Norton in January, asked for the highest classification applied to any MOD document concerning 'UFOs' and the answer given explained that was Secret. The Background Note indicated that a small number of documents had been traced by the Directorate of Air Staff (Secretariat) with a classification of Secret, including one which referred to a report by the DIS on 'Unidentified Aerial Phenomena'. The Background Note also contained comment on the document, its classification and the classification of associated correspondence, and that information is now used in answer to this latest question.

REMEMBER you are accountable for the accuracy and timeliness of the advice you provide. Departmental Instructions on answering PQs can be viewed on the CHOTS public area and on DAWN.

DRAFTED BY : Section 40 (cleared by DI Sec) TEL: Section 40

AUTHORISED BY : TEL:

GRADE/RANK : B1

BRANCH : DAS Deputy Director

Section 40

Section 40

for Section 40, absent on Ministerial business.

DECLARATION: I have satisfied myself that the above answer and background note are in accordance with the Government's policy on answering PQs, Departmental instructions (DCI GEN 150/97), and the Open Government Code (DCI GEN 54/98).

PQ 1432L -

To ask HMG, further to the Written Answer by the Baroness Symons . . . on 25 January (WA 22), why the Unidentified Flying Objects documents referred to were classified secret; whether these documents had any caveats attached to them; and what was the reason for any such caveats.

Draft Answer -

Notifications of and correspondence on the subject of 'UFO' sightings are generally unclassified. However, one particular document was found to be classified 'Secret', with a 'UK Eyes Only' caveat because it contained information about the UK air defence ground environment that could have been of significant value to hostile or potentially hostile states. Associated correspondence has been given the same classification.

Draft Background Note:

PQ 0351L, tabled by Lord Hill-Norton in January, asked for the highest classification applied to any MOD document concerning 'UFOs' and the answer given explained that was Secret. The Background Note indicated that a small number of documents had been traced by the Directorate Air Staff (Secretariat) with a classification of Secret, including one which referred to a report by the DIS on 'Unidentified Aerial Phenomena'. The Background Note also contained comment on the document, its classification and the classification of associated correspondence and that information is now used in answer to this latest question.

DAS4A(SEC)

From: [redacted] DI ISEC SEC3
Sent: 27 April 2001 11:25
To: DAS4A(SEC)
Cc: DSy(Pol)2b
Subject: PQ 1432L

Importance: High

Section 40

1. Apologies for the delay in getting back to you. Section 40 in DSy Pol has approved the contribution to the answer to PQ 1432L that I sent to you yesterday.

2. As far as the background note is concerned, there is nothing more to add to the contribution we sent to you to you for the earlier PQ (25 Jan WA 22). Note, however, that the DIS report used the term Unidentified Aerial Phenomena - not UFOs.

3. Regards

Section 40 [redacted]

DAS4A(SEC)

From: DI ISEC SEC3
Sent: 26 April 2001 12:36
To: DAS4A1(SEC)
Cc: DI54COORD1; DAS4A(SEC)
Subject: PQ1432L AND 1436L

Importance: High

UK Eyes A

Section 40

1. My suggested answer to PQ 1436L is as follows:

" One report was classified Secret, with a UK Eyes Only caveat. The reason for this was that it contained information about the UK air defence ground environment that could have been of significant value to hostile or potentially hostile states. Associated correspondence was accordingly given the same classification and caveat".

2. The above is based on the assumption that your only Secret UFO documents were indeed correspondance relating to the DIS report. You also need to check whether your documents also had a UKEO caveat.

3. Grateful for sight of your final draft.

Section 40

PS as agreed, we will wait out for your draft response to 1432L. You may want to consider the implications if any of the Freedom Of Information Act.

" Reports of UFO sightings and correspondence have not been classified SECRET. ...

[The classification of the documents referred to in the answer of 25 Jan. was not dictated by details of specific sightings of UFOs.]

The reason for the classification of one Secret report/document with a UK Eyes only caveat was that it...."

LORDS WRITTEN PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION - URGENT ACTION REQUIRED

DATE FOR RETURN	:	**12:00 ON 30 April 2001**
PQ REFERENCE	:	PQ 1432L
PQ TYPE	:	LORDS WRITTEN
MINISTER REPLYING	:	-NOTFOUND-
LEAD BRANCH:	:	SEC (AS)
COPY ADDRESSEE(S)	:	

MDP Sec
DI(Sec) ←
Defence Estates
D NEWS
D AIR RP
CAS
ACAS

Sell to DI Sec.

- **The answer and background note must be authorised by a civil servant at Senior Civil Service level or a military officer at one-star level or above who is responsible for ensuring that the information and advice provided is accurate and reflects Departmental Instructions on answering PQs DCI GEN 150/97.**

- **Those contributing information for PQ answers and background notes are responsible for ensuring the information is accurate.**

- **The attached checklist should be used by those drafting PQ answers and background material, those contributing information and those responsible for authorising the answer and background note as an aid to ensuring that departmental policy is adhered to.**

- **If you or others concerned are uncertain about how PQs are answered seek advice from a senior civil servant in or closely associated with your area.**

Peer's DETAIL: Admiral of The Fleet The Lord Hill-Norton GCB

QUESTION

To ask Her Majesty's Government To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by the Baroness Symons of Vernham Dean on 25th January (WA 22), why the Unidentified Flying Objects documents referred to were classified secret; whether these documents had any caveats attached to them; and what was the reason for any such caveats. (HL1808)

Written Answers

Thursday, 25th January 2001.

Chinook Helicopter Mk II: Conversion Training

Lord Chalfont asked Her Majesty's Government:

When the Chinook helicopter simulator training facility and its related training programme were upgraded to cater for the Mk. II version of the helicopter; and when Flight Lieutenants Tapper and Cook completed their upgraded training programme. [HL324]

The Minister of State, Ministry of Defence (Baroness Symons of Vernham Dean): The reconfiguration of the Chinook simulator to Mk2 standard was completed in the last quarter of 1993. The instructing training staff of the Operational Conversion Flight had completed conversion to the Mk2 version in August 1993.

Flt Lt Tapper and Flt Lt Cook completed their conversion training programmes on 28 February 1994 and 17 March 1994 respectively.

European Security and Defence Policy: Intelligence Management

Lord Shore of Stepney asked Her Majesty's Government:

What are the commitments which the United Kingdom has entered into, under the European Security and Defence Policy, for the gathering, analysis and distribution of intelligence material for European Union purposes. [HL405]

Baroness Symons of Vernham Dean: At the European Council at Nice, EU member states agreed the terms of reference of the EU Military Staff, which would perform "early warning, situation assessment and strategic planning for Petersberg tasks".

To carry out this task the staff will rely on appropriate national and multinational intelligence capabilities. The detailed arrangements for handling intelligence material will be subject to stringent safeguards and will take full account of existing national and multinational agreements.

Rendlesham Forest Incident

Lord Hill-Norton asked Her Majesty's Government:

Whether they are aware of any involvement by Special Branch personnel in the investigation of the 1980 Rendlesham Forest incident. [HL303]

Baroness Symons of Vernham Dean: Special Branch officers may have been aware of the incident but would not have shown an interest unless there was evidence of a potential threat to national security. No such interest appears to have been shown.

Lord Hill-Norton asked Her Majesty's Government:

Whether personnel from Porton Down visited Rendlesham Forest or the area surrounding RAF Walton in December 1980 or January 1981; and whether they are aware of any tests carried out in either of those two areas aimed at assessing any nuclear, biological or chemical hazard. [HL301]

Baroness Symons of Vernham Dean: The staff at the Defence Evaluation and Research Agency (DERA) Chemical and Biological Defence (CBD) laboratories at Porton Down have made a thorough search of their archives and have found no record of any such visits.

Lord Hill-Norton asked Her Majesty's Government:

Whether they are aware of any uncorrelated targets tracked on radar in November or December 1980; and whether they will give details of any such incidents. [HL302]

Baroness Symons of Vernham Dean: Records dating from 1980 no longer exist. Paper records are retained for a period of three years before being destroyed. Recordings of radar data are retained for a period of thirty days prior to re-use of the recording medium.

Unidentified Flying Objects

Lord Hill-Norton asked Her Majesty's Government:

What is the highest classification that has been applied to any Ministry of Defence document concerning Unidentified Flying Objects. [HL304]

Baroness Symons of Vernham Dean: A limited search through available files has identified a number of documents graded Secret. The overall classification of the documents was not dictated by details of specific sightings of "UFOs".

Arms Brokering and Trafficking: Licensing

Lord Hylton asked Her Majesty's Government:

When they expect to implement licensing for arms brokering and trafficking, which they announced at last year's Labour Party Conference. [HL343]

The Minister for Science, Department of Trade and Industry (Lord Sainsbury of Turville): The new licensing controls on arms brokering and trafficking announced last September will be introduced under new powers on trafficking and brokering to be contained in an Export Control Bill; The Queen's Speech announced that the Government will publish this Bill in draft during this session of Parliament. Full details of the new controls proposed on arms

Section 40

From: Section 40
Sent: 29 August 2006 16:12
To: Section 40
Subject: Internet-authorised: Freedom of Information Requests

Section 40

Thank you for responding so quickly. These will go out to the applicants today.

Regards

Section 40

-----Original Message-----
From: Section 40 GSI.GOV.UK]
Sent: 29 August 2006 15:32
To: Section 40
Subject: RE: Freedom of Information Requests

Hi Section 40

As promised I've taken a look at you responses. They all look fine to me. I note that you have been as factual as possible in your replies so apart from a small amount of exempt info they get the lot.

I'll assume that they are all going out in the next day or two. Well done.

Regards

Section 40

-----Original Message-----
From: Section 40 defence.gsi.gov.uk]
Sent: 25 August 2006 14:57
To: Section 40
Subject: Freedom of Information Requests
Importance: High

Section 40

At last I have the Ministers approval to send the responses to four of the FOI requests referred to yourselves. Please see attached my draft responses. I have not attached all the papers as these are not held electronically and there are rather a lot of them. If you are content I will get these off to the applicants.

The Cases are:

Section 40 - Case Ref: 5438

Case Ref: 5437

- Case Ref: 5334

Case Ref:5338

The final case Section 40 is still being worked on and I will contact you about this asap.

Regards

Section 40

Section 40

Ministry of Defence

Directorate of Air Staff - Freedom of Information

5th Floor, Zone H Section 40

Main Building

Whitehall

LONDON

SW1A 2HB

Email: Section 40 @mod.uk

Section 40

From: Section 40
Sent: 24 August 2006 17:34
To: Section 40
Cc:
Subject: RE: Ministerial Submission

Section 40

In the last of several discussions this afternoon with Section 40 asked me why the Minister had been asked to take a view on disclosure when the advice we were all giving him implied that there was effectively no choice (I refrained from saying that it was therefore perverse to disagree!). We then discussed whether it had been appropriate for the Minister to be consulted in the first place and, having seen your submissions, my inclination is to think not – or if he was approached it should just have been to ask him to note the intention to release the information.

Although the Background Notes are within the scope of s.36, the same could be said about virtually all information. It is obviously necessary to secure Ministerial endorsement when the exemption needs to be invoked, but this is not invariably the case when a decision has been reached that release is appropriate. In cases where the subject is particularly high profile and therefore likely to be reported by the media then a 'to note' submission/press lines are advisable, but otherwise – and particularly where there is a Working Assumption that advises disclosure – I think it is possible/better to limit clearance to those involved at working level. I therefore agreed with Section 40 that we would *not* broach the Minister again and that you would proceed on the basis that you had the necessary ticks in the box from your own higher management (and I know that you also intend to involve DCA).

I hope you are content with this and that it will allow you to meet your deadline. I am out of office on Friday, but if you want to discuss the principles further both Section 40 and Section 40 will be around.

Section 40

From: Section 40
Sent: 24 August 2006 16:21
To: Section 40
Subject: FW: Ministerial Submission
Importance: High

Section 40
Assistant Private Secretary / Under Secretary of State
Section 40

From: Section 40
Sent: 10 August 2006 11:48
To: Section 40
Subject: Ministerial Submission
Importance: High

Section 40

Please see attached another Ministerial Submission regarding a Freedom of Information Request involving Section 36 (Prejudice to the Effective of Public Affairs) of the Freedom of Information Act. Please let me know if you wish to see the documents we propose to release. I have one more FOI request relating to Section 36 which I am currently working on and will send in due course.

Regards

Section 40
DAS-FOI

29/08/2006

Section 40

From: Section 40
Sent: 10 August 2006 16:06
To: Section 40
Subject: Internet-authorised:Freedom of Information Request 30-06-2006-124207-012

Dear Section 40

On the 4 July I informed you that I was conducting a Public Interest Test for your Freedom of Information request regarding a Parliamentary enquiry in May 2001 and I estimated that I would be able to provide you with a response by the 4 August 2006. Unfortunately it has not been possible to provide you with a substantive response by this date and your request will take a little longer than first estimated. I expect to be able to provide you with a final response by 25 August 2006. If there are any further delays I will, of course, inform you.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40
Ministry of Defence
Directorate of Air Staff - Freedom of Information
5th Floor, Zone H Section 40
Main Building
Whitehall
LONDON
SW1A 2HB

e-mail:das-ufo-office@mod.uk

10th August 2006

D/DAS/10/2/8/13

28 July 2006

PS/US of S

Copied to:

DAS-XO
DCT&UKOps – SOI Airspace Integrity
DI BCR- CG3
DGMC-D News- Armed Forces 4
TOG-CTL

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000

ISSUE

1. The MOD has received a Freedom of Information request for background briefing papers to an official response to a Parliamentary Question. Details of the full request is attached at Annex A. This information falls within the scope of a qualified exemption of the Freedom of Information Act, namely: Section 36 – Prejudice to the effective conduct of public affairs.

RECOMMENDATION

2. That the Minister approves this proposal to release this information for the following reasons.

TIMING
3. Routine.

BACKGROUND

4. The applicant has requested copies of the background papers to a Parliamentary Question from Admiral of the Fleet The Lord Hill-Norton GCB(X)(CB) in May 2001, regarding the classification of documents on Unidentified Flying Objects.

5. This information falls within the scope of a qualified exemption of the Freedom of Information Act: Section 36 (2)(b)(i) – Prejudice to the effective conduct of public affairs, as it relates to information that would, or would be likely to, inhibit the free and frank provision of advice. As it is a qualified exemption it is necessary for the MOD to consider whether there are overriding reasons why disclosure would not be in the public interest.

6. Against disclosure of the information is the need to insure that officials are able to provide Ministers with free and frank advice in support of draft answers provided to parliamentary questions without this advice becoming public

knowledge. Routine release of such information could inhibit this process and therefore prejudice the effective conduct of public affairs. This would not be in the public interest.

7. However, this must be balanced against the public need to be assured that the official answers provided by Ministers to Parliamentary questions are accurate. In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000 each request for information must be considered on its individual merits. The age and the contents of the background information must be taken into account when judging the potential harm that could be caused by release. In this case, the background information refers to a Defence Intelligence Staff report on 'Unidentified Aerial Phenomena' which was classified Secret UK Eyes Only. At the time the PQ was written the report was not in the public domain, but has subsequently been released and can now be viewed in the MOD Freedom of Information Publication Scheme. The background papers do not reveal any information which is not now in the public domain and the public interest therefore falls in favour of release. A few minor details will be removed as they are not relevant to the request. These consist of internal guidance notes for MOD staff answering Parliamentary correspondence and details of MOD personnel. A draft letter to the applicant in response to his request is attached at Annex B.

PRESENTATIONAL ISSUES

8. The subject of UFOs attracts a lot of public and media attention. This applicant is an author who has written six books on the subject of UFOs and has a new book due to be published on 18 August 2006 entitled "Need to Know – UFOs, The Military and Intelligence". It is likely that any information released to him could be shared with a wider audience.

Section 40
DAS–FOI
5-H Section 40

Authorised by:
Section 40
DAS-Sec AD
5-H Section 40

Annex A

If the papers referred to in response to my earlier Freedom of Information request are part of the Project Condign UAP report and available on the website, then that's fine. If however, they are related papers not available on line, I request copies thereof under terms of the Freedom of Information Act.

Section 40 previous request

I write under the Freedom of Information Act to request that you send me a copy of the "Secret/UK Eyes Only" document referred to in the Answer to Parliamentary Questions in the House of Lords on 3rd May 2001 (column WA 315) and any related papers.

Annex B

DRAFT

Dear Section 40

I wrote to you on 4 July 2006 informing you that your request for background information relating to Baroness Symons response to a parliamentary question from Admiral of the Fleet, The Lord Hill-Norton, had been considered to fall within the scope of Section 36 of the Freedom of Information Act and the Ministry of Defence was therefore required to consider whether there are overriding reasons why disclosure would not be in the public interest. This consideration has now concluded and I am writing to provide you with the outcome.

The Ministry of Defence holds a number of papers relevant to your request including a copy of the Hansard entry for the previous parliamentary question referred to by Lord Hill-Norton, two internal pieces of advice, the draft answer and a background note. This information falls within the scope of Section 36 (2)(b)(i) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 – Prejudice to the effective conduct of public affairs, as it relates to information that would, or would be likely to, inhibit the free and frank provision of advice.

Against disclosure of the information is the need to insure that officials are able to provide Ministers with free and frank opinions and advice in support of draft answers provided to parliamentary questions without this information becoming public. Routine release of such information could inhibit this process and therefore prejudice the effective conduct of public affairs. This would not be in the public interest.

However, this must be balanced against the public need to be assured that accurate information is provided in answers provided by Ministers in response to parliamentary questions. All Freedom of Information requests are considered individually on their merits and in this case, the age and contents of the background information has been taken into account. It has been concluded that as the Defence Intelligence Staff, Unidentified Aerial Phenomena report to which the parliamentary question refers has now been released into the public domain, there is no longer a harm with release of the majority of the background papers. The balance of public interest therefore falls in favour of release. A few minor details have been removed as they are not relevant to your request. These consist of internal guidance notes for staff answering parliamentary correspondence and names of officials.

If you are unhappy with this response or wish to complain about any aspect of the handling of this request, then you should contact the undersigned in the first instance. Should you remain dissatisfied, then you may apply for an internal review by contacting the Director of Information Exploitation, 6th Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB (e-mail: Info-XD@mod.uk).

If you are still unhappy following an internal review, you may take your complaint to the Information Commissioner under the provisions of Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act. Please note that the Information Commissioner will not normally investigate your case until the MOD internal review process has been completed. Further details of the role and powers of the Information Commissioner can be found on the Commissioner's website, http://www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

From: Section 40

Sent: 14 July 2006 16:51

To: DAS-UFO-Office

Subject: Re: FOIA Request 30-06-2006-124207-012

Many thanks!

----- Original Message -----
From: DAS-UFO-Office
To: Section 40
Sent: Friday, July 14, 2006 2:45 PM
Subject: FOIA Request 30-06-2006-124207-012

Dear Section 40

We receive a large number of FOI requests for information about UFOs and if we were to place the response to every request in the disclosure log or publication scheme these areas would quickly become overwhelmed with UFO information. We have therefore decided only to include responses to requests where we believed the released information may be of a wider public interest. In your particular case, it has yet to be decided what information may be released, but if we decide to put it on the MOD website we will insure that you have received the information before it appears on the website.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40
Ministry of Defence
Directorate of Air Staff – Freedom of Information

From: Section 40
Sent: 13 July 2006 17:35
To: DAS-UFO-Office
Subject: FOIA Request 30-06-2006-124207-012

Section 40
Ministry of Defence
Directorate of Air Staff - Freedom of Information
5th Floor, Zone H Section 40
Main Building, Whitehall
London SW1A 2HB

Dear Section 40

Thank you very much for your prompt response to my FOIA request.

The timescale you propose is entirely acceptable, and if some of the documents are partially redacted I will of course understand. Should you release these documents to me, I would like to know whether you intend to post them on the MoD website under the Publication Scheme or Disclosure Log. If you do so, I request that you allow me the same period of "exclusive sight" beforehand as you have previously granted other researchers.

With many thanks in advance.

Yours sincerely

Section 40

Section 40

From: Section 40

Sent: 04 July 2006 16:59

To: Section 40

Subject: Re: Freedom of Information Request - 30-06-2006-124207-012

Thank you very much, Section 40 I shall be in touch in due course.
Sincerely, Section 40

----- Original Message -----
From: Section 40
To Section 40
Sent: Tuesday, July 04, 2006 3:30 PM
Subject: Freedom of Information Request - 30-06-2006-124207-012

Dear Section 40

Thank you for your e-mail message of 29 June regarding the background papers to a parliamentary question by Lord Hill-Norton in May 2001. Your correspondence has been considered to be a request for information in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

I can inform you that the Ministry of Defence holds information relevant to your request and that this is not part of the Project Condign report available on the MOD website. We believe this information falls within the scope of a qualified exemption of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, namely, exemption S.36 – Prejudice to the effective conduct of public affairs. As a qualified exemption, it is necessary for the Ministry of Defence to consider whether there are overriding reasons why disclosure would not be in the public interest.

The Freedom of Information Act requires us to respond to requests promptly and in any case no later than 20 working days after receiving your request. However, when a qualified exemption applies to the information and the public interest test has to be conducted, the Act allows the time for response to be longer than the 20 working days. A full response must be provided within such time as is reasonable in all circumstances of the case and, in response to your requests, it is estimated that it will take a further 24 working days to make a final decision on where the balance of public interest lies. It is therefore planned to let you have a response by 4 August 2006. If it appears that it will take longer than this to reach a conclusion I will let you know.

If you are unhappy with the response or wish to complain at this stage about any aspect of the handling of this request, then you should contact myself in the first instance. Should you remain dissatisfied, then you may apply for an internal review by contacting the Director of Information Exploitation, 6th Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB **(e-mail Info-XD@mod.uk)**.

If you are still unhappy following an internal review, you may take your complaint to the Information Commissioner under the provisions of Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act. Please note that the Information Commissioner will not normally investigate your case until the MOD internal review process has been completed. Further details of the role and powers of the Information Commissioner can be found on the Commissioner's website, http://www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40
Ministry of Defence
Directorate of Air Staff - Freedom of Information
5th Floor, Zone H Section 40
Main Building
Whitehall

LONDON
S[redacted]A 2HB

e-mail:das-ufo-office@mod.uk

05/07/2006

DCA Access to Information Central Clearing House Referral Form – New Requests

1/ Please complete this form as thoroughly as possible. Referral forms must be used when referring cases to the Clearing House.

2/ If possible, please include with this form details of information falling within the scope of the request. However, referrals should be made at the earliest opportunity. If relevant information has not yet been collated, please refer the case and forward the information and your detailed analysis of the request subsequently.

3/ You should continue to process the request until a Clearing House case officer contacts you. However, please do not issue a final response before agreement with the Clearing House.

Contact Details of Departmental FOI Practitioner	
Name:	Section 40
Department:	**Ministry of Defence**
E – mail (check accuracy):	Section 40 @mod.uk
Telephone Number:	Section 40
Fax:	
Departmental Case Ref:	30-06-2006-124207-012
Is this person the first point of contact for this case? (Please check box)	**Yes** ☒ **No** ☐ *(If no, please indicate first point of contact in **Key Contacts** section)*

Timeframes	
Date request received:	30 June 2006
Date Clearing House advice required by:	31 July 2006
Deadline for response to applicant:	4 August 2006
Is there a prospect of using NCND?	**No**

Case Details:	
Name / organisation of applicant and exact wording of request:	Section 40 Relating to a previous question by Section 40 05-05-2006-151510-014) concerning a parliamentary question by Lord Hill-Norton in May 2001. With reference to the e-mail from Section 40 if the papers referred to are part of the Project Condign UAP report and available on the website, then that's fine. If however, they are related papers not available on line, I request copies thereof under terms of the FOIA.
Please give detailed background information on the subject matter and sensitivities (including media interest) surrounding the request:	The subject of UFOs attracts public and media attention. The applicant is an author who has written several books about UFOs. It is likely that he knows the three other individuals who have recently made requests for background information to parliamentary questions.
What Clearing House triggers are engaged by this request? (Refer to Clearing House toolkit at http://www.foi.gov.uk/guidance/pdf/toolkit.pdf)	The information consists of background briefing to a Minister.

Does the National Security Liaison Group (NSLG) have an interest in this case? Is there a possibility of a s23 or s24 certificate being issued?	**No**

Exemptions:

Which exemptions may apply to the information held, and why?	S.36 (2)(b)(i) This information consists of background advice by officials to a Minister in order for them to provide an informed response to a Parliamentary Question. Release of this information could inhibit the free and frank provision of such advice.

Internal Departmental action to date:

Summary of case action (including contact with applicant) taken by Department so far:	Relevant information has been located. The applicant has been informed that the MOD holds relevant information and a Public Interest Test is being conducted under S.36.
Next steps for Department (including internal clearance procedures) and timeframes:	A Public Interest Test is now being conducted. This will be followed by a submission to seek ministerial agreement and approval for a course of action as a result of the PIT. Once ministerial approval has been achieved, the documents will be referred back to the Clearing House for final approval. A response will then be sent to the applicant.

Involvement of Other Government Departments/NDPBs:

Is this a suspected Round Robin request? (Please check box)

Yes ☐ **No** ☒

If not a Round Robin, are any other Government Departments or NDPBs likely to be involved? (Please check box)

Yes ☐ **No** ☒ **Possibly** ☐

If **"Yes"** or **"possibly"**, please state why and provide contact details where possible:

	Department 1	**Department 2**	**Department 3**
Name of Department			
Reasons for (possible) involvement:			
Contact details			

Key Contact Details – Policy Official / first point of contact (if not already specified)

		Please check if this is first point of contact
Name:	Section 40	☒
E – mail:	@mod.uk	
Telephone Number:		

Key Contact Details – Departmental Lawyer

		Please check if this is first point of contact

Nam[redacted]		☐
E – Mail:		
Telephone Number:		

Expiry: 27 July 2006

Section 40

From: Section 40

Sent: 29 June 2006 16:24

To: Info-XD

Cc: Section 40

Subject: Re: Freedom of Information Request 05-05-2006-151510-014

Dear Sir or Madam:

With reference to the e-mail from Section 40 (see below), if the papers referred to are part of the Project Condign UAP report and available on the website, then that's fine. If, however, they are related papers not available on line, I request copies thereof under terms of the FOIA.

With many thanks,

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

----- Original Message -----
From: Section 40
To: Section 40
Sent: Tuesday, June 06, 2006 11:00 AM
Subject: Freedom of Information Request 05-05-2006-151510-014

Dear Section 40

I am writing in response to your Freedom of Information request concerning the response to a parliamentary question by Lord Hill-Norton in May 2001. I apologise for the delay in replying.

I have now had an opportunity to review the relevant background papers and can confirm that the reply to this question referred to a study conducted by Defence Intelligence Staff to establish whether UFO reports produced anything of interest to the DIS. The report generated by this study entitled "Unidentified Aerial Phenomena in the UK Air Defence Region" has been released into the public domain and can be viewed on the MOD website at http://www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/FreedomOfInformation/PublicationScheme.

I hope this is helpful. If you are unhappy with this response or wish to complain about any aspect of the handling of this request, then you should contact the undersigned in the first instance. Should you remain dissatisfied, then you may apply for an internal review by contacting the Director of Information Exploitation, 6th Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB (e-mail: Info-XD@mod.uk).

If you are still unhappy following an internal review, you may take your complaint to the Information Commissioner under the provisions of Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act. Please note that the Information Commissioner will not normally investigate your case until the MOD internal review process has been completed. Further details of the role and powers of the Information Commissioner can be found on the Commissioner's website, http://www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

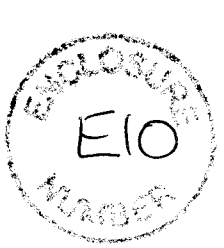
Ministry of Defence
Directorate of Air Staff - Freedom of Information
5th Floor, Zone H Section 40

29/06/2006

Main Building
Whitehall
L[redacted]ON
SW1A 2HB

e-mail:das-ufo-office@mod.uk

6 June 2006



ENCLOSURE TRANSFERRED TO FILE D/DAS/10/2/8/16 PART F

Section 40

From: Section 40

Sent: 29 August 2006 15:36

To: Section 40

Subject: Internet-authorised:Freedom of Information Request 23-08-2006-105244-004

Dear Section 40

I am writing in response to your email of 21 August requesting further information regarding the answers I provided to your previous correspondence. This has been considered to be a new Freedom of information request and has been allocated the reference number above. I will answer your questions in the same order as your message.

Q (a). The Directorate of Counter Terrorism and UK Operations is not a new department that has recently become involved with UFO reports. They are an MOD department that were previously known as the Directorate of Air Operations (DAO) and before this, Operations (Ground Environment) (Ops(GE)). I am unaware of the exact date when this department began to receive UFO reports but it dates back to at least the 1970s.

Q (b). This Directorate has responsibility for air defence matters and the Directorate of Air Staff (DAS) pass to them any UFO sighting reports we receive that be believe may warrant further examination. We hold records of UFO sighting reports covering a 25 year period and it is not possible to determine how many of these have been referred to the air defence staff during this period without a manual search of thousands of records. Such an exercise would exceed the £600 cost limit for compliance with the Freedom of Information Act as provided by Section 12 of the Act, the Ministry of Defence is not obliged to comply with this part of your request.

Q (c). The Directorate of Counter Terrorism and UK Operations is part of the MOD.

Q (d). The MOD knows of no evidence of the existence of extraterrestrial life-forms or spacecraft and air defence aircraft have never been involved in such a scenario. Any genuine threat to UK airspace would be handled in the light of the circumstances at the time, as described in my previous correspondence.

Q (e) & (f). A small number of UFO sighting reports which DAS believe may be of interest to air defence staff are forward to CTandUKOps for further examination. These are assessed by one member of staff who then provides their professional opinion to DAS. This usually consists of a brief email confirming that the report contains nothing of defence interest. Non of the reports forwarded to CTandUKOps in recent years have revealed anything of defence concern.

Q (g). Of all the UFO documents currently held by the MOD (dated during and before my time in post) I have seen none which discuss the possibility of such a scenario.

Q (h). No the MOD does not share UFO information with the USA.

I hope this is helpful. If you are unhappy with the response or wish to complain about any aspect of the handling of this request, then you should contact the undersigned in the first instance. Should you remain dissatisfied, then you may apply for an internal review by contacting the Director of Information Exploitation, 6th Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB (e-mail: Info-XD@mod.uk).

If you are still unhappy following an internal review, you may take your complaint to the Information Commissioner under the provisions of Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act. Please note that the Information Commissioner will not normally investigate your case until the MOD internal review process has been completed. Further details of the role and powers of the Information Commissioner can be found on the Commissioner's website, http://www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk.

Finally, I should inform you that I will be leaving this post shortly, so please insure that you only use the email

address at the bottom of this letter for any future correspondence.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

Ministry of Defence
Directorate of Air Staff - Freedom of Information
5th Floor, Zone H Section 40
Main Building
Whitehall
LONDON
SW1A 2HB

e-mail:das-ufo-office@mod.uk

29/08/2006

27 Sept 2006-105244-004
Expiry 19 Sept 2006

Section 40

From: Section 40
Sent: 21 August 2006 19:59
To: Section 40
Subject: Re: Freedom of Information Request 12-07-2006-104849-004

Dear Section 40

Many thanks for your detailed and quick response to the questions posed.

Section 40 wrote:
>
> Dear Section 40
>
> <SNIP> In contrast, UFO sightings reported to the MOD are assessed by
> the Directorate of Air Staff and any which are worthy of further
> examination are passed to the Directorate of Counter Terrorism and UK
> Operations. The risk posed is subjectively assessed against the
> reported object's position, height, time and nature of activity. There
> have been no incidents when such reports have been assessed as posing
> a risk.
>
QUESTIONS:

a) At what date did the Counter Terrorism directorate become involved in assessing risk posed by UFO reports?

b) since date (a) how many reports have been passed to them for assessment and for what reasons?

c) Is the Directorate of Counter Terrorism part of the MoD or the Home Office?

d) You may be aware that risk in health & safety terms is governed by how hazardous the scenario is how it is controlled. Let's say the the MOD intercept a UFO/UAP and it is deemed hazardous, but the hazard is contained by the MOD's control methods, would the MOD then class that UFO/UAP as a a non-risk entity?

e) The assesment carried out my the MOD - is it a written procedure? If so a copy requested please.

f) Do the Directorate of Counter Terrorism & UK Operations pass back information to the MOD on cases of UFO/UAP reports? If so please expand (If you are able to!)

Section 40 wrote:
>
> d). The MOD does not have any expertise or role in respect of
> 'UFO/flying saucer' matters or to the question of the existence or
> otherwise of extraterrestrial lifeforms. To date the MOD knows of no
> evidence which substantiates the existence of these alleged phenomena
> and there are therefore no procedures in place for such a scenario. I
> am not aware of any discussions concerning the possibility of such a
> situation having ever taken place within the MOD.

g) You state you are not aware of any discussions having ever taken place within the MOD. I do not know how long you have been employed but is this the case prior to your commencement with the MOD and also is this official line of the MOD including senior staff. Sorry for being so direct but I am unfamiliar with your background within the MOD.
>
> e). There are no military establishments within the UK that specialise
> in "dealing with UFOs". How other Governments deal with the UFO
> sighting reports they receive are a matter for those Governments.
>
h) Do the UK Military/MOD share UFO/UAP information with the USA?
>

> f). There are no other MOD reports pertaining to UFOs or UAP that have
> n[redacted]yet been requested or released under the FOI Act.
>

Thankyou.

Regards

Section 40

ENCLOSURE TRANSFERRED TO FILE D/DAS/10/2/8/16 PART F

ENCLOSURE TRANSFERRED TO FILE D/DAS/10/2/8/16 PART F

Section 40

From: Section 40

Sent: 21 August 2006 11:58

To: Section 40

Subject: Internet-authorised:Freedom of Information 12-07-2006-103333-003

Dear Section 40

I am writing concerning your comments about how Freedom of Information requests are listed on the MOD website and your request for a complete list of UFO related questions. I apologise for the delay in replying.

It is not a statutory requirement for the MOD to maintain a list of the Freedom of Information requests received on the internet. The request summary is based on data used within the Department to aid with the placement of requests with the relevant part of the Department. The term "UFO" is used as this a succinct summary of the content of those requests. As I am sure you will appreciate, in summarising the request the Department is carrying out a subjective assessment of the content of the request , but these summaries are adequate for their intended purpose.

We do not believe that publishing the full details of each request would prevent repetition of requests. The Disclosure Log and Publication Scheme on the Freedom of Information pages of the MOD website were created to make frequently requested information or information which may be of interest to a wider audience freely available. Due to the popularity of UFO information, new releases of information are also highlighted under "Freedom of Information Top Choices" on the front page of the Freedom of Information section. If you have not yet had an opportunity to view these pages they can be found at http://www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/FreedomOfInformation/ .

With regard to your request for a complete list of all UFO related Freedom of Information Act requests for information, I can advise you that since the Act was introduced on 1 January 2005 the MOD has received more than 200 requests for information concerning UFOs and many of these have involved multiple pieces of information. A list of these requests would be meaningless without copies of all the responses and any relevant released documents. We have assessed that to if we were to create such a list the cost would exceed the permitted £600 limit set for compliance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and as provided by Section 12 of the Act, the Ministry of Defence is not obliged to comply with your request.

If you are dissatisfied with our decision to refuse information or you wish to complain about any aspect of the handling of this request, then you should contact the undersigned in the first instance. Should you remain dissatisfied, then you may apply for an internal review by contacting the Director of Information Exploitation, 6th Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB. (e-mail: Info-XD@mod.uk).

If you are still unhappy following an internal review, you may take your complaint to the Information Commissioner under the provisions of Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act. Please note that the Information Commissioner will not investigate your case until the MOD internal review process has been completed. Further details of the role and powers of the Information Commissioner can be found on the Commissioner's website, http://www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

Ministry of Defence
Directorate of Air Staff - Freedom of Information
5th Floor, Zone H Section 40
Main Building
Whitehall
LONDON
SW1A 2HB

e-mail:das-ufo-office@mod.uk

21 August 2006

12-07-2006-103333-CCS
Expiry: 3 Aug 06

Section 40

From: Section 40
Sent: 06 July 2006 00:29
To: Section 40
Subject: FOIA Question regarding logs of freedom of information requests

Dear Section 40

I have noticed through looking through a few of the request PDF files the MOD have collated, that when requests are made concerning UFO's, then "UFO's" is simply written as the request without further detail. I am wondering why this is the case as surely it would make life easier if requests were detailed to prevent repetition of the same request.

Would it be possible to provide a complete list of all UFO related questions in a file format under the FOIA, from the time the request list was started to the current date?

This I'm sure would aid other researchers and members of the public if shared.

Regards

Section 40

Section 40

Powys,
Wales

Section 40

Section 40

From: Section 40
Sent: 06 July 2006 10:53
To: Section 40
Cc:
Subject: FW: FOIA Question regarding logs of freedom of information requests

Section 40

Section 40 passed me your email. Hope this helps.

If this is a request it will be well over the appropriate limit to identify, extract, redact etc all the FOI requests relating to UFOs from the toolkit.

I'm not sure if you keep a running total of the requests that you have handled specifically relating to UFOs, but you may wish to do a quick calcualtion of number of requests X 10 mins per request to allow you to indicate how much effort would be involved.

It is not a statutory requirement for us to maintain a list of requests received on the internet. The request summary is based on data used within the Department to aid with the placement of requests with the relevant part of the Department. We use "UFOs" as this is a succinct summary of the content of those requests. As I am sure the applicant appreciates, in summarising the request we are carrying out a subjective assessment of the content of the request but these summaries are adequate for their intended purpose.

It is not clear to me how publishing the full detail of the request would prevent repetition. That is what the publication scheme and disclosure log are intended for. As we know, this does not stop people asking the same questions.

What the applicant is really looking for surely is not what questions have been asked, but what questions have been asked and how were these responded to. Again this would be beyond the appropriate limit. But there is no need to suggest this to the applicant.

Section 40

-----Original Message-----
From: Section 40
Sent: 06 July 2006 08:54
To: Section 40
Subject: FW: FOIA Question regarding logs of freedom of information requests

Section 40

I'd be grateful if you would you reply to Section 40 on this one.

Thanks

Section 40

-----Original Message-----
From: Section 40
Sent: 06 July 2006 08:20
To: Section 40
Subject: FW: FOIA Question regarding logs of freedom of information requests

Section 40

Please see below an email I have received this morning. I assume the PDF files he is referring to are the list of incoming FOI requests on the MOD website. As I don't list these I don't know why the full request is not detailed, although I expect it is due to space. He has a point though because when we released the UAP report several people wrote to me asking about the original request as they could not find it on the website. Please could you let me have an explanation?.

Regards

Section 40
DAS I
5-H
Section 40

-----Original Message-----
From: Section 40
Sent: 06 July 2006 00:29
To: Section 40
Subject: FOIA Question regarding logs of freedom of information requests

Dear Section 40

I have noticed through looking through a few of the request PDF files the MOD have collated, that when requests are made concerning UFO's, then "UFO's" is simply written as the request without further detail. I am wondering why this is the case as surely it would make life easier if requests were detailed to prevent repetition of the same request.

Would it be possible to provide a complete list of all UFO related questions in a file format under the FOIA, from the time the request list was started to the current date?

This I'm sure would aid other researchers and members of the public if shared.

Regards

Section 40

Section 40

Powys,
Wales
Section 40

From: Section 40
Directorate of Air Staff - Freedom of Information
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
5th Floor, Zone H, Main Building, Whitehall, London SW1A 2HB

Telephone (Direct dial) 020 7218 2140
(Switchboard) 020 7218 9000
(Fax) Section 40
e-mail das-ufo-office@mod.uk

ENCLOSURE NUMBER 5

Section 40
Hull
East Yorkshire
Section 40

Our Reference
08-08-2006-143911-005

Date
18 August 2006

Dear Section 40

I am writing in response to your request for a copy of the recently released Ministry of Defence report entitled "Unidentified Aerial Phenomena in the UK Air Defence Region" otherwise known as the Condign Report. Your request has been passed to this Department as we are the focal point within the Ministry of Defence for correspondence regarding Unidentified Flying Objects (also known as UAP) and we are the Department responsible, in conjunction with the Defence Intelligence Staff, for the release of this report.

In order to make the report available to as many individuals as possible the MOD has scanned this large document and placed it on the MOD website at http://www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/FreedomOfInformation/PublicationScheme/SearchPublicationScheme/UnidentifiedAerialPhenomenauapInTheUkAirDefenceRegion.htm . If you do not have access to the internet at home, most public libraries now have facilities for public use. The MOD makes no charge to view, download or print this information. As the document consists of some 465 pages it would not be an efficient use of public funds to produce and post paper copies to every individual who would like a personal copy and your request is therefore refused in accordance with Section 21 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 as the information is already reasonably accessible to you by other means.

I am sorry to send what will be a disappointing reply. If you are dissatisfied with our decision to refuse information or you wish to complain about any aspect of the handling of this request, then you should contact the undersigned in the first instance. Should you remain dissatisfied, then you may apply for an internal review by contacting the Director of Information Exploitation, 6th Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB. (e-mail: Info-XD@mod.uk

If you are still unhappy following an internal review, you may take your complaint to the Information Commissioner under the provisions of Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act. Please note that the Information Commissioner will not investigate your case until the MOD internal review process has been completed. Further details of the role and powers of the Information Commissioner can be found on the Commissioner's website, http://www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

Section 40

GxAITESTPTCDAS

17 August 06

Home | My Cases | Log New Request | Policy Guidance | Help

Request: Section 40 08-08-2006-143911-005

Days Left: 11

Received: 03 Aug 06
Expiry Date: 01 Sep 06
Status: Open

All sources

Workflow Options
- AIT Main

View
- Audit Trail
- Comments Log
- Saved Search Result
- Contact Details
- Documents

Actions
- Assign Within My Group
- Change Alert Settings
- Edit Request Details
- Upload Document
- Close Case
- Take Ownership

Editing the request details will initiate a new search.
The new search results will be saved and will replace the existing save search results.

Date request received: 08 August 2006

Applicant Details

Title:	Section 40	Other:	
First Name:	[redacted]	*Surname:	Section 40
Organisation:			
Applicant Type:	Not Specified	Other:	

Contact Details (Mailing or email address required)

Address Line1:	Section 40		
Address Line2:	Brans		
Address Line3:	E. Yorks		
Town/City:	Hull		
Postcode:	Section 40	Country:	United Kingdom
Email:			
Telephone:		Fax:	

Clear | Back | Next | Cancel

Section 40

GxAITESTPTCDAS

17 August 06

Home | My Cases | Log New Request | Policy Guidance | Help

Request: Section 40-08-2006-143911-005

Days Left: 11

Received: 03 Aug 06
Expiry Date: 01 Sep 06
Status: Open

All sources

Workflow Options
- AIT Main

View
- Audit Trail
- Comments Log
- Saved Search Result
- Contact Details
- Documents

Actions
- Assign Within My Group
- Change Alert Settings
- Edit Request Details
- Upload Document
- Close Case
- Take Ownership

Editing the request details will initiate a new search.
The new search results will be saved and will replace the existing save search results.

Request Details

Response Format Requested: not stated

Language Requested ☐ Welsh

*Enter the request for information:

Dear Sir / Madam,

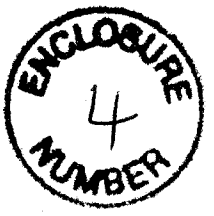
Please could you let me have a copy of The Condign Report

On the subject of UFOs and unidentified phonomenon, I have had an interest in this subject for many years now and myself and friends would like to study this document.

Record storage location of Applicant request (or upload document).

To be held by the Helpdesk until allocated.

Clear | Back | Next | Cancel



From: Section 40
Directorate of Air Staff - Freedom of Information
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
5th Floor, Zone H, Main Building, Whitehall, London SW1A 2HB

Telephone	(Direct dial)	020 7218 2140
	(Switchboard)	020 7218 9000
	(Fax)	Section 40
e-mail	das-ufo-office@mod.uk	

Section 40

Poole
Dorset
Section 40

Our Reference
08-08-2006-145751-006

Date
18 August 2006

Dear Section 40

I am writing in response to your request for a copy of the recently released Ministry of Defence report entitled "Unidentified Aerial Phenomena in the UK Air Defence Region" otherwise known as the Condign Report. Your request has been passed to this Department as we are the focal point within the Ministry of Defence for correspondence regarding Unidentified Flying Objects (also known as UAP) and we are the Department responsible, in conjunction with the Defence Intelligence Staff, for the release of this report.

In order to make the report available to as many individuals as possible the MOD has scanned this large document and placed it on the MOD website at http://www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/FreedomOfInformation/PublicationScheme/SearchPublicationScheme/UnidentifiedAerialPhenomenauapInTheUkAirDefenceRegion.htm . If you do not have access to the internet at home, most public libraries now have facilities for public use. The MOD makes no charge to view, download or print this information. As the document consists of some 465 pages it would not be an efficient use of public funds to produce and post paper copies to every individual who would like a personal copy and your request is therefore refused in accordance with Section 21 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 as the information is already reasonably accessible to you by other means.

I am sorry to send what will be a disappointing reply. If you are dissatisfied with our decision to refuse information or you wish to complain about any aspect of the handling of this request, then you should contact the undersigned in the first instance. Should you remain dissatisfied, then you may apply for an internal review by contacting the Director of Information Exploitation, 6th Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB. (e-mail: Info-XD@mod.uk

If you are still unhappy following an internal review, you may take your complaint to the Information Commissioner under the provisions of Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act. Please note that the Information Commissioner will not investigate your case until the MOD internal review process has been completed. Further details of the role and powers of the Information Commissioner can be found on the Commissioner's website, http://www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

Section 40

GxAITESTPTCDAS

17 August 06

Home | My Cases | Log New Request | Policy Guidance | Help

Request: Section 40 08-08-2006-145751-006

Days Left: 11

Received: 03 Aug 06
Expiry Date: 01 Sep 06
Status: Open

All sources

Workflow Options
- AIT Main

View
- Audit Trail
- Comments Log
- Saved Search Result
- Contact Details
- Documents

Actions
- Assign Within My Group
- Change Alert Settings
- Edit Request Details
- Upload Document
- Close Case
- Take Ownership

Editing the request details will initiate a new search.
The new search results will be saved and will replace the existing save search results.

Date request received: 03 August 2006

Applicant Details

Title: Section 40 Other:

First Name: [redacted] *Surname: Section 40

Organisation:

Applicant Type: Not Specified Other:

Contact Details (Mailing or email address required)

Address Line1: Section 40

Address Line2: [redacted]

Address Line3: Dorset

Town/City: Poole

Postcode: Section 40 Country: United Kingdom

Email:

Telephone: Fax:

Clear | Back | Next | Cancel

Section 40

GxAITESTPTCDAS

17 August 06

Home | My Cases | Log New Request | Policy Guidance | Help

Request: Section 40 08-08-2006-145751-006

Days Left: 11

Received: 03 Aug 06
Expiry Date: 01 Sep 06
Status: Open

All sources

Workflow Options
- AIT Main

View
- Audit Trail
- Comments Log
- Saved Search Result
- Contact Details
- Documents

Actions
- Assign Within My Group
- Change Alert Settings
- Edit Request Details
- Upload Document
- Close Case
- Take Ownership

Editing the request details will initiate a new search.
The new search results will be saved and will replace the existing save search results.

Request Details

Response Format Requested: hardcopy

Language Requested ☐ Welsh

*Enter the request for information:

Dear Sir / Madam,

May I please have a copy of The Condign Report which was released in May 2006 under The Freedom of Informartion Act. I do not have access to a computer and therefore cannot download acopy from the internet. I would like a paper copy please.

Record storage location of Applicant request (or upload document).

To be held by the Helpdesk until allocated.

Clear | Back | Next | Cancel

From: Section 40
Directorate of Air Staff - Freedom of Information
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
5th Floor, Zone H, Main Building, Whitehall, London SW1A 2HB

Telephone (Direct dial) Section 40
(Switchboard) 020 7218 9000
(Fax) Section 40
e-mail das-ufo-office@mod.uk

Section 40
Poole
Dorset
Section 40

Our Reference
08-08-2006-145751-006
Date
21 September 2006

Dear Section 40

Your recent letter to Section 40 has been passed to me to answer as Section 40 has transferred to another branch and I am temporarily covering her duties.

Whilst I can appreciate your disappointment, I am afraid that I must agree with Section 40 The document you request is already widely available in the public domain and therefore the Ministry of Defence is not required to provide you with a hard copy of the report.

Your local library should have facilities to allow you to print the document out, which I should imagine, would take less than the one hour time limit they impose, although there is likely to be a cost to you for this service. I am afraid that I can see no basis for viewing yours as an exceptional case.

I am sorry to send what will be a disappointing reply. If you are still dissatisfied with our decision, then you may apply for an internal review by contacting the Director of Information Exploitation, 6th Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB. (e-mail: Info-XD@mod.uk

If you are still unhappy following an internal review, you may take your complaint to the Information Commissioner under the provisions of Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act. Please note that the Information Commissioner will not investigate your case until the MOD internal review process has been completed. Further details of the role and powers of the Information Commissioner can be found on the Commissioner's website, http://www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

Section 40

Directorate of Air Staff,
Freedom of Information,
Ministry of Defence,
5th Floor, Zone H,
Main Building,
Whitehall,
SW1A 2HB,

Your Reference
08-08-2006-145751-006

Dear Section 40

I did find your letter disappointing but I would like to bring some points of note to you.I have insufficient internet/computing ability so I am unable to view this report at home.My local libraries are only open during working hours(plus some saturdays).Having a full time job I am unable to go to the library during the week.On saturdays the libraries have a time limit on pc access(saturday being there busiest day).Viewing a 465 page report at 1 hour intervals is in my opinion unacceptable.As for being a unefficent use of public funds 500 sheets of A4 paper cost around £5 and from there all you have to do is print the report and post it.I cannot see this costing more then £14 in total.As a government department I belive you have a budget for this.I understand why in most cases you are unwilling to send this report to people but as you can see from the points I have made above I belive that mine is a exceptional case.I look foward to hearing a positive reply from you.

Section 40

Poole,
Dorset,
Section 40

Thank You

Section 40

Section 40

29 AUG 2006
DAS

Section 40

From: Section 40

Sent: 02 August 2006 12:04

To: Section 40

Subject: Internet-authorised: Freedom of Information Request 12-07-2006-104849-004

Dear Section 40

I am writing in response to your Freedom of Information request dated 6 July in which you asked for six pieces of information. I will address these in the same order as your e-mail.

a). The Ministry of Defence examines the UFO sighting reports we receive solely to establish whether what was seen might have some defence significance; namely, whether there is any evidence that the United Kingdom's airspace might have been compromised by hostile or unauthorised air activity. Unless there is evidence of a potential threat to the United Kingdom from an external military or terrorist source, and to date no 'UFO' report has revealed such evidence, do not attempt to identify the precise nature of each reported sighting. All UFO reports therefore remain 'unidentified'.
Logs are not kept of such reports, but they are filed on paper files in the order in which they are received.

b). It may be helpful if I explain the difference between the surveillance of UK airspace by the RAF and UFO sightings reported to the MOD. The integrity of the UK's airspace in peacetime is maintained through continuous surveillance of the UK Air Policing Area by the Royal Air Force. Any threat to the UK Air Policing Area would be handled in the light of the particular circumstances at the time (it might if deemed appropriate, involve the scrambling or diversion of air defence aircraft). Quick Reaction Alert surveillance of the UK airspace is focussed on the detection of airborne objects such as aircraft and missiles. If an object is detected and its origin does not correlate with known activities or patterns it is classified as unknown. From this point onwards, in real time, information is sought to assist with its identification and if necessary Quick Reaction Alert aircraft may be employed and consequently risk is further assessed. There have been no occasions when such incidents have been classified as an UFO posing a risk to UK airspace. In contrast, UFO sightings reported to the MOD are assessed by the Directorate of Air Staff and any which are worthy of further examination are passed to the Directorate of Counter Terrorism and UK Operations. The risk posed is subjectively assessed against the reported object's position, height, time and nature of activity. There have been no incidents when such reports have been assessed as posing a risk.

c). As explained in paragraph (b), this Directorate assess whether UFO sighting reports require further examination and when appropriate a desk officer in the Directorate of Counter Terrorism and UK Operations examines them to see if they provide any useful information in their role of assessing risks to UK airspace. Once it is established that no such evidence exists no further action is taken.

d). The MOD does not have any expertise or role in respect of 'UFO/flying saucer' matters or to the question of the existence or otherwise of extraterrestrial lifeforms. To date the MOD knows of no evidence which substantiates the existence of these alleged phenomena and there are therefore no procedures in place for such a scenario. I am not aware of any discussions concerning the possibility of such a situation having ever taken place within the MOD.

e). There are no military establishments within the UK that specialise in "dealing with UFOs". How other Governments deal with the UFO sighting reports they receive are a matter for those Governments.

f). There are no other MOD reports pertaining to UFOs or UAP that have not yet been requested or released under the FOI Act.

I hope this is helpful. If you are unhappy with the response or wish to complain about any aspect of the handling of this request, then you should contact the undersigned in the first instance. Should you remain dissatisfied, then you may apply for an internal review by contacting the Director of Information Exploitation, 6th Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB (e-mail: Info-XD@mod.uk).

02/08/2006

If you are still unhappy following an internal review, you may take your complaint to the Information Commissioner under the provisions of Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act. Please note that the Information Commissioner will not normally investigate your case until the MOD internal review process has been completed. Further details of the role and powers of the Information Commissioner can be found on the Commissioner's website, http://www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk.

Section 40

Ministry of Defence
Directorate of Air Staff - Freedom of Information
5th Floor, Zone H Section 40
Main Building
Whitehall
LONDON
SW1A 2HB

e-mail:das-ufo-office@mod.uk

2 August 2006

12-01-2006-10:48:04-004
Expiry 3 Aug 06

Section 40

From: Section 40
Sent: 06 July 2006 00:48
To: Section 40
Subject: Freedom Of Information Request

Dear Section 40

Please could you provide under the Freedom if Information Act the following, if possible;

a) Any information pertaining to the procedure or policy the MOD applies if Unidentified Aerial Phenomena, after intervention by the MOD or other military bodies in the UK, turns out to be an unknown and not identifiable. Do these occurences get logged, and if so a copy of these would be appreciated.

b) Any information relating to where the MOD has pursued a "UAP" in British Airspace, and has been reported as a "UFO" by MOD staff and NOT natural phenomena.

c) How high up the chain of command do UAP sighting get reported to, and what position do these people hold?

d) Do the MOD have a procedure or policy in place if for example, one day a real alien craft from outer space (not foreign) was to land or crash into British Territory? If no, has the scenario ever been discussed within the MOD? If a procedure or policy exists, please forward.

e) Are the MOD aware of any other Government or Military establishement that specialise in dealing with UFO's or UAP? If yes, please give details.

f) Do any other reports, apart from the Condign Report, exist pertaining to the UFO's or UAP which have not yet been requested under the FOIA? If so, please provide a complete summary list and whether they are releasable under the FOIA.

Much appreciated

Section 40
Section 40
Section 40
Powys,
Section 40

ENCLOSURE TRANSFERRED TO FILE D/DAS/10/2/8/16 PART F

AUTHORISATION TO WITHHOLD REQUESTED INFORMATION

Applicant: Section 40 [redacted]

Case Number: 01-08-2006-091834-002 **Expiry:** 21 August 2006

The Applicant has made the following request for information:

As a UFO researcher for many years I would like a 460 page printed copy of "The Condign Report".

Case for withholding information

In order to comply with this request a colour copy of 465 pages would need to be produced and posted to the applicant. The MOD has already made the document available on the MOD website and we make no charge for viewing or downloading the information. If the applicant does not have access to the internet at home, most public libraries now have internet access for public use. A check on the internet has revealed a library near to the applicant's home which does provide such a facility. Under Absolute exemption S.21 of the FOIA we are not obliged to reproduce the information in another form.

Proposed use of the following FOI Exemptions

Absolute exemption S.21 – Information reasonable accessible to the applicant by other means.

Authorisation

I hereby give authorisation to withhold the aforementioned information to the Applicant.

Grade/Rank: ..... B2 ..... Name:..... Section 40 [redacted] .....

Signature..... Section 40 [redacted] .....

Date:..... 2/8/06 .....

From: Section 40
Directorate of Air Staff - Freedom of Information
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
5th Floor, Zone H, Main Building, Whitehall, London SW1A 2HB

Telephone (Direct dial) 020 7218 2140
(Switchboard) 020 7218 9000
(Fax) Section 40
e-mail das-ufo-office@mod.uk

Section 40

Peterborough
Section 40

Our Reference
01-08-2006-091834-002

Date
1 August 2006

Dear Section 40

I am writing in response to your request for a copy of the recently released Ministry of Defence report entitled "Unidentified Aerial Phenomena in the UK Air Defence Region" otherwise known as the Condign Report. Your request has been passed to this Department as we are the focal point within the Ministry of Defence for correspondence regarding Unidentified Flying Objects (also known as UAP) and we are the Department responsible, in conjunction with the Defence Intelligence Staff, for the release of this report.

The MOD has scanned this large document and placed it on the MOD website at http://www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/FreedomOfInformation/PublicationScheme/SearchPublicationScheme/UnidentifiedAerialPhenomenauapInTheUkAirDefenceRegion.htm in order to make it available to as many individuals as possible. The MOD makes no charge to view, download or print this information. If you do not have access to the internet at home, most public libraries now have internet connections for public use. In your area, I understand that Orton Library at the Orton Centre, Peterborough, (Telephone:01733 742700) have computers for free public use and provide access to the internet.

With regard to your request for a paper copy of these documents, I should advise you that as the document consists of some 465 pages it would not be an efficient use of public funds to produce and post paper copies to every individual who would like a personal copy and your request is therefore refused in accordance with Section 21 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 as the information is already reasonably accessible to you by other means.

I am sorry to send what will be a disappointing reply. If you are dissatisfied with our decision to refuse information or you wish to complain about any aspect of the handling of this request, then you should contact the undersigned in the first instance. Should you remain dissatisfied, then you may apply for an internal review by contacting the Director of Information Exploitation, 6th Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB. (e-mail: Info-XD@mod.uk

If you are still unhappy following an internal review, you may take your complaint to the Information Commissioner under the provisions of Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act. Please note that the Information Commissioner will not investigate your case until the MOD

internal review process has been completed. Further details of the role and powers of the Information Commissioner can be found on the Commissioner's website, http://www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk

Yours sincerely,

Section 40 [redacted]

Section 40

GxAITESTPTCDAS

01 August 06

Home | My Cases | Log New Request | Policy Guidance | Help

Request: Section 40 01-08-2006-091834-002

Days Left: 15

Received: 24 Jul 06
Expiry Date: 21 Aug 06
Status: Open

All sources

Workflow Options
- AIT Main

View
- Audit Trail
- Comments Log
- Saved Search Result
- Contact Details
- Documents

Actions
- Assign Within My Group
- Change Alert Settings
- Edit Request Details
- Upload Document
- Close Case
- Take Ownership

Editing the request details will initiate a new search.
The new search results will be saved and will replace the existing save search results.

Date request received: 24 July 2006

Applicant Details

Title: Section 40 [redacted]

Other:

First Name:

*Surname: Section 40

Organisation:

Applicant Type: Other

Other: Reverand

Contact Details (Mailing or email address required)

Address Line1: Section 40 [redacted]

Address Line2:

Address Line3:

Town/City: Peterborough

Postcode: Section 40 [redacted]

Country: United Kingdom

Email:

Telephone:

Fax:

Clear | Back | Next | Cancel

Section 40

GxAITESTPTCDA

01 August 06

Home | My Cases | Log New Request | Policy Guidance | Help

Request: Section 40 01-08-2006-091834-002

Days Left: 15

Received: 24 Jul 06
Expiry Date: 21 Aug 06
Status: Open

All sources

Workflow Options
- AIT Main

View
- Audit Trail
- Comments Log
- Saved Search Result
- Contact Details
- Documents

Actions
- Assign Within My Group
- Change Alert Settings
- Edit Request Details
- Upload Document
- Close Case
- Take Ownership

Editing the request details will initiate a new search.
The new search results will be saved and will replace the existing save search results.

Request Details

Response Format Requested: notr stated

Language Requested ☐ Welsh

*Enter the request for information:

Dear Sirs

As a UFO researcher for many years I would like a 460 page printed copy of The Condign Report. Please send it to the address as above letter heading.

Thanking you in anticipation

Record storage location of Applicant request (or upload document).

To be held by the Helpdesk until allocated.

Clear | Back | Next | Cancel

01-08-2006-091834-002

[redacted]

Peterborough

[redacted]

18th July 2006

[redacted]

DCINFO ADMIN

MAIN BLDG 6I

Directorate of Information (Exploitation)
Info-Access OPS2
Min. of Defence
6th Floor, Zone F, Desk 20
Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB. UK.

Dear Sirs,

As a UFO researcher for many years I would like a 460 page printed copy of "The Condign Report". Please send it to the address as above Letter Heading.

Thanking you in anticipation.,

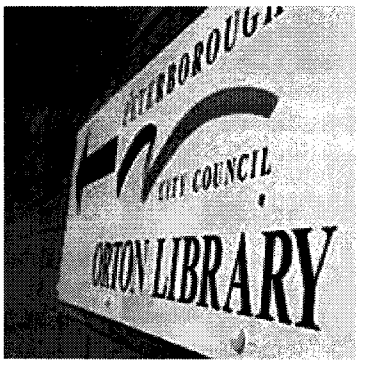
Yours sincerely

[redacted]

01-08-2006-091834-002

Orton Library

- How to find us
- Opening hours
- Services
- Facilities
- What's On
- Other Activities
- Coming Soon



How to find Us

We are in the Orton Centre, on the opposite side to QD and next to Bushfield Community College.

Address and venue details

Orton Centre, Peterborough, PE2 5RQ
Renewals: 08458 505 606 Online renewals
Enquiries: 01733 742700
Email: ortonlibrary@peterborough.gov.uk

Opening Hours

Monday	10.30am to 5.00pm
Tuesday	9.30am to 6.00pm
Wednesday	9.30am to 7.00pm
Thursday	9.30am to 7.00pm
Friday	9.30am to 6.00pm
Saturday	9.30am to 5.00pm
Sunday	CLOSED

Services

- Free library membership
- A range of books - fiction, non-fiction and reference
- Picture and board books
- Talking books on tape and CD
- Free requests for all items from our catalogue
- Renewal of books 24hrs per day by phone or Internet
- Reading advice
- 24/7 access to online information and resources newspapers, reference books, journals and encyclopedias.
- Access to Council information
- Free use of PCs and access to the Internet
- Enquiry and information service
- Local and community information
- Local history and Archive services

Facilities

- A children's area
- Copying and fax
- Adaptive Technology which allows access to computing for those with disabilities

What's On

Regular Events and Activities

S[redacted]time

- Tuesdays 10.00am - 10.30am (term time only)
- Thursdays 10.00am - 10.30am (all year round)

Baby Rhyme Time

- Mondays 10.30am - 11.00am (alternate weeks)
- Rhymes and sing-a-long for babies and toddlers
- Please ask at the library for the next date

Learn Direct

- Access your courses on our computers

Free Computer taster sessions

- Introduction to Internet
- Introduction to email
- Introduction to scanning
- Contact library for session times and to book a place

Orton Reading Group

- first Wednesday of every month at 10.00am (*contact the library for further details*)

Other Activities and Events

Date	Event	Time	Cost
Thursday 20th July	**Special Story Time with Orton Surestart** • In partnership with Orton Surestart • For under fives & parents/carers • Tickets available from 6th July • Places are limited so book early	10am - 10:45	**Free**
Wednesday 26th July	**Make me a Wish: Craft me a Story** • With professional story teller Polly Howat • For children 7 - 11 • Tickets available from 3rd July • **Please book in advance** • Refreshments included	10am - noon	£2.00
Tuesday August 8th	**Pupper show with Diddley Dee Puppets** • Arranged by Orton Surestart • For under 5s & parents/carers • Tickets available from 24th July • Limited places so book early	10am - 10:45	**Free**
Tuesday 15th August	**All About Me** • Create a scrap book • For under 6s and parents/carers • Includes refreshments and scrapbook • Please bring in your own photos & pictures • Tickets available from 3rd July • Please book in advance	10am - 11.00	£1.50

- Please contact the library for details of future events

Taster sessions

- How to use a scanner
- Family history starter sessions

Class Visits for Schools

- Please contact the library to arrange

Events and Activities for families, adults and children

- Summer reading schemes
- Holiday activities

Coming Soon

Look out for new events and activities on our website or in our library