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the national archives

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Registered File Disposal Form

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

Reference:
 (Prefix and Number):
D/OAS/10/2/2/13
 Part: *5*

PROTECTIVE MARKING (including caveats & descriptors): *Restricted*

Date of last enclosure: *14/05/06*

Date closed: *14/05/06*

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

Destroy after _____ years

Forward to INFO(EXP)-R after _____ years

No recommendation

FOR DEFENCE INFO(EXP)-R USE ONLY

<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Date of 1st review	Date of 2nd review	Forward Destruction Date
Reviewer's	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 INFO(EXP)-R.

b. (i) To be retained until the end of the year _____ for the following reason(s):

LEGAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	DEFENCE POLICY + OPERATIONS <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
CONTRACTUAL <input type="checkbox"/>	ORIGINAL COMMITTEE PAPERS <input type="checkbox"/>
FINANCE/AUDIT <input type="checkbox"/>	MAJOR EQUIPMENT PROJECT <input type="checkbox"/> [_____]
DIRECTORATE POLICY <input type="checkbox"/>	OTHER (Specify) <input type="checkbox"/>

For Permanent Preservation

(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 INFO(EXP)-R for permanent preservation.

PART 3. BRANCH REVIEWING OFFICER (not below C2/equivalent)

Section 40

Signature: _____

Name: _____

(Block Capitals)

Grade/Rank: C1 Date: 20 Aug 2010

Branch Title and Full Address:

RAF Bus Sec
HQ Air Comd
RAF High Wycombe
Bucks
HQ4 4UE

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)

Enc	Subject	Last Name	1 st Name	AIT Reference
1	UFO	Section 40		09-05-2006-065541-004
2	UFO	[REDACTED]		14-06-6006-103522-003
3	UFO	[REDACTED]		12-07-2006-110222-005
4	Aircraft Accidents/Airproxes	[REDACTED]		02-08-2006-141237-001
5	Aircraft Accident	[REDACTED]		03-08-2006-064610-001
6	UFO	[REDACTED]		23-08-2006-094705-002
7	UFO	[REDACTED]		16-08-2006-142312-004
8	UFO	[REDACTED]		23-08-2006-105244-004
9	UFO	[REDACTED]		29-08-2006-065857-003
10	UFO	[REDACTED]		30-08-2006-114025-004
11	Visiting Forces	[REDACTED]		22-08-2006-073207-003
12	UFO	[REDACTED]		01-08-2006-072006-001
13	Aircraft Accident	[REDACTED]		06-09-2006-062741-002
14	UFO	[REDACTED]		06-09-2006-121642-003
15	UFO	[REDACTED]		15-09-2006-155420-003
16	UFO	[REDACTED]		18-09-2006-110322-006
17	Aircraft Accident	[REDACTED]		22-09-2006-062851-001
18	Low Flying	[REDACTED]		25-09-2006-063632-002
19	UFO	[REDACTED]		26-09-2006-183403-008
20	Visiting Forces	[REDACTED]		27-09-2006-114121-002



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



Dear **Section 40**

I am writing with reference to your Freedom of Information request, regarding UFO sightings in Northumberland, Tyne & Wear and Durham in the last five years. Your request has been passed to this Department as we are the focal point within the Ministry of Defence for correspondence regarding UFOs. I apologise for the delay in replying.

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 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 source, and to date no 'UFO' report has revealed such evidence, we do not attempt to identify the precise nature of each sighting reported to us. We believe that rational explanations, such as aircraft lights or natural phenomena, could be found for them if resources were diverted for this purpose, but it is not the function of the MOD to provide this kind of aerial identification service.

With regard to the records the MOD holds on reported UFO sightings, I should inform you that they are not held electronically but are filed on paper files in the order in which they are received and we currently hold records spanning a 25 year period. They are not segregated by geographical area. In order to identify records specifically from Northumberland, Tyne & Wear and Durham, a manual search of thousands of records would be required and this would exceed the £600 cost limit set for compliance with the FOI Act 2000. However we are currently in the process of compiling a database of UFO sighting reports and this has now been completed for the years 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005 and to date in 2006. I examined these records and found no UFO sighting reports for Northumberland, but have found two reports for Tyne and Wear and two reports for Durham, and the details are as follows.

31/05/2003	21:00	Gateshead	Tyne & Wear	One black orb with five or six tassels underneath it.
Seen sometime in 2006.		Hetton-Le-Hole	Tyne & Wear	There were many lights seen up in the sky.

29/07/2006	22:00	Seaham	County Durham	Six yellow/orange lights that were travelling in a line. They were staggered from South to North.
29/07/2006	22:40	Seaham	County Durham	Nine balls of orange light were following each other and drifting Northwards.

You may also wish to be aware that there is some information about UFOs available for public viewing. MOD files were routinely destroyed after 5 years until 1967 when they were generally preserved for The National Archives. A few have survived before 1967 and these together with records up to 1977 are now available for public viewing. The National Archives can be contacted at Ruskin Avenue, Kew, Richmond, Surrey TW9 4DU or telephone, 020 8876 3444. The National Archives also have a website giving information about the records they hold and how to access them. This can be found on the internet at:

<http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk>. The Ministry of Defence Freedom of Information website also contains some released information on UFOs. This can be accessed via the internet at: <http://www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/FreedomOfInformation/PublicationScheme>.

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: InfoXD@mod.uk).

If you are still unhappy following an internal review, you may be able to 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 1
5th Floor, Zone H
Main Building
Whitehall
London
SW1A 2HB

E.mail – das-ufo-office@mod.uk

1/11/06.

Expiry -
24/10/06

Section 40

From: Section 40
Sent: 27 September 2006 17:26
To: Section 40
Subject: FW: [Fwd: FOI written request] 26-09-2006-183403-008 Section 40
Categories: FOI Information Request

Section 40

Can you take?

Thanks.

Section 40

Info-AccessOps5

Section 40

Main Building

From: MOD Webmaster [mailto:webmaster@dgics.mod.uk]
Sent: 26 September 2006 17:06
To: Info-Access-Office
Subject: [Fwd: FOI written request] 26-09-2006-183403-008 Section 40

----- Original Message -----

Subject: FOI written request
Date: Tue, 26 Sep 2006 17:13:09 +0100
From: feedback@www.mod.uk
To: webmaster@dgics.mod.uk

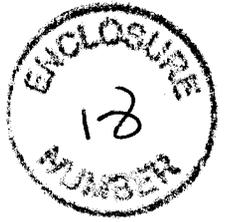
Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted on Tuesday, September 26, 2006 at 17:13:09

txttitle: Section 40
txtfirstname: Section 40
txtlastname:
txtaddress1: NCJ Media Ltd.
txtaddress2: Groat Market
txttowncity: Newcastle
txtstatecountry: Tyne and Wear
txtzipcodepostcode: NE25 9BA
txtcountry: United Kingdom
txtemailAddress: Section 40

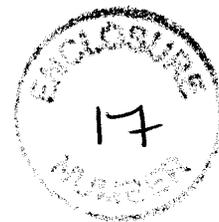
27/09/2006

telephone: **Section 40**

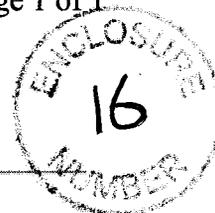
txtdetails: All files and documents relating to any reported sightings of UFOs in
Northumberland, Tyne & Wear or Durham in the last
5 years.



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



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



Section 40

From: Section 40

Sent: 22 September 2006 10:21

To: Section 40

Subject: Internet-Authorised: FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST - UFO INCIDNET 6 NOV 1967

Dear Section 40

I am writing concerning your Freedom of Information request regarding a UFO sighting on 6 November 1967. I can inform you that the MOD UFO report files for this period are no longer held by the MOD so I am unable to assist with your request. These records are open for viewing at The National Archives, Kew, Richmond, Surrey. Details of how to access information at The National Archives can be found on their website at www.nationalarchives.gov.uk.

We have no record of receiving a cheque from you or of entering into any arrangement to send you the 1966-67 file. May I suggest that you check your own records to confirm whether the cheque was sent to the Ministry of Defence or the National Archive.

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
Main Building
Whitehall
LONDON
SW1A 2HB

22/09/2006

Section 40

From: Section 40
Sent: 18 September 2006 11:04
To: Section 40
Subject: FW: FOI INFORMATION REQUEST - WRITTEN RESPONSE 18-09-2006-110322-006
Section 40

Categories: FOI Information Request

Section 40

Can you take?

Section 40

Section 40

Info-AccessOps5

Section 40

Main Building

-----Original Message-----

From: feedback@www.mod.uk [mailto:feedback@www.mod.uk]
Sent: 15 September 2006 20:59
To: Info-Access-Office
Subject: FOI INFORMATION REQUEST - WRITTEN RESPONSE 18-09-2006-110322-006 Section 40

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted on Friday, September 15, 2006 at 20:58:52

firstname: Section 40

surname: Section 40

Address1: Section 40

Address2: alvechurch

town_city: worcestershire

state_county: worcestershire

zip_postcode: Section 40

Country: United Kingdom

telephone: enter your telephone number

e-mail: Section 40

inforequest: I am currently examining the claims of a Carl Farlow who was delivering a consignment of cookers to Christchurch near Bournemouth in the early hours of Monday the 6th of November 1967. Carl later brought to the attention of the newspapers

that he had witnessed a UFO descending just above the road near to the village of IBSLEY on the A388 between Avon and Sopley Hampshire. and that the appearance of this UFO had interfered with the lighting of his lorry, and thata Jaguar car being driven by a local man was also brought to a halt.

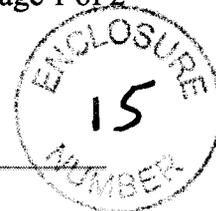
Can you tell me please whether 1, You have any information on this matter.

2. Were these person interviewed by the Police at Christchurch Police Station? andthen

*It is National Archive
who will have his
cheque !!*

the MOD? Was the telephone box where this incident took place repainted the next day, and was the road resurfaced a week later? As I have paid you for records from the Archives for the 1966 and 1967 period but have not received them yet? can you confirm that you did receive my cheque after a deposit of Ten Pounds, for the 66-67 file.....thanks **Section 40**

send: Submit



Section 40

From: Section 40
Sent: 04 October 2006 12:40
To: Section 40
Subject: Internet-Authorised: FOI Request.

Dear Section 40

I am writing concerning your Freedom of Information request regarding UFO sightings in the Mole Valley since the year 2000. Your request has been passed to this Department as we are the focal point within the Ministry of Defence for correspondence regarding 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 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 potential threat to the United Kingdom from an external source, and to date no 'UFO' report has revealed such evidence, we do not attempt to identify the precise nature of each sighting reported to us. We believe that rational explanations, such as aircraft lights or natural phenomena, could be found for them if resources were diverted for this purpose, but it is not the function of the MOD to provide this kind of aerial identification service.

With regard to the records the MOD holds of reported UFO sightings, I should inform you that they are not held electronically but are filed on paper files in the order in which they are received and we currently hold records spanning a 25 year period. They are not segregated by geographical area. In order to identify records specifically from the Mole Valley, a manual search of thousands of records would be required and this would exceed the permitted £600 cost limit set for compliance with the FOI Act 2000. However, we are currently in the process of compiling a database of UFO sighting reports and this has now been completed for the years 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005 and to date in 2006. I examined these records, but found no UFO sighting reports for the Mole Valley in Surrey.

You may wish to be aware that there is some information about UFO's available for public viewing. MOD files were routinely destroyed after 5 years until 1967 when they were generally preserved for The National Archives. A few have survived before 1967 and these together with records up to 1977 are now available for public viewing. The National Archives can be contacted at Ruskin Avenue, Kew, Richmond, Surrey TW9 4DU or telephone, 020 8876 3444. The National Archives also have a website giving information about the records they hold and how to access them. This can be found on the internet at: <http://nationalarchives.gov.uk>. The Ministry of Defence Freedom of Information website also contains some released information on UFOs. This can be accessed via the internet at: <http://www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/FreedomOfInformation/PublicationScheme>.

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: InfoXD@MOD.uk).

If you are still unhappy following an internal review, you may be able to 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://informationcommissioner.gov.uk>.

Yours sincerely

Section 40

Directorate of Air Staff – Freedom of Information 1
5th Floor, Zone H
Main Building
Whitehall
London
SW1A 2HB

04/10/2006

Email - das-ufo-office@mod.uk

4/10/06.

Section 40

boollat

Expiry -

Section 40

From: Section 40
Sent: 15 September 2006 15:57
To: Section 40
Subject: FW: FOI INFORMATION REQUEST - EMAIL RESPONSE FORM
15-09-2006-155420-003 Section 40

Section 40

Can you take?
Thanks.

Section 40

Info-AccessOps5

Section 40

Main Building

-----Original Message-----

From: feedback@www.mod.uk [mailto:feedback@www.mod.uk]
Sent: 15 September 2006 15:37
To: Info-Access-Office
Subject: FOI INFORMATION REQUEST - EMAIL RESPONSE FORM 15-09-2006-155420-003 Section 40

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted on Friday, September 15, 2006 at 15:36:49

firstname: Section 40

surname: Section 40

occupation: Journalist

Organisation/Company: Trinity Mirror

e-mail: Section 40

telephone: Section 40

inforequest: Please could you tell me how many sightings of UFOs or similar have occurred in Mole Valley since 2000.

Please could I have the date and time of any sightings and the exact location as well as, if possible, a description of what was seen.

If there are no sightings in that time period please could you check as far back as possible to see if there has ever been a UFO sighting in the district.

If you have any queries please contact me on the address above.

Thank you

Section 40

send: Submit



Section 40

From: Section 40

Sent: 04 October 2006 12:40

To: Section 40@hotmail.co.uk

Subject: Internet-Authorised: FOI Request.

Dear Section 40

I am writing concerning your Freedom of Information request regarding phenomenon linked to UFOs from 1946 to 1948. Your request has been passed to this Department as we are the focal point within the Ministry of Defence for correspondence regarding UFOs. I apologise for the delay in replying.

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 to the United Kingdom from an external source, and to date no 'UFO' report has revealed such evidence, we do not attempt to identify the precise nature of each sighting reported to us. We believe that rational explanations, such as aircraft lights or natural phenomena, could be found for them if resources were diverted for this purpose, but it is not the function of the MOD to provide this kind of aerial identification service.

With regard to information about UFOs from the year 1946 to 1948, I should inform you that the files the MOD holds on UFOs were routinely destroyed after 5 years until 1967 when they were generally preserved for The National Archives. A few have survived before 1967 and these together with records up to 1977 are now available for public viewing. The National Archives can be contacted at Ruskin Avenue, Kew, Richmond, Surrey TW9 4DU or telephone, 020 8876 3444. The National Archives also have a website giving information they hold and how to access them. This can be found on the internet at <http://nationalarchives.gov.uk>. The Ministry of Defence Freedom of Information website also contains some released information on UFOs. This can be accessed via the internet at: <http://www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/FreedomOfInformation/PublicationScheme>.

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 be able to 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://informationcommissioner.gov.uk>.

Yours sincerely

Section 40

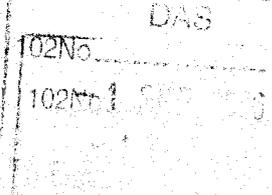
Ministry of Defence
 Directorate of Air Staff – Freedom of Information 1
 5th Floor, Zone H
 Main Building
 Whitehall
 London
 SW1A 2HB

E.mail – das-ufo-office@mod.uk

4/10/06.

04/10/2006

**** TO BE GIVEN A HIGH PRIORITY ****



Low flying/ufo's /E-MAIL

TREAT OFFICIAL CORRESPONDENCE

To DAS (KA) P+P
cc.

TO Ref No 5 JLG 12006

Date 1-9-06

The Prime Minister/SofS/Min(AF)/Min(DP)/USofS/MOD* has received the attached correspondence from a member of the public, which this office has neither retained nor acknowledged. Please send a reply on behalf of the PM/Minister/Department*.

Ministers attach great importance to correspondence being answered promptly, and your reply should be sent **within 15 working days of the above date**. If, exceptionally, this should prove impossible, an interim reply should be sent within the same timescale. You should be aware that No 10 periodically calls for a sample of letters sent by officials on the PM's behalf for his perusal.

Most correspondence involves some form of request for information – even if it is only a request for clarification of Government policy – and is therefore covered by the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) from January 2005. In general, if you meet the deadline for responding to correspondence, and comply with any requests for information, there is no need to do anything differently as this will meet the requirements of the Act. However, if the correspondence requests information which is not already in the public domain, and which might need to be withheld, then you should treat it as a FOIA request, track it using the Access to Information toolkit, and comply with the separate FOI guidance from DG Info (see <http://aitportal/default.aspx> for details), **including the standard appeals wording**. However, the deadline for responding to correspondence will still apply. If you are in any doubt as to whether a piece of correspondence should be treated as an FOIA request, you should ask your FOI Focal Point or refer to the guidance produced by DG Info.

It is vital that branches ensure they have simple systems to record and track correspondence received from members of the public. This information should be regularly monitored and reviewed against the targets for answering correspondence published in the Spending Review 2000 Service Delivery Agreement for the Ministry of Defence.

As part of our monitoring procedure, random spot checks on the accuracy of your branch records on correspondence will be performed throughout the year.

Ministerial Correspondence Unit

Floor 5, Zone A, Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB

Section 40

Section 40

DII: Ministerial Correspondence; e: Ministerial-Correspondence@mod.uk.

Detailed guidance on handling TO Correspondence can be found on the Defence Intranet at http://main.defence.mod.uk/min_parl/ParlBrch/TOGuid.htm
If you do not have access to the Intranet, please inform the Ministerial Correspondence Unit.

**** TO BE GIVEN A HIGH PRIORITY ****

* Delete as appropriate.



**** TO BE GIVEN A HIGH PRIORITY ****

**** TO BE GIVEN A HIGH PRIORITY ****

06-09-2006-121642-003 :
Expiry date - 27/9/06 :

Section 40

From: feedback@www.mod.uk
Sent: 30 August 2006 20:36
To: webmaster@dgics.mod.uk
Subject: Ask a Minister

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted on Wednesday, August 30, 2006 at 20:35:50

txtName: Section 40

txtEmail: Section 40@hotmail.co.uk

txtCountry: England

txtComments: i would like to view documents disclosing any Phenominon linked to UFO's from 1946-1948. If you could please respond to me directly via Email or By Mail as I would be most grateful as this information is essential to my current investigation Section 40
Section 40 Branston, Lincoln Section 40



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



AUTHORISATION FOR THE RELEASE OF INFORMATION

Applicant: **Section 40** [REDACTED]

Case Number: 01-08-2006-072006-001

Expiry: 29 August 2006

The Applicant has made the following request for information:

I would like to request all unidentified flying object (ufo/uap) information from the county of Cumbria, dating back as far as possible.

I would also like to request all information relating to unidentified flying objects (ufo/uap) that has occurred over the British seas, dating back as far as possible.

I would also like to request any information relating to a mysterious photograph of a strange space suited figure taken by Mr James Templeton of Carlisle in 1964, and would like to know if this photograph was of interest to any governing bodies.

Case for release of information

I informed **Section 40** our policy regarding UFOs.

I have explained that our records are not stored electronically, but are filed in the order in which they are received and that to search thousands of records would exceed the £600 limit set by the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

I explained that we are compiling a database and when examined, I found 3 reports for Cumbria. One in 2004 and two in 2005.

I informed him that he may wish to look at The National Archives website to view more information on UFOs. Also, to go on the Freedom of Information Publication Scheme website.

I told **Section 40** that with regards to the photograph taken of the space suited figure in 1964 by Mr James Templeton, that it was of no interest to the MOD as we do not investigate UFOs/alien phenomena. With regard to the year 1964, any information on the incident could have been destroyed being that files were routinely destroyed up to 1967.

Authorisation

I hereby give authorisation for the release of the aforementioned information to the Applicant.

Grade/Rank: D Name: Section 40

Signature: Section 40

Date: 30/8/2006



From: **Section 40**
 Directorate of Air Staff – Freedom of Information 1

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**



Section 40
 [Redacted]

Whitehaven
 Cumbria
Section 40

Your Reference:

Our Reference:
 01-08-2006-072006-001
 Date:
 30 August 2006

Dear **Section 40**

I am writing concerning your Freedom of Information request regarding UFO sightings in Cumbria and over the British seas. Your request has been passed to this Department as we are the focal point within the Ministry of Defence for correspondence regarding 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 to the United Kingdom from an external source, and to date no ‘UFO’ report has revealed such evidence, we do not attempt to identify the precise nature of each sighting reported to us. We believe that rational explanations, such as aircraft lights or natural phenomena, could be found for them if resources were diverted for this purpose, but it is not the function of the MOD to provide this kind of aerial identification service.

With regard to the records the MOD holds of reported UFO sightings, I should inform you that they are not held electronically but are filed on paper files in the order in which they are received and we currently hold records spanning a 25 year period. They are not segregated by geographical area. In order to identify records specifically from Cumbria, a manual search of thousands of records would be required and this would exceed the permitted £600 cost limit for compliance with the FOI Act 2000. However, we are currently in the process of compiling a database of UFO reports and this has now been completed for the years, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005 and to date in 2006. I examined these records and found 3 reports from those years for Cumbria, and the details are as follows.

10/05/2004	22.45	Storth	Cumbria	Looked like a bright star and was moving around like a kite.
------------	-------	--------	---------	--

06/08/2005	22.15		Cumbria	Saw about forty orange and red lights in the sky.
Seen sometime in 2005.		Kendal	Cumbria	A UFO was witnessed.

You may also wish to be aware that there is some information about UFOs available for public viewing. MOD files were routinely destroyed after 5 years until 1967 when they were generally preserved for the National Archives. A few have survived before 1967 and these together with records up to 1977 are now available for public viewing. The National Archives can be contacted at Ruskin Avenue, Kew, Richmond, Surrey TW9 4DU or telephone, 020 8876 3444. The National Archives also have a website giving information about the records they hold and how to access them. This can be found on the internet at <http://nationalarchives.gov.uk>. The Ministry of Defence Freedom of Information website also contains some released information on UFOs. This can be accessed via the internet at:

<http://www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/FreedomOfInformation/PublicationScheme>.

With regard to a photograph taken of a space suited figure by Mr James Templeton of Carlisle in 1964, if such information has survived, it will now be open for viewing at The National Archives.

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 be able to 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://informationcommissioner.gov.uk>.

Yours sincerely

Section 40

From: Section 40
Sent: 01 August 2006 08:57
To: Section 40
Subject: FW: FOI INFORMATION REQUEST PS 01-08-2006-072006-001 Section 40

Section 40

Please draft an answer to this FOI request. I have allocated it to you on the toolkit.

Section 40

-----Original Message-----
From: Section 40
Sent: 01 August 2006 07:29
To: Section 40
Subject: FW: FOI INFORMATION REQUEST PS 01-08-2006-072006-001 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: 31 July 2006 16:45
To: Info-Access-Office
Subject: FOI INFORMATION REQUEST PS 01-08-2006-072006-001 Section 40

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted on Monday, July 31, 2006 at 16:44:38

firstname: Section 40
surname: Section 40
Address1: Section 40
Address2:
town_city: whitehaven
state_county: cumbria
zip_postcode: Section 40
Country: United Kingdom
telephone: Section 40
e-mail Section 40@aol.com

inforequest:

I would like to request all unidentified flying object (ufo/uap) information from the county of Cumbria, dating back as far as possible

I would also like to request all information relating to unidentified flying objects (ufo/uap) that has occurred over the British seas, dating back as far as possible

I would also like to request any information relating to a mysterious photograph of a

strange space suited figure taken by a Mr James Templeton of Carlisle in 1964, and would like to know if this photograph was of interest to any governing bodies.

thank you

Section 40

send: Submit



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



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

Our Reference
D/DAS/30-08-2006-114025-004
Date
18 October 2006

Cwmbran
Gwent

Section 40

Dear Section 40

Your Freedom of Information request of 21 August 2006 raised a number of questions that I will answer in order.

- (i) Two civilian desk officers, at D and E1 level, form the DAS FOI team who are responsible for dealing with reports of UFO sightings made to the Ministry of Defence. On occasion, they will pass reports to SO1 Airspace Integrity. This is a post at Wing Commander level within CT&UK Ops, which is consulted by DAS purely for further consideration of whether UK airspace has been compromised by reported activity.
- (ii) DAS FOI is responsible for dealing with UFO matters within the Ministry of Defence including correspondence with the general public, ministerial correspondence, parliamentary business and maintains records of UFO sightings reported to the MoD. It also acts as a focal point for Freedom of Information requests and advice within the Directorate of Air Staff. SO1 Airspace Integrity deals with strategic and operational issues that impact (as the title suggests) on the integrity of UK airspace.
- (ii) All three posts are based in MoD Main Building in Whitehall.
- (iv) DAS is part of the RAF Personal and Training Command. CT&UK Ops is part of Deputy Chief of Defence Staff (Commitments) and falls within the MoD Centre.

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, please accept my apologies for the length of time it has taken to respond to your request which was due to staff turn over within this branch. Your patience over this matter has been appreciated.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

A large black rectangular redaction box covers the signature area, with the text "Section 40" written in orange at the top left corner of the box.



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

Cwmbran
Gwent

Section 40

Our Reference
D/DAS/30-08-2006-114025-004
Date
4 October 2006

Dear **Section 40**

Please accept my apologies for the length of time it is taking to answer your Freedom of Information request of 21 August 2006. The person who normally deals with these matters has transferred to another post and I am covering her work whilst her replacement is found.

I hope to be in a position to answer your questions shortly.

Thank you for your patience.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

30-08-2006-114025-004

Expiry: 21 Sept 2006

Section 40

Cwmbran
Gwent

Section 40

21st August 2006

Dear Sir/Madam,

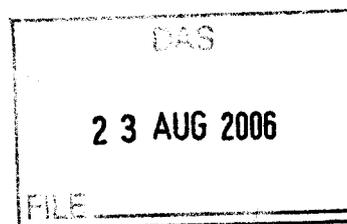
Under the Freedom of Information Act I am making a request for the following items:

1. What departments are involved in any dealings with UFOs and UFO sightings?
2. What are the organizational job roles within these departments and what is the organizational structure of these departments?
3. Which MoD sites/bases are these departments situated?
4. How do those departments fit into the MoD organizational structures?

Many thanks.

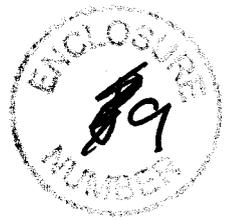
Yours faithfully

Section 40





From: **Section 40**
Directorate of Air Staff – Freedom of Information 1



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**

Section 40

Horsham
West Sussex

Section 40

Your Reference:

Our Reference:
29-08-2006-065857-003

Date:
14 November 2006

Dear **Section 40**

I am writing in response to your request for a copy of the 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 UFOs (also known as UAP) and we are the Department responsible, in conjunction with the Defence Intelligence Staff, for the release of this report. I apologise for the long delay in replying.

In order to make the report available to as many individuals as possible the MOD has scanned this 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: InfoXD@mod.uk).

If you are still unhappy following an internal review, you may be able to 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

A large black rectangular redaction box covers the signature area, with the text 'Section 40' written in orange at the top left corner of the box.

Section 40

GxAITESTPTCDAS

29 August 06

[Home](#)
[My Cases](#)
[Log New Request](#)
[Policy Guidance](#)
[Help](#)

Request: Section 40 29-08-2006-065857-003

Days Left: 21

Received: 29 Aug 06

Expiry Date: 26 Sep 06

Status: Open

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: 29 August 2006

Applicant Details

Title:	Section 40	Other:	
First Name:		*Surname:	Section 40
Organisation:			
Applicant Type:	Not Specified	Other:	

Contact Details (Mailing or email address required)

Address Line1:	Section 40		
Address Line2:	Horsham		
Address Line3:			
Town/City:	west sussex		
Postcode:	Section 40	Country:	United Kingdom
Email:			
Telephone:	Section 40	Fax:	

Section 40

GxAITESTPTCDAS

29 August 06

Home My Cases Log New Request Policy Guidance Help

Request: Section 40 29-08-2006-065857-003
Days Left: 21

Received: 29 Aug 06
 Expiry Date: 26 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:

Language Requested Welsh

*Enter the request for information:

UAP excutive summary in UKADR

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

To be held with 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)
(Switchboard)
(Fax)

Section 40
020 7218 9000

e-mail

Section 40
das-ufo-office@mod.uk

Section 40

Powys
Wales

Section 40

Our Reference

D/DAS/23-08-2006-105244-004

Date

10 November 2006

Dear **Section 40**

Your Freedom of Information request of 14 September 2006 asked for details of when a number of branches within the MoD were established or closed and in my letter of 24 October 2006, I stated I would inform you when I located the information.

I am afraid that I am unable to provide you with exact dates, however, towards the end of 2004 as part of an internal MoD reorganisation, DAO was split up, with a number of its posts migrating over a period of time into CT&UK Ops.

Ops(GE), which was a post within DAO, also went across to CT&UK Ops and is now entitled SO1 Airspace Integrity. Its role did not alter as a result of the transfer.

If this information does not address your requirements 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.

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>

Finally, please accept my apologies for the length of time it is taking to respond to your request. Your patience over this matter has been appreciated

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

Section 40

From: Section 40
Sent: 14 September 2006 21:53
To: DAS-UFO-Office
Cc: Section 40
Subject: Re: Freedom of Information Request 23-08-2006-105244-004

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing in response to my FOI request 23-8-2006-105244-004 which I received a response from Section 40 as quoted at the bottom of this correspondence. I have some additional questions relating to the responses received from Section 40

Q1) Please could you supply me the dates the following departments were established within the MOD and if they were closed, the dates of closure:

- a) The Directorate of Counter Terrorism and UK Operations
- b) Directorate of Air Operations (DAO)
- c) Operations (Ground Environment) (Ops(GE))

Q2) Regarding your response below, you state that 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. You then state that these are assessed by one member of staff who then provides their professional opinion to DAS and usually consists of a brief email confirming that the report contains nothing of defence interest. You then stated that none of the reports forwarded to CTandUKOps in recent years have revealed anything of defence concern.

My questions would be;

- d) Do you have records or a database of which UFO sightings are reported to CT and UK Ops for further examination. If so a summary/index would be requested.
- e) How does the MOD evaluate when or not to send a UFO sighting to the CT and UK Ops for further examination. Please clarify what criteria the MOD use.
- f) As you state, the brief emails received from CT and UK Op usually consist of nothing of defence interest. Please could you send me copies of this correspondence for the last 5 UFO sighting reports sent to CT and UK Ops, or if the FOI request limit of £600 allows, as many as possible. I would suggest that email records are cheaply obtained and should not require much effort to retrieve.

Regards

Section 40

Section 40

Powys,
Wales

Section 40

Section 40 wrote:

- >
- > 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 we 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. None 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
> <<mailto: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>
> <<http://www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk/>>.

> Finally, I should inform you that I will be leaving this post shortly,
> so please ensure that you only use the email address at the bottom of
> this letter for any future correspondence.

> Yours sincerely,

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

Section 40

From: Section 40 Wg Cdr
Sent: 07 November 2006 09:26
To: Section 40
Subject: FW: History of DMO, CT & UK Ops, etc

Section 40

Sorry for the slow response. As you can see from the responses below, there are no records as such we are working from corporate memory which is not as clear as I would have hoped. After all this time that is not much of an answer but not sure what more I can do?

Section 40

Copy of email from Section 40 PCMU:

Sorry guys, I can't help Section 40 (I think she has since married and her name has changed) who was there at the time may remember.

Yours,

Section 40

PCMU-BD
 Security, Business Continuity, H&S

From: Section 40
Sent: 20 October 2006 11:58
To: Section 40 Wg Cdr ; Section 40
Cc: Section 40
Subject: RE: History of DMO, CT & UK Ops, etc

Section 40

Best I can contribute is that I started receiving e-mails from CT and UK Ops addresses at the beginning of July 2004. That may be the latter end of the changeover period, given that there is a lag and some overlap when introducing new addresses, but in the absence of anything better I suggest we use that date. (I will of course be reading those e-mails as soon as I can get round to it, prior to reducing my personal holdings as requested by PCMU),

Section 40

From: Section 40
Sent: 19 October 2006 16:45
To: Section 40 Wg Cdr
Cc: Section 40
Subject: RE: History of DMO, CT & UK Ops, etc

Section 40 is right about the D UK name. It only lasted for a short period before CT&UK OPS came into being. Brig Brown was here from 2002 to Jan 2004 so he was both DMO and D UK. Maybe Section 40

08/11/2006

would know more about the different branch titles.

Section 40

Section 40

PS/Director CT&UK Ops (Policy)
Main Building Section 40
Tel: Section 40
DII : CTandUKOps-DPol-PS
External E-Mail Section 40@mod.uk
GSI Section 40@defence.gsi.gov.uk

From: Section 40 Wg Cdr
Sent: 18 October 2006 18:28
To: Section 40
Subject: FW: History of DMO, CT & UK Ops, etc

Section 40 you throw light on when the CT&UKOps title sprung into being?

From: Section 40
Sent: 18 October 2006 18:26
To: Section 40 Wg Cdr
Subject: FW: History of DMO, CT & UK Ops, etc

Not sure if this answers your question - pls see below,

Section 40

Section 40

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

From: Section 40
Sent: 18 October 2006 15:47
To: CTandUKOps-AD Pol1; CTandUKOps-MACA Resilience Sec
Cc: CTandUKOps-D(Pol)-PS
Subject: History of DMO, CT & UK Ops, etc

Section 40

CT&UKOPS
Section 40
J
OK.

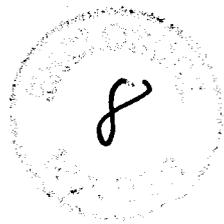
You asked about organizational changes:

We believe DMO (plus DAO and DNO) ceased to exist on or around 31 Aug 03, as 1 Sep 03 was "vesting day" for the then new, combined Pol & Cts organization. It was around then that I inherited 3 military clerks from the Ds of O.

D UK seems to have sprung into existence between Sep and Dec 03 - not sure of precise month. It coexisted with Sec(HSF) for a while before the merger and change of title - perhaps 1 Apr 04?. Perhaps Section 40 might have material that could clarify? E.g. when was Brig. Brown posted in?

Hope this helps.

Section 40 PCMU-Hd, MB4D 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) **Section 40**
 (Switchboard) 020 7218 9000
 (Fax) **Section 40**
 e-mail das-ufo-office@mod.uk

Section 40

Our Reference
 D/DAS/23-08-2006-105244-004
 Date
 24 October 2006

Powys
 Wales

Section 40

Dear **Section 40**

Your Freedom of Information request of 14 September 2006 raised a number of questions that I will answer in order.

You asked for details of when a number of branches within the MoD were established. This is proving to be slightly more difficult to pin down than I had expected but I will write to you with the dates when they become available.

The MoD does not keep a separate record of UFO sightings passed to CT&UK Ops for further evaluation.

All UFO reports are looked at to see if any are of defence concern. A small number such as those from pilots or Air Traffic Control personnel are passed to CT&UK Ops for their further consideration. Additionally, an unusually large number of reports for one night or an unusual pattern of sightings might be cause for further investigation.

I attach copies of the last twelve UFO sightings that were passed to CT&UK Ops together with any supporting correspondence. I should make it clear that communication between DAS and CT&UK ops is frequently by telephone (or occasionally in person) and therefore sometimes no written record exists. You will note that names, addresses and telephone numbers have been redacted as they are not relevant to the information you requested.

If this information does not address your requirements 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.

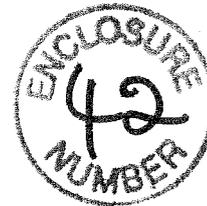
If you are still unhappy following an internal review, you may take your complaint to the Information Commissioner under the provisions of Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act. Please note that the Information Commissioner will not investigate your case until the MOD internal review process has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

Finally, please accept my apologies for the length of time it is taking to respond to your request. I will forward the outstanding information as soon as it becomes available. Your patience over this matter has been appreciated

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

REDACTION ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT



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.

[REDACTED]

DAS-FOI

5-H-Section 40

[REDACTED]

25th August 2005

300

AIR FRANCE
AFR2569

6311

LAS5
F270 SFD/F250 OPR/RA
E

F270

E145/W

T450 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 SWANWICK FL300
How Object was Observed	PILOTS VIEW THROUGH COCKPIT WINDOWS
Direction in which Object was First Seen	TRAVELLING IN FRONT OF A/C TO 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 7500
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.

ATS

Date of Receipt of Report	13 AUG 05	
Time of Receipt of Report	1730	
Actions		Time
Complete report of UFO with as many details as possible and send to FOII		
Telephone details immediately and leave a message on 0207 218 2140.		1910.

m:

omment:

UK AIRPROX BOARD

Start Time:

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

Pages:

2 (except this sheet)

Fax number:

Section 40

REDACTION ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT



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'évènement (*) : 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	Visibilité : 0 m
Nébulosité :		0 ft	QNH : 0 Hpa
6. Temps significatif : turbulences faible	17. IAS / MACH : 1013	18. Altitude : FL 30000 Ft	19. Réf. CRM :
10. Configuration : vertical : autopilote : ON			
A-DV : ON Maintien Altitude latéral : HDG automanette : NC train : UP volets : 0 aérofreins : OFF			
11. RVSM (*) : OUI			
12. Titre de l'évènement (*) : Incident ATC		22. B-RNAV (*) : OUI	
13. Conséquence Exploitation (*) : Sans conséquence			

Description de l'évènement : (description, actions correctives entreprises et résultat) en MAJUSCULES, en français 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 height/level. A manoeuvre to avoid was not performable due to the quickness of crossing. We left the object on the left hand side, and roughly distant from 15 meters. Its size estimated around 2-3 meters wide. I am informed of event.

FAX

 UKAB
 17/8/05



OMON OISEAUX

Anthologique :

Nombre d'oiseaux aperçus :

Nombre d'oiseaux touchés :

Taille 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

Message RA :

Déviation verticale si RA 0

suivi :

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 - FOUDDROIEMENT

Description du foudroiement :

a) VISUELLE :

b) AUDITIVE :

c) ODEURS :

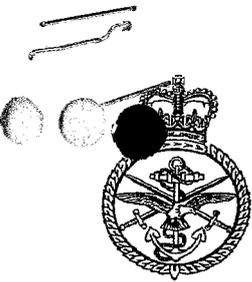
d) AUTRES REMARQUES :

COORDONNEES DU SERVICE ASV :

REGIONAL - ASV / ASR - Aéroport NANTES Atlantique - 44345 ROUGUENNAIS Cedex

Secrétariat Section 40
mail : asv@regional.com

Fax : Section 40



From: Mr [REDACTED]
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) [REDACTED]
(Switchboard) 020 7218 9000
(Fax) Section 40
E-Mail das-laopspol1a@defence.mod.uk

[REDACTED]
Ministry of Defence
SATIC
Armouries Drive
Leeds
LS10 1LT

Your Reference

Our Reference
D/DAS/64/2 ←

Date
9 October 2003

Dear Mr [REDACTED]

Thank you for your letter dated 16 September, in which you provided details of a sighting of an 'unidentified 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

[REDACTED]

LOSE MINUTE

REDACTION ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT

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.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
DAS(LA)Ops+Polla

MT 6/73 **[REDACTED]**

CHOTS: DAS-LA-Ops + Polla

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE SATIC

ARMOURIES DRIVE
LEEDS LS10 1LT

REDACTION ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT

Tel: [REDACTED]

Fax: [REDACTED]

Email: Section 40 [REDACTED]

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 compiled by [REDACTED] who is Section 40 [REDACTED] at the Royal Armouries Museum (we are currently housed in the Royal Armouries as a MoD unit).

I would consider [REDACTED] account to be reliable and worthy of investigation.

Thanking you for your assistance.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

C2
Ministry of Defence

Email [REDACTED]

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 dining 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

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

Subject:

[REDACTED]

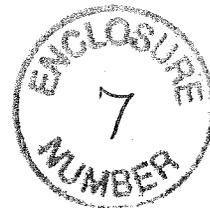
I have reviewed in concert with 2 Gp Staffs, the credible witness report dated 13 Sep (D/DAS/64/2 letter dated 25 Sep 03) and can confirm that the incident does not represent anything of air defence interest.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Wg Cdr
DUK, SO1 Air Ops 2
MT466

[REDACTED]



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 [REDACTED] from New Scotland Yard, through Plt Off [REDACTED] 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

[REDACTED]
Wg Cdr
DUK SO1 Air Ops 2
MT466 [REDACTED]

Action:

Sgt [REDACTED] 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 [REDACTED] wanted to contact me or pass us the address of those reporting the sighting.

19/11/03.

LOOSE MINUTE

REDACTION ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT

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.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

DAS-Sec3
(CHOTS: DAS-LA-Ops+Pol1)
MT6/73 [REDACTED]

REDACTION ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT

Follow-up UFO Report - 170612z Nov 03

UFO report relayed to STCDO from the Duty Surveillance Officer Fg Off [REDACTED] at RAF Neatishead who had received the report from F/Sgt [REDACTED] at Swanick Mil ext [REDACTED] Fg Off [REDACTED] has also passed this report to MOD Sec (AS) 2a and to CAOC 9 - F1t Lt [REDACTED]

F/Sgt [REDACTED] had received the report from Sgt [REDACTED] of New Scotland Yard Ref. No CAD 625
contact Tel No [REDACTED]

'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.'

[REDACTED]
STCDO-C
Ext [REDACTED]

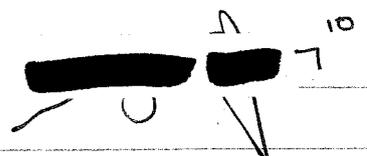
Section 40
[REDACTED]

Message left on DAS answerphone at 05.34 Monday 17th Nov by Pilot Officer [REDACTED] of RAF Neatishead. UFO sighting details as above reported to Neatishead 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 [REDACTED] is on Neatishead Crew Room [REDACTED] or mobile number [REDACTED]

REDACTION ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT

No defence concern.



Wg Cdr
7 Oct 05

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.

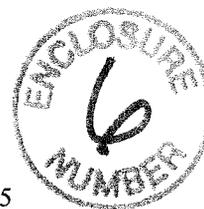
Can you please let me know if any defence concern.

Thank you.

Dar sec.

DAS	
102No.
10 Oct	75
FILE

UNCLASSIFIED



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** ██████████ 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 ██████████ AND PC ██████████ IN CALLSIGN M30P, OTHER OFFICERS NOT NAMED. PC ██████████ 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

UNCLASSIFIED

ENCLOSURE
15
No reply
as a matter
not given

UAS
20 SEP 2005

Ref: CAP 493 - MATS Pt 1, page 6-20

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.

RECIPROCAL 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 SABER 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).

2001

D/DAO/1/13

REDACTION ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT

20 Nov 01

7 A2

DAS(LA)Ops+Polla

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.

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

Wg Cdr
DAO ADGE 1
MT4/51 [Redacted]

DAS
102/No. [Redacted]
20 NOV 2001
[Redacted]

OOOSE MINUTE

D/DAS/64/2

REDACTION ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT

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.

[REDACTED]

DAS(LA)Ops+Polla

MT 6/73 [REDACTED]

CHOTS: DAS-LA-Ops + Polla

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 Metropola Building, Northumberland Avenue London WC2N 5BP Fax No: Section 40
AUTHORISING OFFICER:		TRANSMISSION OPERATOR:	
RANK, NAME & APPOINTMENT:		RANK/GRADE & NAME:	SAC
SIGNATURE:		SIGNATURE:	

A	DATE:	11 Nov 01	TIME:	0840 Z	DURATION OF SIGHTING:	NK
B	DESCRIPTION OF OBJECT:				Sound? NK Smell? NK Other	
	Number 1 Size 10-20M Shape NK Colour Red Brightness NK					
C	EXACT POSITION OF OBSERVER:					
	Geographical location: AIRCRAFT IN FLIGHT - 10NM SW OF SEAFORD UCR/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° 0300° AT FL 160					
F	ANGLE OF SIGHT:					
	BELOW					
G	DISTANCE (By reference to a known landmark if possible):					
	10NM					
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:					
	110855Z NOV 01					



From: Mr [REDACTED] 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)
(Fax) [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
Hamilton,
Scotland
[REDACTED]

Your Reference

Our Reference
D/DAS/64/2 ←

Date
4 December 2001

Dear Mr [REDACTED]

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
[REDACTED]

D/DAO/1/13

REDACTION ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT

20 Nov 01

DAS(LA)Ops+Polla

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.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Wg Cdr
DAO ADGE 1
MT4/51 [REDACTED]

DAS
102No.
21 NOV 2001
FILE

DOOSE 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.

MR [REDACTED]
DAS(LA)Ops+Polla
MT 6/73 [REDACTED]
CHOTS: DAS-LA-Ops + Polla

REDACTION ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT

Report of Unidentified Flying Object

- a) **Date, Time and Duration of Sighting.** 5th Nov. 00:30 - 03:30
- b) **Description of Object** LOOKS LIKE 1/2 SAUCER, MOSTLY WHITE LIGHTS BUT ALSO RED & GREEN
SILENT, APPEARED TO HAVE RINGS AROUND 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.
TOWARD SCRATHAVEN FROM HAMILTON
- f) **Angular Elevation of Object** 045 - 90°.
- g) **Distance of Object from Observer** COULDN'T SAY
- h) **Movements of Object** FROM BEHIND HORIZON 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** [REDACTED] 3 8XA
- n) **Any Background Information on the Informant that may be Volunteered** See L
- o) **Other witnesses** WIFE. PHONED HAMILTON POLICE - NO REPORTS
GLASGOW AIRPORT - NOTHING SEEN
- p) **Date and Time of Receipt of Report** 5th Nov. 0330

D/DAO/1/13

REDACTION ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT

17/2

8 Jan 02

DAS(LA)Ops+Polla

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]

DAS
102No. 08 JAN 2002
FILE

● LOOSE MINUTE

D/DAS/64/2 ✓

REDACTION ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT

† 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 [REDACTED] 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.

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

REDACTION ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT

SOUTH YORKSHIRE POLICE

FROM: PC [REDACTED]

REF:

TO: [REDACTED]

DCU/DEPT: ARMTHORPE

LONDON AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL

EXT: [REDACTED]

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 [REDACTED] on Nutwell 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.

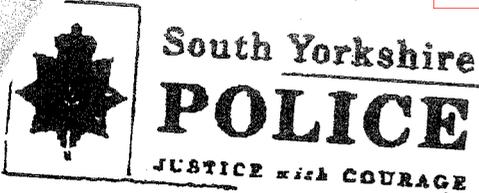
As I have said we were inside a vehicle, the weather was dry and mild, it was very dark and so it was impossible to estimate what speed the object was travelling at, or what the approximate height was, as there was nothing to compare it with. We were stationary approximately 800 metres away from the 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.

[REDACTED]
Police Constable [REDACTED]

REDACTION ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT



ARMTHORPE
MERE LANE
ARMTHORPE
DONCASTER DN3 2DG

Facsimile Transmission

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Date: 22/11/01

To: LONDON AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL

For the attention of: [REDACTED]

Comments:

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

RECEIVED 21 NOV 01
AIS (ML)

Section 40
[REDACTED]

COMMUNICATIONS
CENTRE
21 NOV 2001
WEST DRAYTON

From: PC [REDACTED]

Telephone Number: Section 40
[REDACTED]

FAX: Section 40
[REDACTED]

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

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

South Yorkshire Police - [REDACTED]
Telephone Number - Section 40
[REDACTED]

D/DAO/1/13

REDACTION ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT

25 Oct 02

DAS(LA)Ops+Polla

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

████████████████████
Wg Cdr
DAO ADGE 1
MT4/05 ██████████

LOOSE MINUTE

REDACTION ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT

DAO ADGE 1

D/DAS/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.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
DAS(LA)OPS&POL1

RM 6/73MT [REDACTED]

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

If you have received this communication in error, please telephone the sender immediately, and return the document to us: your cost will be reimbursed. You must not copy the document, show it to anyone else, or otherwise act upon it. Thank you for your co-operation.

FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

From: Inspector [REDACTED] 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.

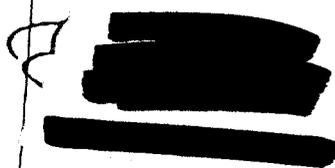
Local Police Officers were alerted and sighted what they believed to be the object being reported by the caller. The below report is from two Police Officers rather than from the initial caller who was reluctant to become involved. Other officers also saw the 'object'.

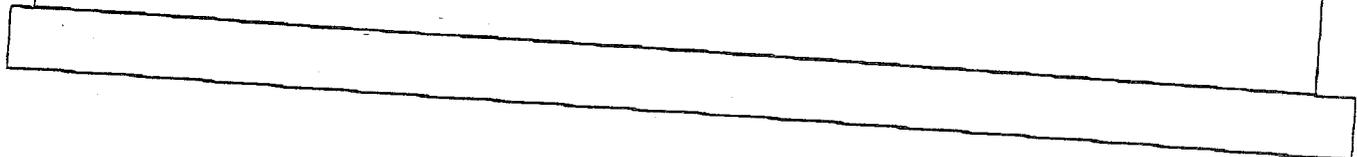
- a) Police Officers involved - PC [REDACTED] and Pc [REDACTED]
- b) 0254 hrs 17/10/02 - duration of approx 45 minutes
- c) Appeared as the size of a 'normal' bright star but of different colours - blue, green, red and white
- d) Viewed from various locations in the Hedon area (east of Hull) from a police 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 emitted 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





D/DAO/1/13

REDACTION ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT

64/2
NSA
19/6

15 Jan 03

DAS(LA)Ops+Polla

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

██████████
Wg Cdr
DAO SO1 Air C2
MT4/05 ██████████

LOOSE MINUTE

REDACTION ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT

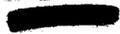
D/DAS/64/2

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.


DAS(LA)Ops+Polla
MT 6/73 
CHOTS: DAS-LA-Ops + Polla

REDACTION ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT

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**
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
- 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

13:52

FROM: BENBECULA ATC **Section 40**

TO **Section 40**

P:2/2

REDACTION ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT

O Other Witnesses

Mr [REDACTED] Senior Security Officer QinetiQ Hebrides Rangers

P Date and Time of Receipt of Report

As A

D/DAO/1/13

REDACTION ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT



9 Jun 03

DAS(LA)Ops+Polla

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

██████████
Wg Cdr
DAO SO1 Air C2
MT4/05 ██████████

COOSE MINUTE

D/DAS/64/2

REDACTION ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT

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.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
DAS(LA)Ops+Polla
MT 6/73 [REDACTED]
CHOTS: DAS-LA-Ops + Polla

REDACTION ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT

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



ed i Air Traffic Manager
Stansted Airport

f [REDACTED] [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

23 April Gp Capt [REDACTED]
DAS-IX-ADU

Flight into Heathrow

Aircraft to the NW of London, holding
Estimated height 3000 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

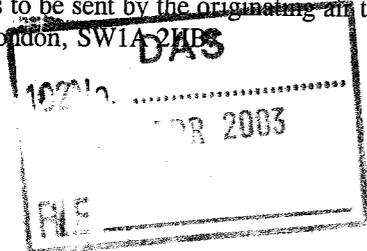
8SD/1/11

R426 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 APPROCH RWY 23 @ STANSTED 970 FT 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.
R426 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° 6 KT CAVOK OAT +4 DP M.01 QNH 1010 mb
- 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. [REDACTED] 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

The details are to be telephoned immediately to AIS (Military), LATCC on Section 40

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



CLOSURE

PRINT 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=

D/DAO/1/13

REDACTION ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT

31/1

69/2
NSA

~~27~~
Sgt [redacted] phoned
me to report
and I explained
our policy
[redacted]
21/1

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

REDACTION ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT

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 [REDACTED] at RAF Cosford.
2. I would be grateful if you could let me know if the report represents anything of air defence interest.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
DAS(LA)Ops+Polla
MT 6/73 [REDACTED]
CHOTS: DAS-LA-Ops + Polla

DAS
102 No. 11 FEB 2003
FILE

REPORT OF AN UNEXPLAINED AERIAL SIGHTING

1.	Date and time of sighting. (Duration of sighting.)	18:15 hrs. 29/1/03 40 seconds.
2.	Description of object. (No of objects, size, shape, colour, brightness, noise.)	 <p>Looked like two triangular shaped objects flying in perfect synchronisation. Low humming noise, not like normal commercial airliner.</p>
3.	Exact position of observer. Geographical location. (Indoors/outdoors, stationary/moving.)	out doors ^{standing} in back garden in Albrighton [REDACTED]
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.	<p>To whom reported. (Police, military, press etc)</p>	<p>None.</p>
10.	<p>Name, address and telephone no of informant.</p>	<p>Sgt [REDACTED] CO RAF Cosford Wolverhampton. [REDACTED] [REDACTED] (TILL MAR 03)</p>
11.	<p>Other witnesses.</p>	<p>ME [REDACTED] RAF COSFORD TRAVELLING FROM TELFORD TO NEWPORT ON A514 APPROX SAME TIME OBSERVED A NUMBER OF WHITE LIGHTS NEAR TO LILLESSTALL</p>
12.	<p>Remarks.</p>	<p></p>
13.	<p>Date and time of receipt.</p>	<p></p>

→

HILL
~~CLARE~~

AITCases

23082006: Section 40 23-08-2006-105244-004

[New Item](#) | [Edit Item](#) | [Delete Item](#) | [Alert Me](#) | [Go Back to List](#)

Title: Section 40 23-08-2006-105244-004

Person_Title: [REDACTED]

First_Name: [REDACTED]

Surname: [REDACTED]

Organisation:

Applicant_Type: Not Specified

Address_Line_1:

Address_Line_2:

Address_Line_3:

TownCity:

Postcode:

Country: United Kingdom

Email: Section 40 [REDACTED]

Telephone:

Fax:

Request_Details: Many thanks for your detailed and quick response to the questions posed.

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 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 non-risk entity?

e) The assessment carried out by 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)

g) You stat 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.

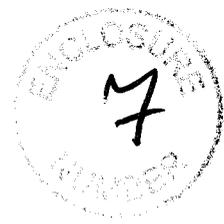
h) Do the UK Military/ MOD share UFO/UAP information with the USA?

I) There are no other MOD reports pertaining to UFOs or UAP that have not yet been requested or released under the FOI Act.

Case_Number: 23-08-2006-105244-004
 Originator: DII Section 40
 User_Group: GxAITESTPTCDAS
 Date_Received: 21/08/2006
 Date_Due: 19/09/2006
 Status: Authorise closing of Calculate Fees Closed
 Responder: DII Section 40
 Vexatious_Type:
 Vexatious_Reason:
 Quick_Response_Type:
 Quick_Resp_Cov_Letter_Issued: No
 Media_Preference_Met: Yes
 Media_Date_Sent: 29/08/2006
 Media_Response_Sent: Yes
 Media_Preference_Comments:
 Closed: Yes
 Date_Closed: 29/08/2006
 Media_Type:
 Requested_Language: English
 Standard_Response_Comment:
 Offline_Assigned_To:
 Offline_Date_Due:
 Offline_Date_Responded:
 Ext_Ref_Department_Name:
 Ext_Ref_Sent_To_PRO:
 Ext_Ref_Date_Sent_To_PRO:
 Ext_Ref_PRO_Accepted:
 Ext_Ref_Date_PRO_Accepted:
 Vexatious_Supporting_Cases:
 Vexatious_Authorised_By:
 Vexatious_Date_Authorised:
 Vexatious_Reference:
 Request_Location:
 Hold_Resp_Reason:
 Hold_Resp_Request_Type:
 Hold_Resp_Date_Response_Expected:
 Hold_Resp_Letter_Sent:
 Hold_Resp_Date_Letter_Sent:

On_Hold:
 Exemption_Applied: No
 Exemptions_Authorised_By:
 Exemptions_Date_Authorised:
 Exemptions_Ref_Number:
 Std_Resp_Authorised:
 Std_Resp_Authorised_By:
 Std_Resp_Date_Authorised:
 Std_Resp_Reference:
 Fees_Total_Cost:
 Fees_Resp_Justification:
 Fees_Resp_To_Applicant:
 Fees_Notice_Details:
 Fees_Refusal_Letter_Details:
 Fees_Notice_Sent:
 Fees_Notice_Date_Sent:
 Fees_On_Hold:
 Fees_Date_Paid:
 Fees_Offline_Authorised_By:
 Fees_Offline_Authorised: No
 Fees_Date_Authorised:
 Fees_Auth_Ref_Number:
 Fees_Online_Authorised_By:
 Fees_Online_Authorised:
 Fees_Ref_Letter_Date_Sent:
 Fees_Refusal_Notice_Sent:
 Fees_Close_Case:
 Attachments: Comments.xml
 SearchResults.html
 Tracing.xml

Created at 23/08/2006 10:52 by AccelK2_svc
 Last modified at 29/08/2006 16:01 by AccelK2_svc



AUTHORISATION FOR THE RELEASE OF INFORMATION

Applicant: Section 40 [redacted]



Case Number: 16-08-2006-142312-004

Expiry: 14/09/2006

The Applicant has made the following request for information:

How many reports of unidentified flying object have been received by the Ministry of Defence concerning sightings in Somerset during the 2003 to present day (June 30 or later, 2006) period?

I would like a breakdown of these figures including date of each sighting, details of where in Somerset each sighting was made, and brief description of the flying objects in each sighting.

Case for release of information

I have informed Section 40 of the MOD's policy on UFOs. I examined our records and found 12 reports of UFO sightings in Somerset of which I put in tables. I have also told him how he can access The National Archives website and the Freedom of Information Publication Scheme website.

Authorisation

I hereby give authorisation for the release of the aforementioned information to the Applicant.

Grade/Rank: Name:.....

Signature.....

Date:.....

Dear **Section 40**

I am writing concerning your Freedom of Information request regarding UFO sightings in Somerset. Your request has been passed to this Department as we are the focal point within the Ministry of Defence for correspondence regarding 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 to the United Kingdom from an external source, and to date no 'UFO' report has revealed such evidence, we do not attempt to identify the precise nature of each sighting reported to us. We believe that rational explanations, such as aircraft lights or natural phenomena, could be found for them if resources were diverted for this purpose, but it is not the function of the MOD to provide this kind of aerial identification service.

With regard to the records the MOD holds of reported UFO sightings, I should inform you that they are not held electronically but are filed on paper files in the order in which they are received and we currently hold records spanning a 25 year period. They are not segregated by geographical area. In order to identify records specifically from Somerset, a manual search of thousands of records would be required and this would exceed the permitted £600 cost limit for compliance with the FOI Act 2000. However, we are currently in the process of compiling a database of UFO sighting reports and this has now been completed for the years 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005 and to date in 2006. I examined these records and found 12 reports from the year 2003 to the present date, and the details are as follows.

30/03/03		Glastonbury	Somerset	Lights were seen in the sky.
28/06/03	23.22	Glastonbury	Somerset	Orange lights moving in a group in a circular motion.

31/07/04	22.45	Shepton Mallet	Somerset	Three very strange, bright orange objects, which were quite large and going in an upward direction.
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20/02/05	09.45	Nr Minehead	Somerset	A 'swishing' sound like a firework was heard and there was a bright green light travelling from East to West. It had a white trail.
20/02/05		Yeovil	Somerset	Bright blue flash in the sky.
20/02/05	09.45	Barrington	Somerset	Saw an amazing blue light travelling very fast across the sky. It left a trail.
20/02/05		Kenton Mandeville	Somerset	A blue flash of light going across the sky.
20/02/05			Somerset	A blue flash in the sky.
20/02/05		East Coker	Somerset	Saw a flying object.
Seen sometime in April 05.		Shepton Mallet	Somerset	Just said - the object looked like a star, but moved very slow sideways.
Seen sometime in August 05.			Somerset	The witness said that there was a bubble like thing in the sky. It flashed across the sky.

Seen sometime in August 06.		Clevedon	Somerset	A globe shaped, lighted object fluttered through the sky. It looked erratic.
-----------------------------	--	----------	----------	--

You may also wish to be aware that there is some information about UFOs available for public viewing. MOD files were routinely destroyed after 5 years until 1967 when they were generally preserved for The National Archives. A few have survived before 1967 and these together with records up to 1977 are now available for public viewing. The National Archives can be contacted at Ruskin Avenue, Kew, Richmond, Surrey TW9 4DU or telephone, 020 8876 3444. The National Archives also have a website giving information about the records they hold and how to access them. This can be found on the internet at <http://nationalarchives.gov.uk>. The Ministry of Defence Freedom of Information website also contains some released information on UFOs. This can be accessed via the internet at: <http://www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/FreedomOfInformation/PublicationScheme>.

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: InfoXD@MOD.uk).

If you are still unhappy following an internal review, you may be able to 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://informationcommissioner.gov.uk>.

Yours sincerely

Section 40

Ministry of Defence
Directorate of Air Staff – Freedom of Information 1
5th Floor, Zone H
Main Building
Whitehall
London
SW1A 2HB

E.mail – das-ufo-office@mod.uk

4/9/06.

Section 40

GxAITESTPTCDAS

17 August 06

Home My Cases Log New Request Policy Guidance Help

Request: Section 40 16-08-2006-142312-004
Days Left: 20

Received: 16 Aug 06
 Expiry Date: 14 Sep 06
 Status: Open

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: 16 August 2006

Applicant Details

Title:	<input type="text" value="Section 40"/>	Other:	<input type="text"/>
First Name:	<input type="text"/>	*Surname:	<input type="text" value="Section 40"/>
Organisation:	<input type="text"/>		
Applicant Type:	<input type="text" value="Not Specified"/>	Other:	<input type="text"/>

Contact Details (Mailing or email address required)

Address Line1:	<input type="text"/>		
Address Line2:	<input type="text"/>		
Address Line3:	<input type="text"/>		
Town/City:	<input type="text"/>		
Postcode:	<input type="text"/>	Country:	<input type="text" value="United Kingdom"/>
Email:	<input type="text" value="Section 40"/>		
Telephone:	<input type="text"/>	Fax:	<input type="text"/>

Section 40

GxAITESTPTCDAS

17 August 06

Home My Cases Log New Request Policy Guidance Help

Request: Section 40 16-08-2006-142312-004

Days Left: 20

Received: 16 Aug 06
Expiry Date: 14 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:

How many reports of unidentified flying objects have been received by the Ministry of Defence concerning sightings in Somerset during the 2003 to present day (June 30 or later, 2006) period?
I would like a breakdown of these figures including date of each sighting, details of where in Somerset each sighting was made, and brief description of the flying objects in each sighting.

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

To be held by the Helpdesk until allocated.

Clear

Back

Next

Cancel



AUTHORISATION FOR THE RELEASE OF INFORMATION

Applicant: Section 40

Case Number: 23-08-2006-094705-002

Expiry: 21/09/2006

The Applicant has made the following request for information:

I would like details of reports of UFO sightings made in the London Borough of Bromley in the last year available.

Please include how many were made, with a month by month break down, where they were sighted and the descriptions given at the time.

Case for release of information

I have informed Section 40 of the MoD's policy on UFOs.

I looked through the files for the past year and found no sighting reports relevant to his FOI request.

I have also informed him that he can look up information on UFOs on The National Archives website and gave him the link on how to access it. Plus that he can look on the Freedom of Information Publication Scheme website.

Authorisation

I hereby give authorisation for the release of the aforementioned information to the Applicant.

Grade/Rank: Name:.....

Signature.....

Date:.....

Dear **Section 40**

I am writing concerning your Freedom of Information request regarding UFO sightings in the London Borough of Bromley in the last year. Your request has been passed to this Department as we are the focal point within the Ministry of Defence for correspondence regarding 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 to the United Kingdom from an external source, and to date no 'UFO' report has revealed such evidence, we do not attempt to identify the precise nature of each sighting reported to us. We believe that rational explanations could be found for them if resources were diverted for this purpose, but it is not the function of the MOD to provide this kind of aerial identification service.

I have examined our records for the relevant period for UFO sighting reports from the London Borough of Bromley, but have found no sighting reports or documentation relevant to your request.

In the meantime, you may wish to be aware that there is some information about UFOs available for public viewing. MOD files were routinely destroyed after 5 years until 1967 when they were generally preserved for The National Archives. A few have survived before 1967 and these together with records up to 1977 are now available for public viewing. The National Archives can be contacted at Ruskin Avenue, Kew, Richmond, Surrey TW9 4DU or telephone, 020 8876 3444. The National Archives also have a website giving information about the records they hold and how to access them. This can be found on the internet at <http://nationalarchives.gov.uk>. The Ministry of Defence Freedom of Information website also contains some released information on UFOs. This can be accessed via the internet at: <http://www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/FreedomOfInformation/PublicationScheme>.

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: InfoXD@MOD.uk).

If you are still unhappy following an internal review, you may be able to 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://informationcommissioner.gov.uk>.

Yours sincerely

Section 40

Ministry of Defence
Directorate of Air Staff – Freedom of Information 1
5th Floor, Zone H
Main Building
Whitehall
London
SW1A 2HB

E.mail – das-ufo-office@mod.uk

6/9/06.

Section 40

GxAITESTPTCDAS

24 August 06

Home My Cases Log New Request Policy Guidance Help

Request: Section 40 23-08-2006-094705-002
Days Left: 20

Received: 23 Aug 06
Expiry Date: 21 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: 23 August 2006

Applicant Details

Title: Section 40 Other:

First Name: *Surname: Section 40

Organisation:

Applicant Type: Not Specified Other:

Contact Details (Mailing or email address required)

Address Line1:

Address Line2:

Address Line3:

Town/City:

Postcode: Country: United Kingdom

Email: Section 40

Telephone: Fax:

Clear

< Back

Next >

Cancel

Section 40

GxAITESTPTCDAS

24 August 06

[Home](#)
[My Cases](#)
[Log New Request](#)
[Policy Guidance](#)
[Help](#)

Request: Section 40 23-08-2006-094705-002
Days Left: 20

Received: 23 Aug 06
 Expiry Date: 21 Sep 06
 Status: Open

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:

Language Requested Welsh

***Enter the request for information:**

I would like details of reports of UFO sightings made in the London borough of Bromley in the last year available. Please include how many were made, with a month-by-month break down, where they were sighted and the descriptions given at the time.

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

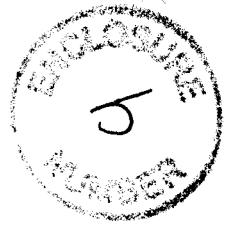
To be held with the helpdesk until allocated

Clear

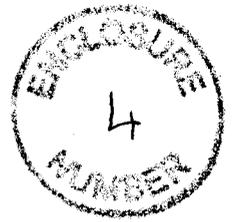
← Back

Next →

Cancel



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



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

Section 40



From: Section 40

Sent: 21 August 2006 08:53

To: Section 40@yahoo.co.uk

Subject: Internet-authorised:Freedom of Information Request 12-07-2006-110222-005

Dear Section 40

I am writing concerning your request for any and all information the Ministry of Defence holds regarding the study, investigation, reporting or documented occurrence of 'Unidentified Flying Objects' (UFO) or 'Unidentified Aerial Phenomena' (UAP). Your email has been passed to this Department as we are the focal point within the MOD for correspondence regarding UFOs.

First, it may be helpful if I explain that the Ministry of Defence 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, about which it remains totally open-minded. I should add that to date the MOD knows of no evidence which substantiates the existence of these alleged phenomena. Any 'UFO' sighting received are examined 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 source, and to date no 'UFO' report has revealed such evidence, we do 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 request for all the information the MOD holds, I should inform you that this department holds details of UFO sightings reported to the MOD and public correspondence about UFOs (some of which also contains sighting reports) spanning a 25 year period. These records are not held electronically, but are filed on paper files in the order in which they were received. Before any of this information can be released personal data has to be removed in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998. Clearly if we were to process copies of all these records the costs would quickly exceed the permitted £600 limit set for compliance with the Freedom of Information Act and as provided by Section 12 of the Act, the Ministry of Defence is not obliged to comply with your request. If however, you could be more specific about the information you are seeking we may be able to assist you.

In the meantime, you may wish to be aware that there is already some information about UFOs available for public viewing. MOD files on UFOs were routinely destroyed after 5 years until 1967 when they were generally preserved for The National Archives. A few have survived before 1967 and these together with records up to 1977 are now available for viewing. The National Archives can be contacted at Ruskin Avenue, Kew, Richmond, Surrey TW9 4DU or telephone, 020 8876 3444. The National Archives also have a website giving information about the records they hold and how to access them. This can be found on the internet at <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk>. The Ministry of Defence Freedom of Information Publication Scheme also contains a number of documents which have been released in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and these can be accessed via the MOD website at <http://www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/FreedomOfInformation/PublicationScheme>. Further information is added to the Scheme whenever possible.

You also requested information / documentation regarding "psychic warfare or psychic experimentation". This is not a subject handled by this Department and we are making enquiries to see if this information is held elsewhere in the MOD. You will received a separate response to this part of your request.

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).

21/08/2006

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>.

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

12-07-2006-110222-005
Keeping 8 Aug 06

Section 40

From: Section 40

Sent: 11 July 2006 11:19

To: Section 40

Subject: FW: FOI Request to MoD -Remote Viewing

Dear Section 40

Here is the FOI, as promised. (Pls. see below).

Thanks

Section 40
SIT SEC4

Section 40

From: Section 40

Sent: 11 July 2006 11:07

To: Section 40

Subject: FW: FOI Request to MoD -Remote Viewing

Section 40

I have spoken to FOI helpdesk and their state that UFO stuff goes to Section 40 in DAS (Directorate of Air Staff). Please discuss transfer to her. I have not put it on the Toolkit, yet.

Section 40

From: Section 40 [redacted]@yahoo.co.uk]

Sent: 08 July 2006 10:40

To: Section 40

Subject: Re: FOI Request to MoD -Remote Viewing

F.A.O: Section 40

Thank you for your reply to my request regarding any and all information pertaining to "remote viewing". I would now like to request any and all information the MoD has regarding the study, investigation, reporting or documented occurrence of UFO (Unidentified Flying Objects) or U.A.F. (Unidentified Aerial Phenomenon) activity. I would like any documents, reports, emails or hand written documentation regarding the investigation of the above topics. I would also request the same documentation pertaining to any U.S. investigations or collaboration regarding the same activity and phenomenon that the MoD is aware of or has been involved with, and any documentation pertaining to psychic warfare or psychic experimentation and investigation as a means to be employed in a military or combat environment or deployment.

Thankyou and regards,

Section 40

Please feel free to mail these to my address of Section 40 Port Talbot, South Wales, Section 40

Section 40 @mod.uk> wrote:

Section 40

The MoD has been seeking information it holds on the subject of "remote viewing" as described in your request for information on 7 June 06. I am sorry to inform you that we have been unable to find any information held on the subject.

If you are dissatisfied 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.

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>

Thank you for your interest in the MoD.

Section 40

science | innovation | technology Secretariat

Section 40

SIT-Sec

MB 01-K-Section 40

science | innovation | technology

Try the all-new Yahoo! Mail . "The New Version is radically easier to use" – The Wall Street Journal

Section 40

From: Section 40
Sent: 27 September 2006 16:29
To: Section 40
Subject: Freedom of Information Request 07-06-2006-092522-003 - Remote Viewing

From: Section 40
Sent: 21 September 2006 11:06
To: Section 40@yahoo.co.uk'
Subject: Internet-authorized: Freedom of Information Request 07-06-2006-092522-003 - Remote Viewing

Dear Section 40

You submitted an FOI request on 7 June asking for any and all files, paperwork, documents, photographs etc about Remote Viewing and received a reply from SIT-Sec on 7 July 2006 stating that the MoD had been unable to find any information held on the subject. I am writing to advise you that, subsequent to that reply, we have identified a document on Remote Viewing. However, in addition to absolute exemption 40 (Personal information), qualified exemptions 27 (International Relations) and 43 (Commercial Interests) of the Freedom of Information Act may apply to this document. As such, it is necessary for us to carry out a Public Interest Test (PIT) to determine whether the public interest in maintaining the exemptions outweighs the public interest in disclosure and this is currently being undertaken.

It is occasionally necessary to extend the 20 working day time limit for issuing a response and, in the case of your request, that time limit will need to be extended. This extra time is needed in order to complete the PIT and undertake the wider consultation that is necessary. The MoD hopes to let you have a final response setting out the findings of the PIT by 31 October or at least an update on progress.

You also submitted a further request on 8 July which, in addition to documents relating to UFO and UAF activity and to which DAS responded on 21 August, asked for any documentation pertaining to psychic warfare or psychic experimentation and investigation as a means to be employed in a military or combat environment or deployment. In answer to that second part of your request, I can confirm that the Ministry of Defence do not hold any papers other than that mentioned above.

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>.

Yours sincerely,

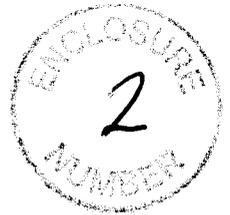
Section 40

28/09/2006

FOI Focal Point
Room 306
Old War Office Building
Whitehall
LONDON
SW1A 2EU



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

Our Reference
14-06-2006-103522-003

Hessle
East Yorkshire
Section 40

Date
23 October 2006

Dear **Section 40**

Further to my colleague **Section 40** letter to you of 18 September concerning outstanding information from your Freedom of Information request regarding background information to 13 Parliamentary Questions, I can now provide you the remainder of the information you requested.

I do not intend to repeat an explanation of the process and considerations required before it was decided to release the remaining information as my predecessor covered the same arguments in her previous letter. However, it has been concluded that the balance of public interest falls in favour of release for all of the requests covered by this letter.

The documents have been redacted to remove the security classifications together with individual names, telephone numbers and some branch titles as they do not form a material part of the information requested. Additionally, information relating to a parliamentary question not included in your request has also been removed.

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>.

Finally, please accept my apologies for the length of time it has taken to complete your request. Your patience has been appreciated.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

AUTHORISATION FOR THE RELEASE OF INFORMATION

Applicant: **Section 40**

Case Number: 14-06-2006-103522-003 Expiry: 25 Aug 06

The Applicant has made the following request for information:

All briefing papers relevant to a number of 1996 PQs – 2117H, 2110H, 2113H, 2122H, 2103H 2103H 2120H

Case for release of information

The information for release includes background notes to a number of PQs. It has been concluded that the balance of public interest is in favour of their release. It is therefore believed there is no reason to withhold this information.

Security classifications have been removed together with the names of living individuals and branches which are not relevant to the information requested.

Due to the number of questions asked at the time, a composite background note was produced. This has been redacted to exclude one PQ that **Section 40** **Section 40** did not request information on.

The request was partially answered on 18 Sep 06. This is the remainder of the information requested.

Authorisation

I hereby give authorisation for the release of the aforementioned information to the Applicant.

Grade/Rank: B2..... Name:..... **Section 40**.....

Authorisation Reference Number: DAS-FOI 08/05.. **Section 40**.....

Date:..... 23/10/06.....

Section 40

From: Section 40

Sent: 13 June 2006 23:06

To: Section 40

Subject: FOIA Enquiry 13-06-06 UFOs

Dear Section 40

Thanks for your various responses and help with my FOIA enquiry of October last year, pertinent to the UAP Condign database and report and other databases of UAPs/UFOs used by MoD.

In one of your email responses (11.11.05), you kindly sent some Word documents containing part of one of the UFO databases (brief descriptions) which DAS employ. This included brief descriptions of UK UFOs reported to the MoD for the years 2002 - 2005. Has DAS since had opportunity to complete any further years for it's UFO database prior to 2002, if so which?

Noticing sections in the Condign report dealing with UAP radar reports, supplemental to my last FOIA enquiry, has any MoD file (or files) relevant specifically to 'UAP/UFO radar' detections ever been compiled containing more than one such radar account? By any MoD branch. (Other than the individual accounts that might be in separate usual chronological MoD UFO/UAP sighting report files). If so, can you please indicate what and what the file descriptions and classifications are? To narrow down this request, I am interested in any such aforementioned files created since the inception of Condign, from 1996-7 onwards.

Separately would you please evaluate the following as a new FOIA enquiry. *14-06-2006-103522-CC3 Enquiry: 12 July 2006*

1. Copies of all papers held by MoD relating to questions on UFOs - (Hansard 17 October 1996), to Prime Minister John Major, including briefing papers. *213414*
2. Copies of 'briefing papers' relevant to Martin Redmond's questions on UFOs in Parliament from:-
 - a) 24 July 1996 "Unidentified Craft" ✓
 - b) 17 October 1996 "Defence Intelligence Branches" question about current function of DI 55 and DI61 etc; "RAF Rudloe Manor" *2117H, 2110H, 2113H, 2122H, 2103H, 2120H*
 - ✓ c) 5 November 1996 "Unidentified Flying Craft" - question on number of RAF encounters with UFOs since 1996. *1966? 2299H*
 - d) 11 November 1996 "Unidentified Flying Objects" question on number of times aircraft scrambled since 1979.
 - e) 12 November 1996 - Unidentified Flying Objects follow up question on Cosford incident, 1993.

In reference to 2, I understand Nicholas Soames made official response, I am not interested in the official reply; but rather want Soames' official briefings given by Sec(AS), DIS and any internal correspondence etc in preparation for his replies.

3. A report of 'aerial phenomena' both a visual and radar sighting, possibly from March 5, 1992 by a Section 40 Shipham has come to my attention. Apparently this was seen by Bristol controllers as a steady return on a radar bearing of 240 true range 4 nautical miles. Can you confirm if this report is filed with the MoD and whether there are any papers or correspondence relevant to it? ✓

Nothing relevant

If the scope of this request is too large Section 40 you please apprise what elements are do-able?

Best Regards

Section 40

Section 40 Hessele.
East Yorkshire.

Section 40

Section 40

14-06-2006-103522-003

DAE 25 August 2006

Clearing House. ✓

PIT letter ✓

Info Retrieved: ✓

~~Min Sub Drafted~~

Clearing House Ref: 5335

Clearing House Contact

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)
(Switchboard)
(Fax)

020 7218 2140
020 7218 9000

e-mail

das-ufo-office@mod.uk

Section 40

Section 40

Hessle
East Yorkshire

Section 40

Our Reference
14-06-2006-103522-003

Date
18 September 2006

Dear **Section 40**

Further to my email message of 24th August concerning outstanding information from your Freedom of Information request regarding background information to 13 Parliamentary Questions, I can now provide you with a substantive response to the majority of these requests. The request listed at paragraph 2(b) of your original request dated 13 June relates to six individual Parliamentary Questions concerning other branches of the MOD who are being consulted about release and a substantive response to these will be sent separately.

On 30 June 2006 I informing you that all of these requests had been considered to fall within the scope of Section 36 (2)(b)(i) - Prejudice to the effective conduct of public affairs, as they relate to information that would, or would be likely to, inhibit the free and frank provision of advice. The MOD was therefore required to consider whether there are overriding reasons why disclosure would not be in the public interest.

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 given in answers provided by Ministers in response to parliamentary questions. All Freedom of Information requests are considered individually on their merits and for each of these Parliamentary Questions, the background material has been judged separately taking into account the age and content of the advice and any likely harm that may be caused by release at this time. It has been concluded that the balance of public interest falls in favour of release for all of the requests covered by this letter. Please therefore find enclosed copies of these documents which have been individually marked to indicate which request they refer to. Some information has been removed as it is not relevant to your request. This consist of internal guidance notes for staff answering parliamentary correspondence, names of officials and information about other 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>.

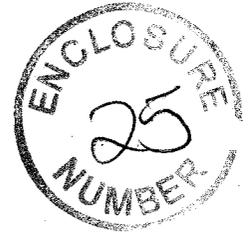
Yours sincerely,

Section 40



64/4

REDACTION ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT



LC/356805/1/F&S

18 Oct 96

Sec(AS)2 - by fax

Copy to:

[Redacted list of recipients]

To:	[Redacted]	
Company:	Sec(AS)2	
From:	[Redacted]	
Company:	CS(FinSec)1	
Tel No.:	[Redacted]	No. of Pages: 4
		Ref No: 7583

PO 2117H: RAF RUDLOE MANOR

1. We discussed the response to the subject Parliamentary Question, one of 26 tabled by Martin Redmond MP about UFO activity. You undertook to craft the responses from lead branch inputs.

2. Attached is the information to answer the PQ, supplied by AOCIS personnel, from which you can form the reply to the MP. However, you should note that the third part of Martin Redmond's question; establishment by rank for the last 10 years, presented some difficulty. Firstly, we do not have the information available for the last 10 years, although we understand that the establishment has not changed significantly over that period. Secondly, and more importantly, our security personnel have advised that the break down of numbers by rank and Unit should not be released into the public domain. You should therefore aim to give totals only for Rudloe Manor as a whole; not broken down by lodger unit.

3. Please ring me if you require any clarification or further detail.

[Redacted signature area]

CS(FinSec)1

[Redacted text]

[Redacted text]

[REDACTED]

REDACTION ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT

LC/120115/CSO

PQ AF 2117H: RAF RUDLOE MANOR

Current Role of Station.

1. RAF Rudloe Manor consists of a parent unit and 6 lodger units. The parent unit is commanded by a Station Commander, who is a Wing Commander of the Administrative Branch, and it provides accommodation, medical, dental, education, catering, transport and other administrative services for the lodger units.
2. Role of the Lodger Units. The lodger units have the following roles:
 - a. No 1 Signals Unit. No 1 SU is an RAF unit which operates and maintains fixed telecommunication services within the UK on behalf of Headquarters Defence Fixed Telecommunications System¹. No 1 SU provide voice and data communications for MOD, RN, Army and RAF establishments throughout the country.
 - b. Detachment of 1001 SU. No 1001 SU is an RAF unit whose role is to operate the UK military communications satellite system. The SU controls the satellites and also operates the communications passing over the satellites. No 1001 SU comprises several sites, one of which is the detachment located at RAF Rudloe Manor, part of this detachment operates from a site at Azimghur Barracks, at Colerne village, close to RAF Rudloe Manor.
 - c. Headquarters Provost and Security Services (UK). HQ P&SS(UK) is an RAF unit which commands the 6 geographical P&SS Regions within the UK, from which the Regional HQs provide specialist Police and Security support to all RAF establishments.
 - d. Headquarters Provost and Security Services (Western Region). HQ P&SS(WR) is an RAF unit which provides specialist Police and Security support to all RAF establishments within an area consisting of the West Midlands, the West Country and South and Mid Wales.
 - e. Controller Defence Communications Network. CDCN is a Tri-Service unit which controls world wide defence communications.
 - f. Bristol University Air Squadron. BUAS provides air experience and flying training for the BUAS cadets. The unit operates from the airfield at Azimghur Barracks.

¹ There are also a small number of staff from HQ DFTS temporarily accommodated at RAF Rudloe Manor whilst their offices are prepared at the adjacent Basil Hill Barracks.
rm-pq.res

REDACTION ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT

[REDACTED]

Role of Station over the last 10 Years.

3. The role of the Station has not varied over the last 10 years, although some of the lodger units have changed as follows:

- a. No 1001 SU Detachment. The 1001 SU Detachment formed in Oct 91.
- b. No 1 SU. No 1 SU came into existence in Apr 93, forming from a staff organisation which originally arrived in Nov 85.
- c. P&SS Units. HQ P&SS(WR) formed in Apr 93, and HQ P&SS(Southern Region), which was then at RAF Rudloe Manor, moved to RAF Halton in Sep 95.
- d. No 6 SU. No 6 SU, a message switching unit, closed in Oct 94.

Establishment by Rank over the last 10 years.

4. Unfortunately, we are unable to provide details of the Establishment figures over the last 10 years because we do not keep historic records. We can however provide the current Establishment figures, which have varied little over the period. The figures are as follows:

Officer Establishment (RESTRICTED):

Unit	Air Cdre	Gp Capt	Wg Cdr	Sqn Ldr	Flt Lt	FO/PO
Rudloe Manor-parent Unit			1	1	4	1
1 SU			1	2	5	0
1001 SU Det				1	2	0
HQP&SS (UK)	1	1	2	7	10	1
HQP&SS (WR)				1	2	
CDCN ²			1	4	8	
BUAS				1	2	3
Total	1	1	5	17	33	5

² Includes equivalent ranks from RN and Army.
rm-pq.res

[REDACTED]

REDACTION ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT

Airman Establishment [REDACTED]

Unit	WO	FS	Chf Tech	Sgt	Cpl	AC
Rudloe Manor- parent Unit	4	4	0	13	29	62
1 SU	3	8	5	31	80	45
1001 SU Det	0	2	3	17	16	11
HQP&SS (UK)	4	18	0	39	47	17
HQP&SS (WR)	1	2	0	9	10	0
CDCN ³	4	3	0	0	4	0
BUAS	0	1	0	1	0	2
Total	16	38	8	110	186	137

Civilian Establishment [REDACTED]

Unit	Non-Industrial	Industrial
Rudloe Manor- parent Unit	39	50
1 SU	20	0
1001 SU Det	1	0
HQP&SS (UK)	103	0
HQP&SS (WR)	2	0
CDCN	5	1
BUAS	4	0
Total	174	51

³ Includes equivalent ranks from RN and Army.
rm-pq.res

Classification

UNCLAS

F Sigs 927
(Int. 9/92)

Caveat

Covering

REDACTION ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT

Facsimile Transmission Cover Sheet

Transmission Details		Document Details
Serial No:	Date and Time of Transmission: 22 14 05L	Reference: PTC/350725 (DCS(6))
From: Simon Ross CS(Sec)3c1	Fax Number: [REDACTED]	Subject: REDMOND PQS
To: Sec (AS) 2 Section 40	Fax Number: [REDACTED]	
		Total number of pages including this cover sheet: 2
Authorizing Officer		Transmit Operators
Rank, Name and Appointment: EO [REDACTED] CS(Sec)3c1		Rank/Grade and Name:
Si Section 40 [REDACTED]		Signature:
<p>M</p> <p><u>Copy to:</u> HQ LC - CS (Fin) (Sec) [REDACTED]</p> <p><u>URGENT</u></p>		

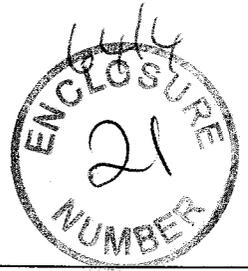
Covering

Caveat

Classification

UNCLAS

REDACTION ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT



Wed 16 Oct, 1996 12:36 mailbox standard Page 1

DATE	FROM	SUBJECT	CODES
16/10/96	[REDACTED]	PQ AF 2117H: RAF RUDLOE MANOR	[]

Intended:

Sent: 16/10/96 at 11:49

Delivered: 16/10/96 at 11:54

To: Parliamentary Questions

CC: SEC(AS)2

Ref: 202

From: [REDACTED]

Auth by:

Subject: PQ AF 2117H: RAF RUDLOE MANOR

Text: Draft response & Background note for subject PQ.

For Sec(AS)2 - Thanks for your help!

[REDACTED]

Priority: Urgent
Reply Request []

SEE PAGE
View Acknowledge []

Attachments [1]
Codes []

LC/356805/1/F&S

Oct 96

Parliamentary Branch*

Copy to:

[REDACTED]

PQ AF2117H: RAF RUDLOE MANOR

1. Please find attached the reply to one of the 26 PQs about 'UFO' issues tabled by Martin Redmond. As stated in the background note, there is insufficient time to collect all the information and assess the collective worth of the responses before the House prorogues. We agree with the Sec(AS) suggestion that Min(AF) provides an interim 'I will write' answer, and this is attached.
2. A full written reply to the subject PQ will be provided within 5 working days. Please advise if any further information is required.

[CHOTS signed]

[REDACTED]
ACS(F&S)
[REDACTED]

PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION

URGENT ACTION REQUIRED

MINISTER REPLYING: MINISTER OF STATE FOR THE ARMED FORCES

PQ REFERENCE: 2117H
PQ TYPE: ORDINARY WRITTEN

SUPPLEMENTARIES REQUIRED?: NO

DATE FOR RETURN TO PARLIAMENTARY BRANCH: 1200 ON WEDNESDAY 16
OCTOBER 1996

LEAD BRANCH: CMD SEC HQLC

MP'S DETAILS: MR MARTIN REDMOND (LABOUR) (DON VALLEY)

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what work is currently undertaken at RAF Rudloe Manor; what work was undertaken in the last 10 years; what was, by rank, the establishment for the last 10 years; and if he will make a statement.

Answer:

I will write to the Hon gentleman.

*DRAFT CLEARED BY Section 40 ACS (F&S) *

BACKGROUND NOTE TO PQ 2117H

This PQ is one of 26 tabled by Martin Redmond about, directly or indirectly, UFOs. Given the large number of questions and the fact that the House prorogues on Thursday, there is insufficient time to collect the information and assess the collective worth of the replies. It is suggested that Min(AF) writes to Mr Redmond and an answer to this effect is attached.

Sec(AS)2 have already provided more detailed background to this raft of PQs.

RUDLOE MANOR/FCF

PQ 2117H

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what work is currently undertaken at RAF Rudloe Manor; what work was undertaken in the last 10 years; what was, by rank, the establishment for the last 10 years; and if he will make a statement.

PQ 2130H

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, if a lodger unit housed within his Department's Flying Complaints Flight specialises in unidentified flying object investigations; and if he will make a statement.



MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
MAIN BUILDING WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2HB
Telephone **Section 40** (Direct Dialling)
0171-218 9000 (Switchboard)



MINISTER OF STATE FOR
THE ARMED FORCES

D/Min(AF)/NS/PQ2117H/96/M

18 October 1996

Kear Martin

I said I would write to you in response to your recent Parliamentary Question (Official Report, 17 October, Col 1092, ... copy attached).

RAF Rudloe Manor consists of a parent unit and five lodger units:

No 1 Signals Unit - providing voice and data communications for MOD, RN, Army and RAF establishments throughout the country;

Detachment of 1001 Signals Unit - operating the UK military communications satellite system. No 1001 SU comprises several sites, one of which is located at RAF Rudloe Manor;

Headquarters Provost and Security Services (UK) - a RAF unit commanding the six geographical P&SS Regions within the UK;

Headquarters Provost and Security Services (Western Region) - providing specialist Police and Security support to all RAF establishments within the West Midlands, the West Country and South and Mid Wales;

Controller Defence Communications Network - a tri-service unit controlling world wide defence communications.

Rudloe Manor also has a parenting responsibility for Bristol University Air Squadron and No 3 Air Experience Flight, which operate from the airfield at Colerne.

Martin Redmond Esq MP





The role of the station over the last 10 years has not varied, although some of the lodger units have changed:

- a. No 1001 Detachment formed in Oct 91;
- b. No 1 SU came into existence in Apr 93, forming from a staff organisation which originally arrived in Nov 85;
- c. HQ P&SS(WR) formed in Apr 93, and HQ P&SS (Southern Region), which was then at RAF Rudloe Manor, moved to RAF Halton in 1995;
- d. No 6 SU, a message switching unit, closed in Oct 94;

Information on the establishment of the Station is not available for security reasons in the form requested. However, I can tell you that it comprises 557 Service and 225 civilian personnel.

I shall arrange for a copy of this letter to be placed in the ... Library of the House.

Section 40

THE HON NICHOLAS SOAMES MP





MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
MAIN BUILDING WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2HB
Telephone **Section 40** (Direct Dialling)
0171-218 9000 (Switchboard)

ENCLOSURE
37/2
NUMBER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR
THE ARMED FORCES

D/Min(AF)/NS/PQ2117H/96/M

18th October 1996

Martin Redmond

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Martin Redmond Esq MP





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Section 40

THE HON NICHOLAS SOAMES MP



64/4

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
MAIN BUILDING WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2HB
Telephone **Section 40** (Direct Dialling)
0171-218 9000 (Switchboard)



MINISTER OF STATE FOR
THE ARMED FORCES

D/Min(AF)/NS/PQ2103H/2110H/2113H/
2120H/2122H/96/M

28th October 1996

Nick Soames

I am writing as promised in my answers of 17 October to your Parliamentary Questions (Official Report, col 1092, copy ... attached) about the functions of a number of Defence Intelligence branches.

It has been the policy of successive Governments not to provide information on the functions of individual intelligence branches when this discloses the more recent nature of their duties.

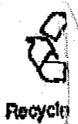
I shall arrange for a copy of this letter to be placed in the Library of the House.

Nick Soames

Section 40
[Redacted]

THE HON NICHOLAS SOAMES MP

Martin Redmond Esq MP



(3) what research has been conducted on behalf of his Department by the national poisons information service into the causes of Gulf war syndrome. [41292]

Mr. Soames: I will write to the hon. Members and a copy of the letter will be placed in the Library of the House.

Mr. Nicholas Pope

Mr. Redmond: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence to what post Mr. Nicholas Pope was appointed by his Department after his tour of duty with Secretariat (Air Staff) Department 2A; and if he will make a statement. [40920]

Mr. Soames: Mr. Nicholas Pope was posted on promotion two years ago to a general finance policy branch.

Uranium-tipped Shells

Dr. David Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the current risk posed to civilians from exploded depleted uranium-tipped shells in Kuwait. [41101]

Mr. Arbuthnot: My Department has conducted no formal assessment of the risks to civilians from exploded depleted uranium-tipped ammunition in Kuwait.

Dr. Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make a statement concerning the risk to soldiers of handling depleted uranium-tipped shells. [41100]

Mr. Soames: Depleted uranium has a very low level of radioactivity and the risks attached to the handling of depleted uranium ammunition are minimal.

Dr. Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the 1991 Atomic Energy Authority report on industrial technology concerning the risk of exposure to exploded depleted uranium-tipped shells. [41102]

Mr. Soames: I refer the hon. Member to the letter sent by my noble Friend the Under-Secretary of State for Defence to the hon. Member for Blaenau Gwent (Mr. Smith) on 7 August 1996, a copy of which has been placed in the Library of the House.

Dr. Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many depleted uranium-tipped shells were fired by British forces during the Gulf war; and what assessment he has made of the number of exploded shells remaining in Kuwait. [41099]

Mr. Soames: British forces fired some 88 depleted uranium shells during the Gulf conflict. The Ministry of Defence has made no assessment of the number of exploded shells remaining in Kuwait, as we judge the risk to human health posed by DU rounds to be negligible. It is likely, though, that a large proportion of the 88 shells was expended in Iraq rather than Kuwait.

Mr. Llew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what studies have been conducted by his Department into the nephrotoxicity of the inhalation of uranium particles. [41296]

Mr. Soames: I will write to the hon. Member and a copy of the letter will be placed in the Library of the House.

Married Quarters Estate

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what are the locations of the houses from the married quarters estate that have been released to Arrington Homes for immediate use by the private sector. [40931]

Mr. Arbuthnot: I will write to the hon. Member and a copy of the letter will be placed in the Library of the House.

RAF Rudloe Manor

Mr. Redmond: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what work is currently undertaken at RAF Rudloe Manor; what work was undertaken in the last 10 years; what was, by rank, the establishment for the last 10 years; and if he will make a statement. [40823]

Mr. Soames: I will write to the hon. Member and a copy of the letter will be placed in the Library of the House.

Defence Intelligence Branches

Mr. Redmond: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what is the current function of DI55 SIG; what was its function (a) five years and (b) 10 years ago; and if he will make a statement; [41040]

(2) what is the current function of DI65B; what was its function (a) five years and (b) 10 years ago; and if he will make a statement; [41038]

(3) what is the current function of DI55; what was its function (a) five years and (b) 10 years ago; and if he will make a statement; [41041]

(4) what is the current function of DI61E; what was its function (a) five years and (b) 10 years ago; and if he will make a statement; [41037]

(5) what is the current function of DI10; what was its function (a) five years and (b) 10 years ago; and if he will make a statement. [41039]

Mr. Soames: I will write to the hon. Member and a copy of the letter will be placed in the Library of the House.

Unidentified Flying Objects

Mr. Redmond: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what consultation has taken place in each of the last five years by his Department with the French Ministry of Defence Centre National d'Etudes Spatiales in respect of unidentified flying objects; and if he will make a statement; [41048]

(2) if a lodger unit housed within his Department's Flying Complaints Flight specialises in unidentified flying object investigations; and if he will make a statement; [41036]

(3) how many records currently held by his Department's Scientific Intelligence Branch are under extended closure for (a) 50 years, (b) 75 years and (c) 100 years; how many of these records refer to unidentified flying objects; and if he will make a statement; [40911]

REDACTION ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT



LOOSE MINUTE

D/Sec(AS)/64/4



24 Oct 96

Parliamentary Branch *

* Annexes A, B, C
by E Mail to
follow.

Copy to:

[Redacted names]

MARTIN REDMOND PQs - 'UFOs'

1. I attach substantive draft replies for the raft of PQs tabled by Martin Redmond last week relating directly, or indirectly, to 'UFOs'. So far as the latter is concerned, Annexes A and B are letters for Minister(AF) to send to Mr Redmond; Annex C deals specifically with 'UFO' matters and is for USofs to send to the MP.

BACKGROUND

2. Abnormal phenomena and 'UFOs' have been something of a media fashion this year, partly stoked by a book by a MOD employee, Mr Nicholas Pope, 'Open Skies, Closed Minds'. The book seeks an investigation into so-called 'UFOs'. It may be that Mr Redmond is seeking to establish if the MOD has taken note of Mr Pope's concerns. Mr Pope is now writing a follow up book on 'human encounters with aliens' and we might, therefore, expect Parliamentary and media interest to continue.

DEFENCE INTELLIGENCE MATTERS

3. At Annex A is a draft reply for Minister(AF) to send to Mr Redmond in response to the five Questions seeking information on Defence Intelligence branches. They do not specifically mention 'UFOs'.

4. DI55 is the branch responsible for studying aerodynamic missiles. It is known publicly that they are also consulted by Sec(AS) from time to time on aerial phenomena. The other Defence Intelligence branches referred to in Mr Redmond's questions have ceased to exist, some of them many years ago. They may have been identified by researchers from files in the Public Record Office which included details of a DIS reorganisation.

RAF RUDLOE MANOR

5. At Annex B is a separate draft reply for Minister(AF) to send to Mr Redmond about the role of RAF Rudloe Manor. Again, there is no specific mention of 'UFOs' in this question and we believe it appropriate, once more, to avoid creating a link not made by the MP. Although the Flying Complaints Flight, based at RAF Rudloe Manor was responsible until 1992 for collecting 'UFO' reports made to RAF stations and passing them to Sec(AS), the 'UFO' lobby continue to misrepresent RAF Rudloe Manor as a 'UFO' investigation unit, despite numerous attempts by the Department to dispel this myth. The extent of Rudloe Manor's involvement in the 'UFO' reporting process these days, in common with all other RAF stations, is to note down the details of any reports made in its local area and forward them to Sec(AS).

MOD 'UFO' POLICY; DISCUSSIONS WITH OTHER GOVERNMENTS; ARCHIVED RECORDS; RAF FLYING COMPLAINTS FLIGHT (FCF)

6. At Annex C is a draft reply for US of S to send to Mr Redmond in response to the remaining 15 Questions, all of which include reference to 'UFO' matters. We have grouped these in logical order. Although Question 14 does not specifically mention 'UFOs', examination of the letter cited by the MP reveals 'UFOs' to be the subject matter.

7. For completeness, I attach at Annex D, three questions tabled by Mr Redmond which are being answered by the FCO.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Head of Sec(AS)

[REDACTED]

ANNEX A TO
D/SEC(AS)/64/4
DATED OCT 96

DRAFT REPLY FROM MINISTER(AF) TO MARTIN REDMOND MP

D/Min(AF)/

October 1996

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THE HON NICHOLAS SOAMES

Martin Redmond Esq. MP

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(3) what is the current function of DI55; what was its function (a) five years and (b) 10 years ago; and if he will make a statement; [41041]

(4) what is the current function of DI61E; what was its function (a) five years and (b) 10 years ago; and if he will make a statement; [41037]

(5) what is the current function of DI10; what was its function (a) five years and (b) 10 years ago; and if he will make a statement. [41039]

Mr. Soames: I will write to the hon. Member and a copy of the letter will be placed in the Library of the House.

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(2) if a lodger unit housed within his Department's Flying Complaints Flight specialises in unidentified flying object investigations; and if he will make a statement; [41036]

(3) how many records currently held by his Department's Scientific Intelligence Branch are under extended closure for (a) 50 years, (b) 75 years and (c) 100 years; how many of these records refer to unidentified flying objects; and if he will make a statement; [40911]

ANNEX B TO
D/SEC(AS)/64/4
DATED OCT 96

DRAFT LETTER FROM MINISTER(AF) TO MARTIN REDMOND MP

D/Min(AF)/

October 1996

I said I would write to you in response to your recent Parliamentary Question (Official Report, 17 October, Col 1092, copy attached).

RAF Rudloe Manor consists of a parent unit and five lodger units:

No 1 Signals Unit - providing voice and data communications for MOD, RN, Army and RAF establishments throughout the country.

Detachment of 1001 Signals Unit - operating the UK military communications satellite system. No 1001 SU comprises several sites, one of which is located at RAF Rudloe Manor.

Headquarters Provost and Security Services (UK) - a RAF unit commanding the six geographical P&SS Regions within the UK.

Headquarters Provost and Security Services (Western Region) - providing specialist Police and Security support to all RAF establishments within the West Midlands, the West Country and South and Mid Wales.

Controller Defence Communications Network - a tri-service unit controlling world wide defence communications.

Rudloe Manor also has a parenting responsibility for Bristol University Air Squadron and No 3 Air Experience Flight, which operate from the airfield at Colerne.

The role of the station over the last 10 years has not varied, although some of the lodger units have changed:

- a. No 1001 Detachment formed in Oct 91.
- b. No 1 SU came into existence in Apr 93, forming from a staff organisation which originally arrived in Nov 85.
- c. HQ P&SS(WR) formed in Apr 93, and HQ P&SS (Southern Region), which was then at RAF Rudloe Manor, moved to RAF Halton in 1995.
- d. No 6 SU, a message switching unit, closed in Oct 94.

Information on the establishment of the Station is not available for security reasons in the form requested. However, I can tell you that it comprises 557 Service and 225 civilian personnel.

I shall arrange for a copy of this letter to be placed in the Library of the House.

THE HON NICHOLAS SOAMES

Martin Redmond Esq. MP

(3) what research has been conducted on behalf of his Department by the national poisons information service into the causes of Gulf war syndrome. [41292]

Mr. Soames: I will write to the hon. Members and a copy of the letter will be placed in the Library of the House.

Mr. Nicholas Pope

Mr. Redmond: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence to what post Mr. Nicholas Pope was appointed by his Department after his tour of duty with Secretariat (Air Staff) Department 2A; and if he will make a statement. [40920]

Mr. Soames: Mr. Nicholas Pope was posted on promotion two years ago to a general finance policy branch.

Uranium-tipped Shells

Dr. David Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the current risk posed to civilians from exploded depleted uranium-tipped shells in Kuwait. [41101]

Mr. Arbuthnot: My Department has conducted no formal assessment of the risks to civilians from exploded depleted uranium-tipped ammunition in Kuwait.

Dr. Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make a statement concerning the risk to soldiers of handling depleted uranium-tipped shells. [41100]

Mr. Soames: Depleted uranium has a very low level of radioactivity and the risks attached to the handling of depleted uranium ammunition are minimal.

Dr. Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the 1991 Atomic Energy Authority report on industrial technology concerning the risk of exposure to exploded depleted uranium-tipped shells. [41102]

Mr. Soames: I refer the hon. Member to the letter sent by my noble Friend the Under-Secretary of State for Defence to the hon. Member for Blaenau Gwent (Mr. Smith) on 7 August 1996, a copy of which has been placed in the Library of the House.

Dr. Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many depleted uranium-tipped shells were fired by British forces during the Gulf war; and what assessment he has made of the number of exploded shells remaining in Kuwait. [41099]

Mr. Soames: British forces fired some 88 depleted uranium shells during the Gulf conflict. The Ministry of Defence has made no assessment of the number of exploded shells remaining in Kuwait, as we judge the risk to human health posed by DU rounds to be negligible. It is likely, though, that a large proportion of the 88 shells was expended in Iraq rather than Kuwait.

Mr. Llew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what studies have been conducted by his Department into the nephrotoxicity of the inhalation of uranium particles. [41296]

Mr. Soames: I will write to the hon. Member and a copy of the letter will be placed in the Library of the House.

Married Quarters Estate

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what are the locations of the houses from the married quarters estate that have been released to Arrington Homes for immediate use by the private sector. [40931]

Mr. Arbuthnot: I will write to the hon. Member and a copy of the letter will be placed in the Library of the House.

RAF Rudloe Manor

Mr. Redmond: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what work is currently undertaken at RAF Rudloe Manor; what work was undertaken in the last 10 years; what was, by rank, the establishment for the last 10 years; and if he will make a statement. [40823]

Mr. Soames: I will write to the hon. Member and a copy of the letter will be placed in the Library of the House.

Defence Intelligence Branches

Mr. Redmond: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what is the current function of DI55 SIG; what was its function (a) five years and (b) 10 years ago; and if he will make a statement; [41040]

(2) what is the current function of DI65B; what was its function (a) five years and (b) 10 years ago; and if he will make a statement; [41038]

(3) what is the current function of DI55; what was its function (a) five years and (b) 10 years ago; and if he will make a statement; [41041]

(4) what is the current function of DI61E; what was its function (a) five years and (b) 10 years ago; and if he will make a statement; [41037]

(5) what is the current function of DI10; what was its function (a) five years and (b) 10 years ago; and if he will make a statement. [41039]

Mr. Soames: I will write to the hon. Member and a copy of the letter will be placed in the Library of the House.

Unidentified Flying Objects

Mr. Redmond: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what consultation has taken place in each of the last five years by his Department with the French Ministry of Defence Centre National d'Etudes Spatiales in respect of unidentified flying objects; and if he will make a statement; [41048]

(2) if a lodger unit housed within his Department's Flying Complaints Flight specialises in unidentified flying object investigations; and if he will make a statement; [41036]

(3) how many records currently held by his Department's Scientific Intelligence Branch are under extended closure for (a) 50 years, (b) 75 years and (c) 100 years; how many of these records refer to unidentified flying objects; and if he will make a statement; [40911]

ANNEX C TO
D/SEC(AS)/64/4
DATED OCT 96

DRAFT LETTER FROM US of S TO MARTIN REDMOND MP

D/USofS)/

October 1996

In response to a number of Questions you recently asked about 'UFO' matters (Official Report, cols 1092-1093 and 1095, copies attached) Nicholas Soames said that he would be writing to you. I am, however, replying as the Minister responsible for these issues. A full list of the Questions is attached at Annex. I have added a separate number sequence from one to fifteen and use this in the following paragraphs for ease of reference and clarification.

The MOD's interest in 'unexplained' aerial phenomena (Question 1) is limited to whether the UK Air Defence Region might have been compromised. Unless there is any evidence that this is the case, and to date no sighting has provided such evidence, we do not investigate further or seek to provide an explanation for what might have been observed. We have no expertise or role with respect to 'UFO/flying saucer' matters and, so far as the existence or otherwise of extraterrestrial lifeforms is concerned, we remain open minded but know of nothing that proves they exist. Our policy in this respect has not changed during the last thirty years.

RAF Standing Instructions (Question 2) require all RAF Station Commanders to forward reports of all 'UFO' sightings

whether made by members of the public or on-duty service personnel to the Secretariat (Air Staff), Branch 2a. Sec(AS)2a look at all 'UFO' sighting reports (Question 3) whether military or civilian reported. Reports are assessed in consultation with other MOD branches as required to determine whether there is any defence interest in what has been reported. Over the last twelve months there has been one instance of an on-duty member of the services reporting an 'unexplained' aerial sighting, and this was not judged to be of any significance.

We have no evidence (Question 4) that any structured craft of unknown origin has penetrated the UK's Air Defence Region. I am unable to provide the information you seek about reports of alleged landings (Question 5) since records are maintained only of 'UFO' sighting reports which are not broken down further into specific categories.

You ask at Questions 2a, 2b and 6-12 about collaboration and consultation with a number of foreign governments. My Department has regular discussions with a number of countries on a wide range of topics of mutual interest but such discussions have not extended to 'UFO/flying saucer' issues or the existence or otherwise of extraterrestrial life forms.

I can confirm (Question 13) that my Department's Scientific Intelligence Branch holds no records under extended closure for any period in excess of 30 years. So far as the information sought at Question 14 is concerned, the PRO has confirmed that the class list giving details of preserved records is available to researchers at Kew.

Finally, I can also confirm (Question 15) that there is no unit within the Flying Complaints Flight (FCF) based at RAF Rudloe Manor (or anywhere else) specialising in investigations into unidentified flying objects. I should add that despite continuing misunderstandings about the role of RAF Rudloe Manor in alleged 'UFO' investigations, the Station is not and never has been involved in this way.

I shall arrange for a copy of this letter to be placed in the Library of the House.

The Earl Howe

Martin Redmond MP

17 OCTOBER 1996

Unidentified Flying Objects

1093

Written Answers

10. Mr. Redmond: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what consultation has taken place in each of the last five years by his Department with the French Ministry of Defence Centre National d'Etudes Spatiales in respect of unidentified flying objects; and if he will make a statement: [41048]
15. (2) if a lodger unit housed within his Department's Flying Complaints Flight specialises in unidentified flying object investigations; and if he will make a statement: [41036]
13. (3) how many records currently held by his Department's Scientific Intelligence Branch are under extended closure for (a) 50 years, (b) 75 years and (c) 100 years; how many of these records refer to unidentified flying objects; and if he will make a statement: [40911]
11. (4) what consultation has taken place in each of the last five years by his Department with the Royal Australian air force in respect of unidentified flying objects; and if he will make a statement: [41042]
7. (5) what consultation has taken place in each of the last five years by his Department with the Spanish Ministry of Defence's intelligence section of the Spanish air forces air operations command in respect of unidentified flying objects; and if he will make a statement: [41050]
1. (6) if he will make statement on his Department's policy towards unidentified flying objects and on how this has developed during the past 30 years; [40913]
6. (7) what co-operation there is between the Royal Air Force and the United States air force in respect of establishing the facts relating to unidentified flying objects; and if he will make a statement: [40918]
5. (8) how many alleged landings by unidentified flying objects have been recorded in each year since 1980 and this year to date; how many have been investigated by his Department's personnel; which of these had been traced by radar and with what result; and if he will make a statement: [40921]
8. (9) what consultation has taken place in each of the last five years by his Department with the Italian Ministry of Defence air force general staff (2. Department) in respect of unidentified flying objects; and if he will make a statement: [41049]
2. (10) what instructions have been sent to the commanders of Royal Air Force stations to collect reports from air crews having allegedly sighted unidentified flying objects; what inquiries have been held following such sightings; to what extent there has been collaboration between his Department and departments in (a) Canada and (b) the United States of America on this problem; and if he will make a statement: [40917]
12. (11) what consultation has taken place in each of the last five years by his Department with New Zealand's Ministry of Defence in respect of unidentified flying objects; and if he will make a statement: [41043]
9. (12) what consultation has taken place in each of the last five years by his Department with the Portuguese Ministry of Defence's joint staff of the armed forces intelligence division in respect of unidentified flying objects; and if he will make a statement: [41051]
3. (13) how many instances of unidentified flying objects have been reported on by the defence services of the United Kingdom during the last 12 months; what steps are taken to co-ordinate such observations; and if he will make a statement: [40910]
4. (14) if he will list by year for the last 30 years how many structured craft of unknown origin have penetrated the United Kingdom's air defence region; and if he will make a statement. [40919]

Mr. Soames: I will write to the hon. Member and a copy of the letter will be placed in the Library of the House.

1095

Written Answers

Mr. Nicholas Redfern

14. Mr. Redmond: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will list the titles of the records of the Ministry of Defence's scientific intelligence branch in respect of correspondence sent to Mr. Nicholas Redfern by the Public Record Office, Kew on 21 September 1990. [40889]

Mr. Soames: I will write to hon. Member and a copy of the letter will be placed in the Library in the House.

Dr. Liam Fox: The Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, my right hon. Friend the Member for Richmond and Barnes (Mr. Hanley), shall write to the hon. Member shortly. Copies of the letter will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Unidentified Flying Objects

Mr. Redmond: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) what consultation has taken place in each of the last five years by his Department with the French Service de Documentation Extérieur et de Contre-Espionnage in respect of unidentified flying objects; and if he will make a statement; [40970]

(2) if he will list by month for each of the last 10 years, and this year to date, the number of occasions that MI6 has monitored unidentified flying objects investigations; and if he will make a statement; [40981]

(3) if he will list by month for each of the last 10 years and this year to date the number of occasions on which the Government Communications headquarters has monitored unidentified flying object investigations; and if he will make a statement. [40922]

Mr. David Davis: I shall write to the hon. Member shortly. Copies of the letter will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Consultants

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what are his latest estimates of the expenditure on all external consultants, including management consultants, for each year since 1992, in 1996 prices, for his Department and its agencies; and what are the quantified annual cost savings which such expenditure has resulted in. [41178]

Dr. Liam Fox: The Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs Office, my right hon. Friend the Member for Richmond and Barnes (Mr. Hanley), shall write to the hon. Member shortly. Copies of the letter will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

New Buildings and Premises

Mrs. Bridget Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what was the total expenditure on new buildings and premises by his Department and its agencies; and if he will indicate the square footage of new office space purchased or newly rented in each of the last five years. [41144]

Dr. Liam Fox: The Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, my right hon. Friend the Member for Richmond and Barnes (Mr. Hanley), shall write to the hon. Member shortly. Copies of the letter will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Telephone Interceptions

Mr. Redmond: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will list for each of the last 12 months the number of (a) interceptions and (b) monitorings of telephone calls (i) entering or (ii) leaving the United Kingdom, through the joint

Government Communications headquarters—National Security Agency agreement; and if he will make a statement. [40972]

Dr. Liam Fox: The Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, my right hon. Friend the Member for Richmond and Barnes (Mr. Hanley), shall write to the hon. Member shortly. Copies of the letter will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Nuclear Weapons

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the implications for United Kingdom policy on the use of nuclear weapons of the decision of the International Court of Justice on nuclear weapons. [41224]

Mr. David Davis: I shall write to the hon. Member shortly. Copies of the letter will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Combined Heat and Power

Mr. Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what capacity of electricity used in his Department's buildings is generated in a combined heat and power plant; and what plans he has to increase that capacity. [41321]

Dr. Liam Fox: The Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, my right hon. Friend the Member for Richmond and Barnes (Mr. Hanley), shall write to the hon. Member shortly. Copies of the letter will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

DEFENCE

Religious Discrimination (Catterick Camp)

Mr. Galbraith: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what reports he has received of religious discrimination at Catterick camp during June and July; and if he will make a statement. [40766]

Mr. Soames: There have been no reported incidents of religious discrimination at Catterick Camp during June and July. However, we treat any allegations of discrimination extremely seriously and if the hon. Member can provide any information which suggests that religious discrimination has taken place at Catterick Camp it will, of course, be fully investigated.

Suicides

Mr. Galbraith: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to his answer of 16 May to the hon. Member for South Shields (Dr. Clark), *Official Report*, column 559, if he will break down the number of suicides in the armed forces by (a) year and (b) service for each year since 1991. [40767]

Mr. Soames: Since January 1991 the total number of service personnel who have been confirmed as committing suicide is 130, which is broken down as follows:

[REDACTED]

REDACTION ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT



LOOSE MINUTE

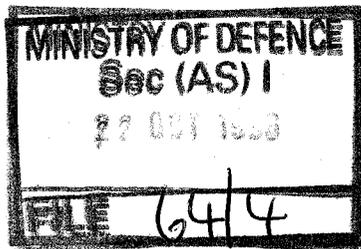
D/DI(SEC)6/1

18 October 1996

Sec(AS)2

Copy to :

AD/DI55
DI54



PARLIAMENTARY QUESTIONS ON 'UFOs' - MARTIN REDMOND

1. There is very little that I can offer for inclusion in the letter you are coordinating for reply to Martin Redmond. In response to the questions he posed specifically about Defence Intelligence I would suggest the following:

"The departmental titles you asked about are in a series which delineate Defence Intelligence Staff branches, sections and desks although not all of them were extant during the timeframe you specified. It has been the policy of successive Governments not to provide information on the functions of individual intelligence branches when this discloses the more recent nature of their duties. However I can confirm that intelligence is studied on threats to the UK Air Defence Region to establish whether it might have been compromised by foreign military aircraft or weapons. I can also confirm that the Defence Intelligence Staff do not consult the intelligence staff of our Allies on unidentified flying objects."

2. For the background brief, which I believe should be classified CONFIDENTIAL, I suggest you may wish to tell Secretary of State the following:

"The Defence Intelligence branch titles have ceased to exist, some of them many years ago, except for DI55. There are two files in the Public Records Office dating from the late 1960s/early 1970s which include details of a DIS reorganisation which may have provided researchers with the titles. DI55 is the branch responsible for studying aerodynamic missiles. They are also the DIS repository for UFO reports forwarded by Sec(AS). There is no evidence that UFOs, in the 'flying saucer' context, are a threat but the reports are filed in case they provide useful collateral in explaining more tangible events.

The DIS does not exchange or discuss information on UFOs with its intelligence allies since it is not relevant to the

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

substantive analytical and assessment work which is shared."

REDACTION ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT

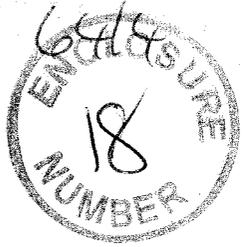
[REDACTED]

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DDI SEC.

[REDACTED]

REDACTION ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT



Wed 16 Oct, 1996 12:36 mailbox standard Page 1

DATE	FROM	SUBJECT	CODES
16/10/96	DDISEC	DRAFT PQ ANSWERS : `UFOs`	[]

Intended:

Sent: 16/10/96 at 11:47 Delivered: 16/10/96 at 11:48

To: Parliamentary Questions

CC: SEC(AS)2

Ref: 188

From: DDISEC

Auth by:

Subject: DRAFT PQ ANSWERS : `UFOs`

Text: Please find attached our draft answers and background note to PQs 2103H,2105H,2110H,2113H,2120H, and 2122H from Mr Redmond.

██████████ DDISEC, ██████████

Priority: Normal
Reply Request []

SEE PAGE
View Acknowledge []

Attachments [1]
Codes []

DRAFT ANSWERS TO PQs 2103H, [REDACTED] 2110H, 2113H, 2120H, 2122H

PQ TYPE: ORDINARY WRITTEN
NO SUPPLEMENTARIES REQUIRED

DATE FOR RETURN TO PARLIAMENTARY BRANCH: 12:00 ON WEDNESDAY 16 AND THURSDAY 17 OCTOBER 1996

LEAD BRANCH: DI SEC
COPY ADDRESSEES: SEC(AS)

MP's DETAILS: MR MARTIN REDMOND (LABOUR) (DON VALLEY)

2103H

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence , what is the current function of DI61E; what was its function (a) five years and (b) 10 years ago; and if he will make a statement.

DRAFT ANSWER: I will write to the Hon Member.

[REDACTED]

2110H

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what is the current function of DI55 SIG; what was its function (a) five years and (b) 10 years ago; and if he will make a statement.

DRAFT ANSWER: I will write to the Hon Member.

2113H

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what is the current function of DI65B; what was its function (a) five years and (b) 10 years ago; and if he will make a statement.

DRAFT ANSWER: I will write to the Hon Member.

2120H

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what is the current function of DI10; what was its function (a) five years and (b) 10 years ago; and if he will make a statement.

DRAFT ANSWER: I will write to the Hon Member.

2122H

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what is the current function of DI55; what was its function (a) five years and (b) 10 years ago; and if he will make a statement.

DRAFT ANSWER: I will write to the Hon Member.

DRAFTED BY : [REDACTED] DDISEC, [REDACTED]

ALSO SEEN BY: SEC(AS)2

CLEARED BY: [REDACTED] A/DI SEC, [REDACTED]

BACKGROUND NOTE - PQs 2105H, 2110H, 2113H, 2120H, 2122H

These are six of 26 PQs on UFO issues raised by Martin Redmond. In view of this number Sec(AS) wish to coordinate a look at the collective worth of what might be said in reply from MOD and other departments. These six questions, aimed at the intelligence role in UFO reporting, ask for information on organisational details of the DIS which are classified, and its UFO intelligence exchanges with allies which are non-existent. We will be unable to divulge any detailed organisational information but should be able to make a general contribution to a reply coordinated by Sec(AS) which will also address the non-intelligence aspects.

RAF Rudloe Manor

Mr. Redmond: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what work is currently undertaken at RAF Rudloe Manor; what work was undertaken in the last 10 years; what was, by rank, the establishment for the last 10 years; and if he will make a statement. [40823] 2117H

Mr. Soames: I will write to the hon. Member and a copy of the letter will be placed in the Library of the House.

Defence Intelligence Branches

Mr. Redmond: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what is the current function of DI55 SIG; what was its function (a) five years and (b) 10 years ago; and if he will make a statement; [41040] 2110H

(2) what is the current function of DI65B; what was its function (a) five years and (b) 10 years ago; and if he will make a statement; [41038] 2113H

(3) what is the current function of DI55; what was its function (a) five years and (b) 10 years ago; and if he will make a statement; [41041] 2122H

(4) what is the current function of DI61E; what was its function (a) five years and (b) 10 years ago; and if he will make a statement; [41037] 2103H

(5) what is the current function of DI10; what was its function (a) five years and (b) 10 years ago; and if he will make a statement. [41039] 2120H

Mr. Soames: I will write to the hon. Member and a copy of the letter will be placed in the Library of the House.

2(b) 17 October 1996.

Yes we hold relevant info - 64/4 - Pt B

Checking with
P.S.

Section 40

From: Section 40
Sent: 20 October 2006 10:43
To: Section 40
Subject: RE: FOI REQUEST Section 40 14-06-2006-103522-003

Section 40

If these are the background notes that Section 40 spoke to me about just before she left, the answer is that we are content for them to be released as they were reviewed by our subject matter experts who confirmed that they are releasable. I understand though that they are being released in response to a specific FOI request, as they would not normally be released as a matter of routine.

Section 40

DI CSD Sec 3
WH306 Section 40

From: Section 40
Sent: 20 October 2006 10:34
To: Section 40
Subject: FOI REQUEST Section 40 14-06-2006-103522-003

Section 40

I understand from Section 40 that you have agreed the release of background briefing on a number of UFO related PQ's.

Can you confirm you are content for them to be released to the public?

Section 40

DAS Sec1
Section 40

Section 40

From: Section 40

Sent: 16 October 2006 15:08

To: Section 40

Subject: Internet-Authorised: FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST

Dear Section 40

Section 40 wrote to you on 18 September providing you with information regarding parliamentary questions concerning UFO matters and confirming that a certain amount of information was outstanding.

Section 40 has transferred to another branch and I have been tasked with covering her work whilst a replacement is found. I hope to be in a position to complete our response to you in the near future.

In the meantime, I should like to thank you for your patience over this matter.

Section 40

DAS Sec 1

05-H-Section 40

MoD Main Building

Whitehall

London

SW1A 2HB

Unidentified Flying Objects

Mr. Redmond: To ask the Prime Minister if he will allocate to a department the assessments of the non-air defence implications associated with **unidentified flying objects**; and if he will make a statement. [40822]

The Prime Minister: The air defence and air traffic implications of **unidentified flying objects** are the responsibility of the Ministry of Defence and the Civil Aviation Authority respectively. The Government have no plans to allocate resources to researching extraterrestrial phenomena.

Q.1. - Only PQ asked to the PM on 17 Oct 1996.

64/4 Pt B Ecs 10, 16.

PQ 2134 H.

Release

Taken from Hansard. Not part of request

PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION

URGENT ACTION REQUIRED

MINISTER REPLYING: MINISTER OF STATE FOR
THE ARMED FORCES

PQ REFERENCE: 2134H
PQ TYPE: Ordinary Written

SUPPLEMENTARIES ARE REQUIRED? NO

DATE FOR RETURN TO THE PARLIAMENTARY
BRANCH: 12:00 ON WEDNESDAY 16 OCTOBER
1996

LEAD BRANCH: SEC(AS)2
COPY ADDRESSEE(S):



MP'S DETAILS: MR MARTIN REDMOND
(LABOUR) (DON VALLEY)

To ask the Prime Minister, if he will
allocate to a department the
assessments of the non air-defence
implications associated with
unidentified flying objects; and if he
will make a statement. (40822)

Answer: The air defence and air
traffic implications of unidentified
flying objects are the responsibility
of the MOD and the CAA respectively.
The Government has no plans to allocate
resources to researching
extraterrestrial phenomena.

BACKGROUND

1. This PQ is one of 26 for answer before the House prorogues from Martin Redmond about 'UFO' related issues (22 for answer by MOD and 3 for FCO reply). However, in view of the overall amount of detail (including that relating to the Intelligence Services) that the MP is seeking, we consider it prudent to assess the collective worth of what might be said in reply rather than answer each question in isolation. We shall therefore delay replying substantively in order to do so. That said, we considered the Prime Minister would wish to provide a full reply to Mr Redmond and believe this can be done without detriment to the replies for the other 25 Questions. However, MOD ~~and FCO~~ will provide interim, 'I will write', answers for their Questions.
2. The draft answer provided for the Prime Minister does not address the issue of civil research into this topic. It does, instead, answer the Question in so far as we believe the Government's position to be. Neither the MOD nor the Cabinet Office are aware of any other Government interest in 'UFOs' or, indeed of any research into the 'UFO' phenomenon. We have copied the reply to the Cabinet Office Scientific Adviser.
3. MOD's interest in 'unexplained' aerial phenomena is limited to that required solely to establish whether there is any evidence that the UK Air Defence Region might have been compromised by a hostile foreign military aircraft. Unless there is any evidence that this is the case, and to date no sighting has provided such evidence, the MOD does not make any further investigations or seek to provide an explanation for what was observed. We have no interest (and neither does any other Government Department), expertise or role with respect to 'UFO/flying saucer' matters or the question of the existence or otherwise of extraterrestrial lifeforms, about which we remain open minded, and we know of no evidence that proves these phenomena exist.
4. In May this year an MOD employee, Mr Nicholas Pope, who had previously served in the Air Staffs Secretariat, published a book on the 'UFO' phenomenon 'Open Skies, Closed Minds' (copy of book jacket attached). Media and public interest in 'UFO' issues has increased since that time including a number of TV programmes. It is quite possible that Martin Redmond has been lobbied into tabling this raft of questions by a member of the public with an interest in such matters, which follow ten questions he tabled on 'UFO' matters between May and July this year.

FOR THE FIRST TIME A GOVERNMENT
UFO EXPERT SPEAKS OUT

NICK
POPE

NICK POPE

FOREWORD BY TIMOTHY GOOD

N &
TER

'When I first took up my post in Secretariat (Air Staff) at the Ministry of Defence, I knew very little about UFOs. Then, as I researched the subject, as I read the *Sunday Sport*, as I talked to trained observers, pilots, radar operators, the people in the street, I realised that this wasn't a few lines to tuck away in an odd corner of the *Sunday Sport* or the *Fortean Times*. This was real. This was happening. The collective evidence was just too overwhelming for any other explanation'

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SCH

Nick Pope works for the Ministry of Defence as a Higher Executive Officer, the ranking equivalent of a Major in the British Army. He has worked at the MoD's London headquarters at Whitehall for eleven years. From 1991 to 1994, he was appointed to Secretariat (Air Staff) Department 2A – better known to insiders as 'The UFO Desk'. His job was to investigate and analyse claims of UFO sightings and to assess their threat to national security. It was an experience that changed his life.

Now, for the first time, he reveals the contents of the Government's 'X-Files' residing in the deepest vaults of the MoD. He discovered that truth is much stranger than fiction and that something bizarre is going on, something beyond human experience and something potentially hostile. From starting out as a sceptic, he became a firm believer in the reality of UFOs.

In *Open Skies, Closed Minds*, Nick Pope presents convincing arguments in support of the existence of UFOs by using cases that he has researched in his official capacity, and warns that extraterrestrial spacecraft are visiting Earth and that something should be done about it urgently.

£14.99



Nick Pope joined the Ministry of Defence in 1985. He has been involved in the policy initiative enabling women to fly as pilots in the Royal Air Force, policy work on the Gulf War and the situation in Bosnia.

From 1991 to 1994 he was responsible for investigating UFO sightings and handling policy on this subject. He now holds the rank of Higher Executive Officer, which equates to a Major in the British Army.

Although he no longer works on the UFO phenomenon in an official capacity, he is still actively involved in researching a range of paranormal phenomena. He lives in London.

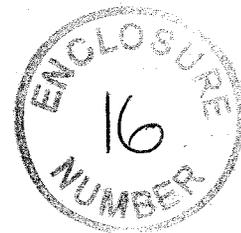
Mei Trow is the author of nineteen crime fiction and true crime books, including the *Inspector Lestrade* series and *Let Him Have it Chris* which helped win a partial posthumous pardon for Derek Bentley. His most recent detective creation 'Mad Max' Maxwell, is being developed for television.

Author photograph by G. G. Pope



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Loose Minute

D/Sec(AS)64/4

15th October 1996

DDI SEC - [REDACTED]
CS Logs Command - [REDACTED]
CS (Sec) PTC - [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Copy to:

Head of Sec(AS)

[REDACTED]

Parliamentary Clerk

[REDACTED]

MARTIN REDMOND PQs - 'UFOs'

1. I attach at Annex a list of PQs (26 in total) tabled by Martin Redmond for written answer concerning, directly or indirectly, UFOs. Given that the House prorogues on Thursday 17th October, the Parliamentary Branch has asked for the answers to be with them by midday tomorrow, Wednesday 16th October.

2. Given this sort of timescale I am concerned about the implication of answering all of the Questions on an individual basis. It could be that the sum total of the answers might provide more information than can be assumed if each is dealt with in isolation. I therefore recommend that as a first step they should all be answered with "I will write". MOD lead Branches as allocated (see also para 3 below) should ensure that this action is completed and that the Parliamentary Branch has the necessary answers by noon on Wednesday 16th October. The background note could simply refer to the large number of questions tabled, the fact that the House prorogues the next day, there is insufficient time to obtain the information requested and, more importantly, the need to assess the collective worth of what it is proposed to say.

3. Sec(AS) is not offering to answer all of the PQs but, it seems to me, there is a need to co-ordinate our replies - hence this minute. Annotated against each of the PQs on the attached list is the Branch allocated to lead by the Parliamentary Section. However, some of the questions have been wrongly allocated and,

where this ~~is~~ the case, we have corrected, as appropriate, in bold type. All addressees of this minute will, however, have an interest in some, or all, of the PQs tabled.

4. Having provided an interim reply, I suggest that the next step should be to decide whether any of the questions/answers might be linked and draft letters accordingly. The drafts should be circulated for comment and only when everyone has signified that they are content, and we have decided whether there is a need for one or more letters in total, should they be forwarded to the Parliamentary Branch for Ministers' signatures. Again, I believe it would be appropriate for me to act as the focal point/coordinator.

5. We have considered whether any of the questions might be answered substantively in time to meet the Wednesday deadline. At first sight it could be argued that by answering PQ2117 with a straightforward, factual answer, we could nail once and for all the myth that Rudloe Manor continues to have some involvement in UFO matters. However, the Question covers the last 10 years and there is a related Rudloe Manor Question at PQ2130. We therefore need to look at the sum total of what we intend to say.

6. The usual timescale for following interim PQ replies with substantive letters is five days. We do not, therefore have much time to play with and it would be helpful if you could fax/CHOT your draft replies for comment asap.

7. If there are any concerns about what is proposed please let me know or [REDACTED] extn [REDACTED] or [REDACTED] extn [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
Sec(AS)2

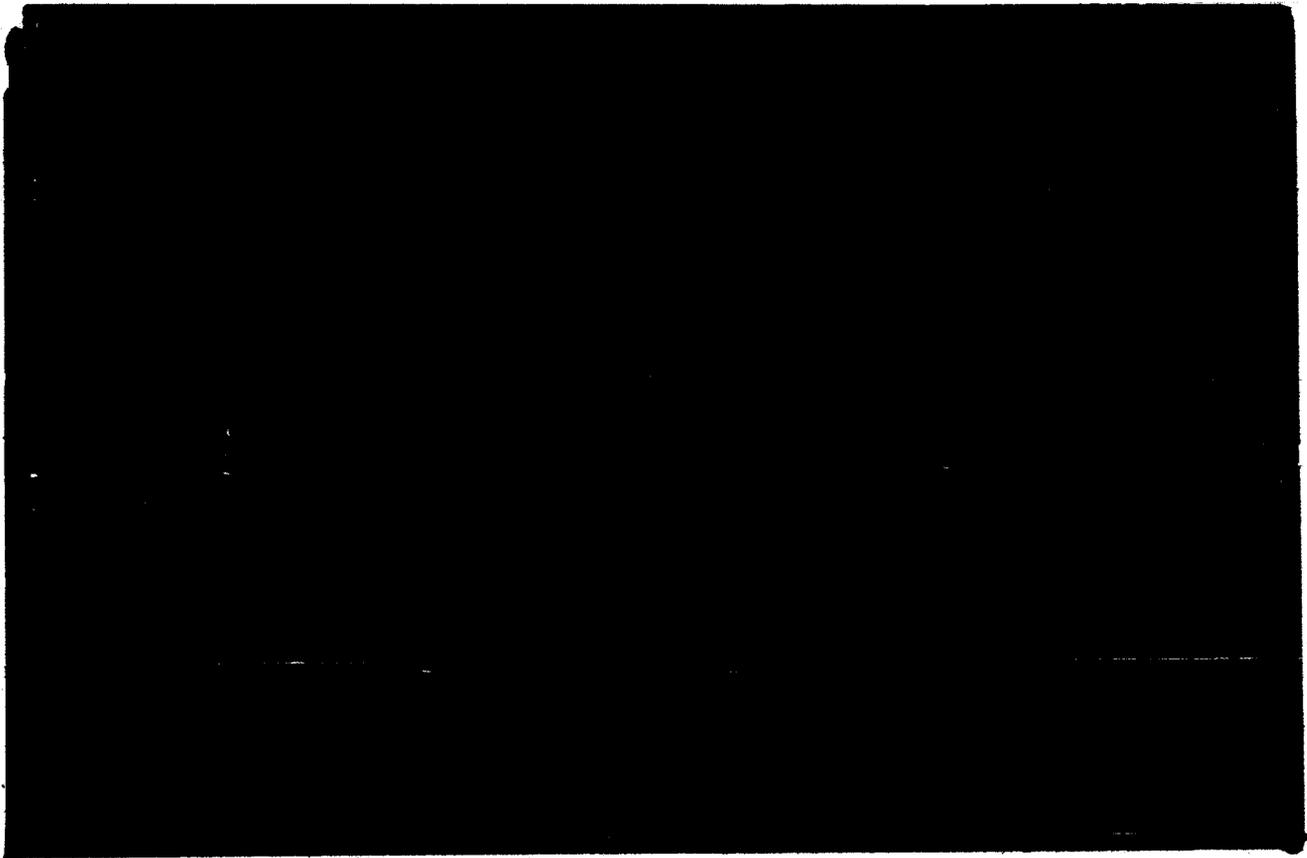
[REDACTED]
CHOTS: SEC(AS)2

FAX [REDACTED]



PARLIAMENTARY QUESTIONS TABLED BY MARTIN REDMOND
(LABOUR) (DON VALLEY)

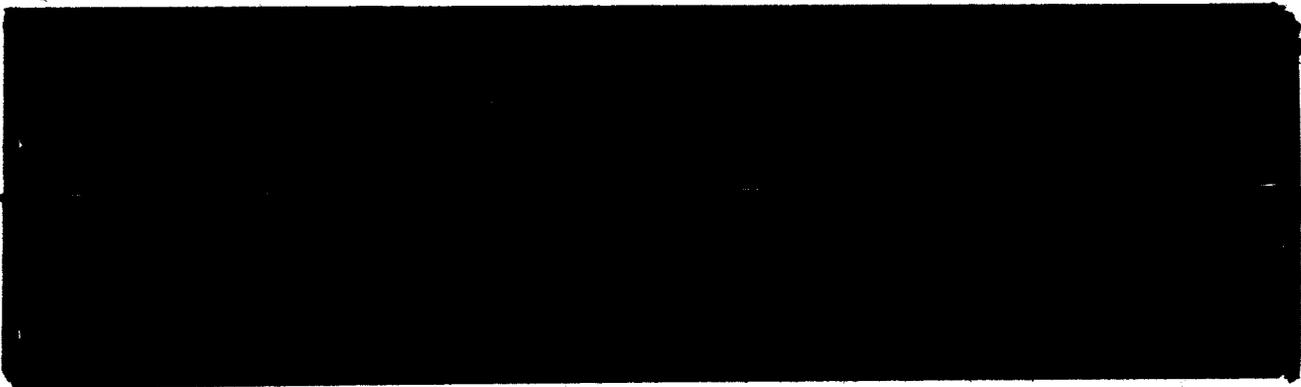
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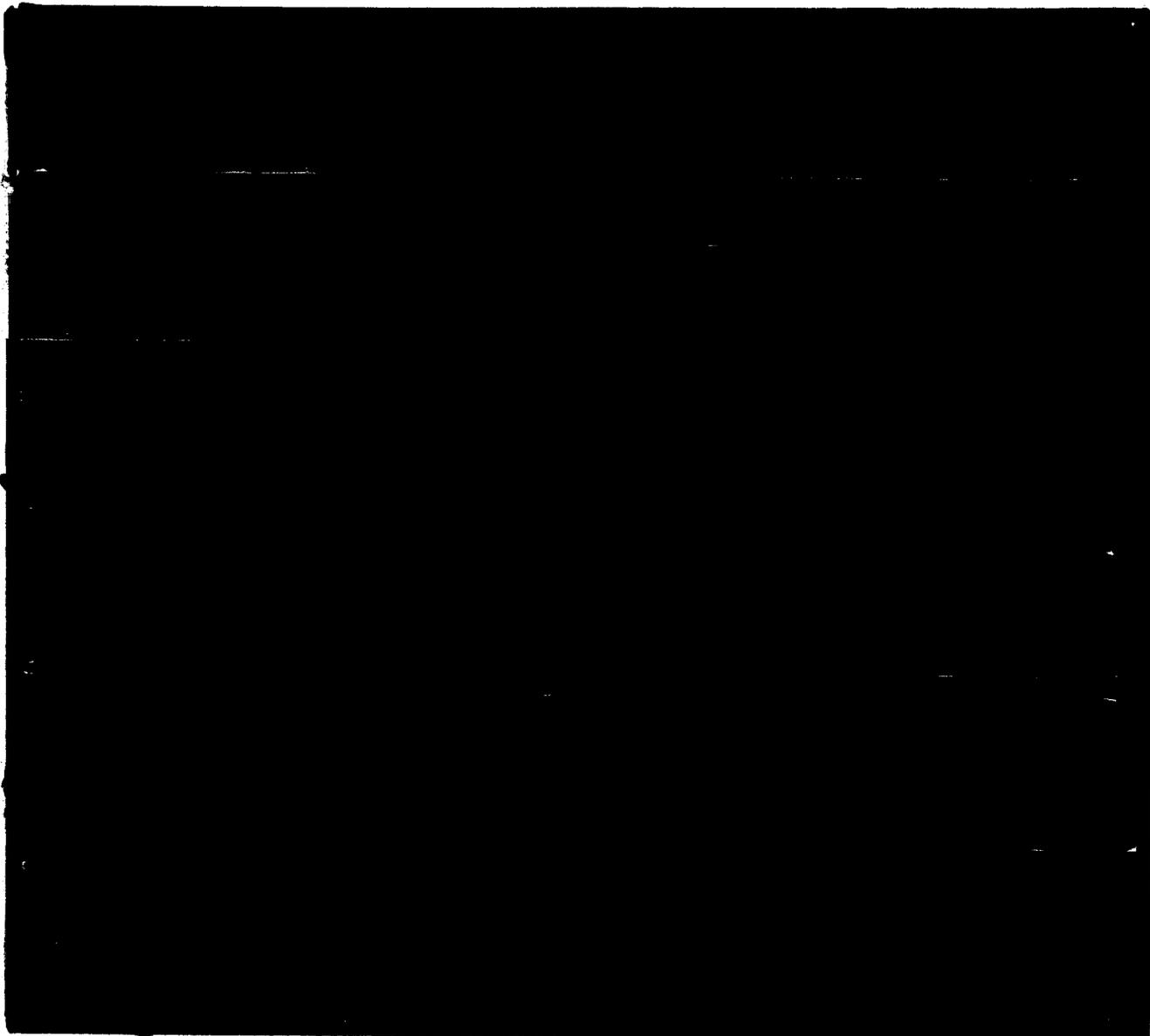


PQ 2103H

Lead: DI(Sec)
Copy: Sec(AS)2

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what is the current function of DI61E; what was its function (a) five years and (b) 10 years ago; and if he will make a statement.



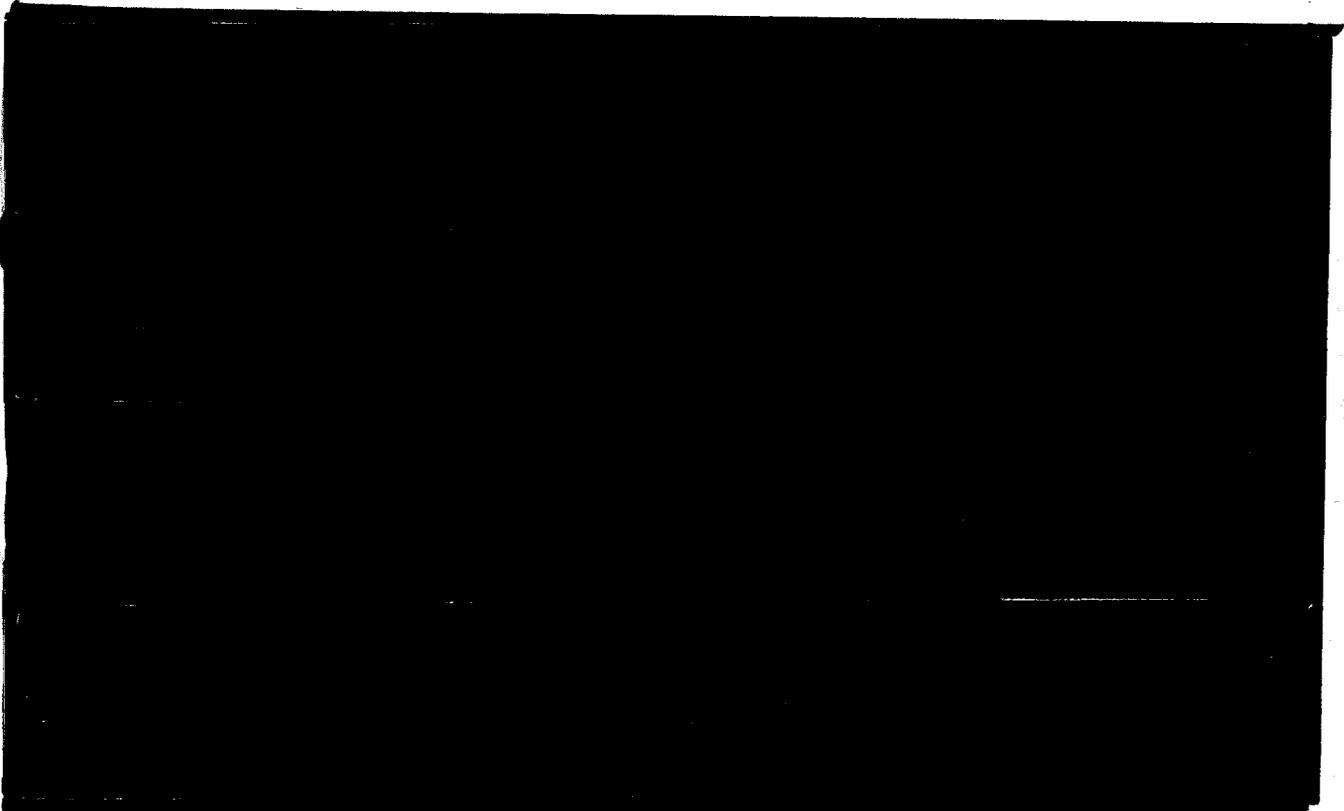


PQ 2110H

Lead: DI(Sec)
Copy: Sec(AS)

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what is the current function of DI55 SIG; what was its function (a) five years and (b) 10 years ago; and if he will make a statement.

REDACTION ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT



PQ 2113H

Lead: DI(Sec)
Copy: Sec(AS)

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what is the current function of DI65B; what was its function (a) five years and (b) 10 years ago; and if he will make a statement.



REDACTION ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT

PQ 2117H

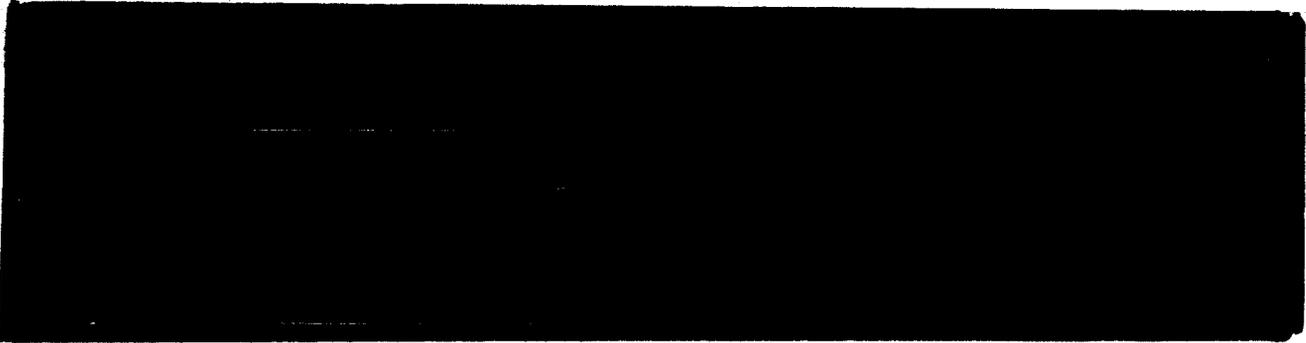
Lead: CS PTC

Lead: CS Logs Command

Copy: CS PTC

Sec(AS)

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what work is currently undertaken at RAF Rudloe Manor; what work was undertaken in the last 10 years; what was, by rank, the establishment for the last 10 years; and if he will make a statement.



PQ 2120H

Lead: DI Sec

Copy: Sec(AS)2

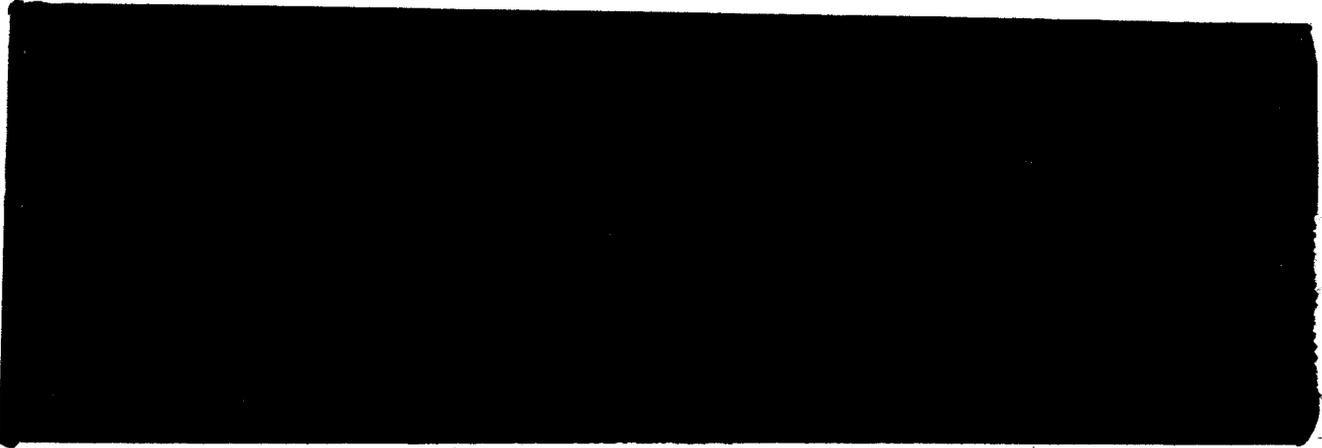
To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what is the current function of DI10; what was its function (a) five years and (b) 10 years ago; and if he will make a statement.

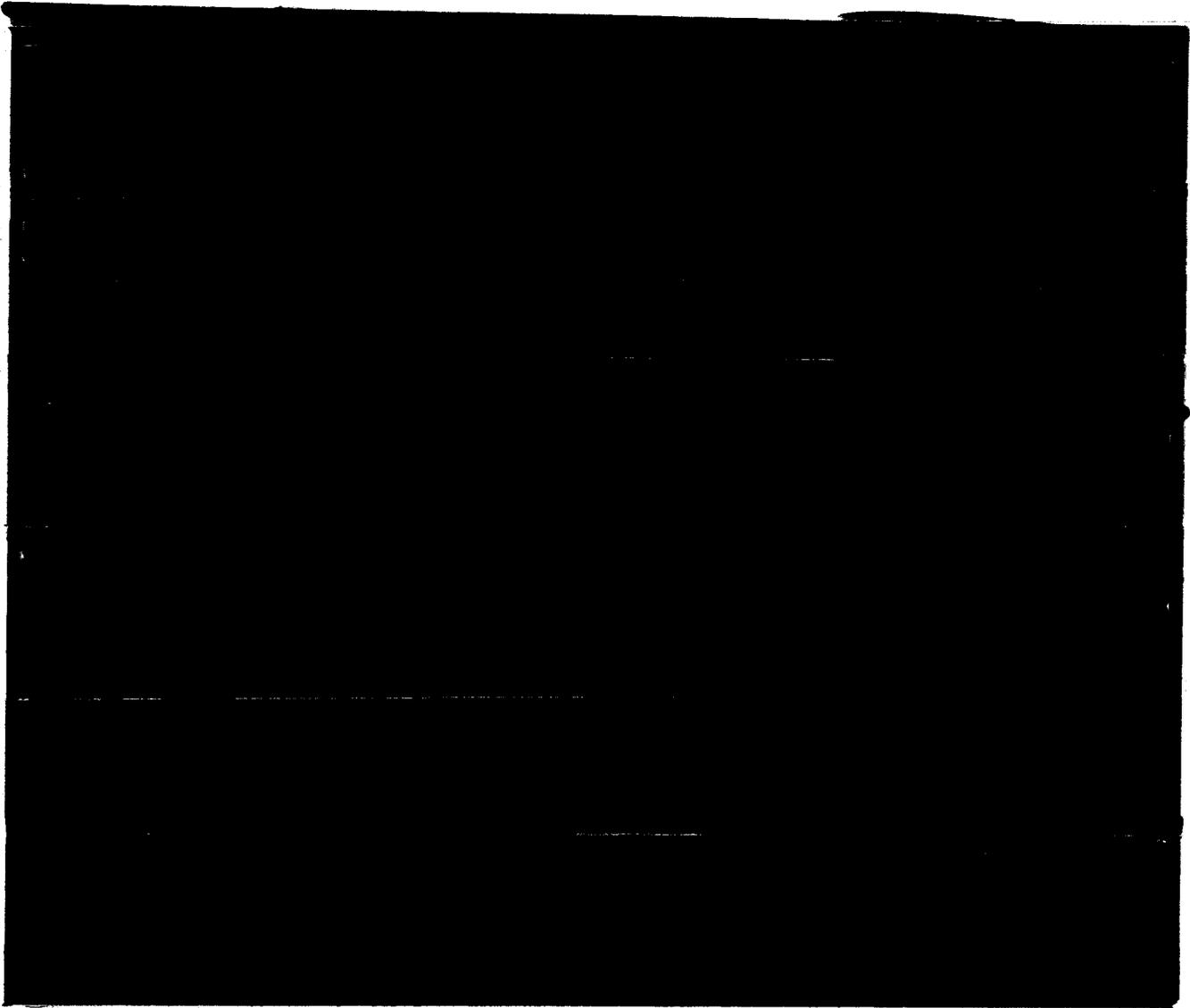
PQ 2122H

Lead: DI Sec

Copy to: Sec(AS)

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what is the current function of DI55; what was its function (a) five years and (b) 10 years ago; and if he will make a statement.



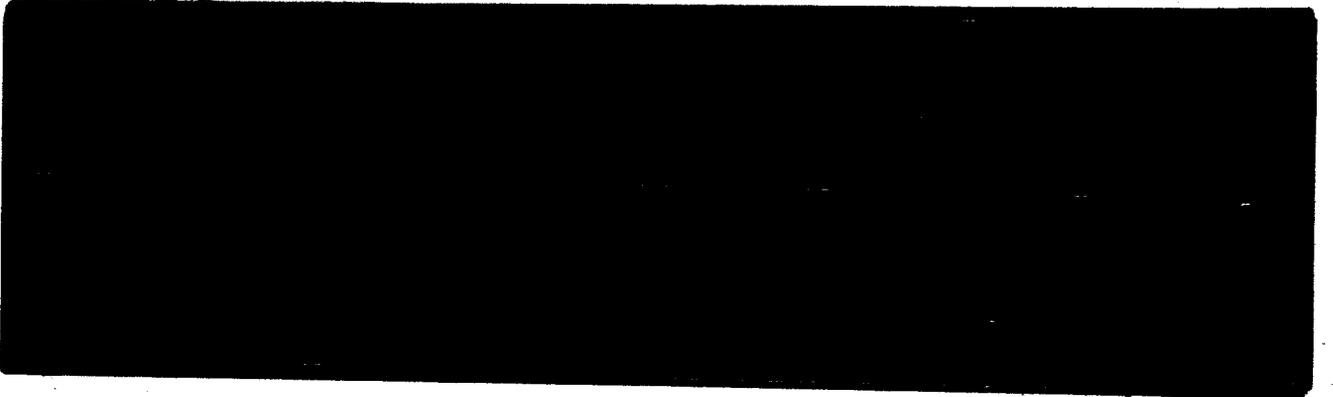


PQ 2134H

Lead: Sec(AS)2

Copy: -

To ask the Prime Minister, if he will allocate to a department the assessments of the non air-defence implications associated with unidentified flying objects; and if he will make a statement.



PQ 2136H

Lead: Sec(AS)
Copy: -

Lead: Duchy of Lancaster ???????????
Copy: CS(Records Management)1

To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, if he will list the titles of the records of the Ministry of Defence's Scientific Intelligence Branch in respect of correspondence sent to Mr Nicholas Redfern by the Public Record Office, Kew on 21st September 1990.

PQ 2142H

Lead: Sec(AS)2
Copy: -

Copy: DAO

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, how many alleged landings by unidentified flying objects have been recorded in each year since 1980 and this year to date; how many have been investigated by his Department's personnel; which of these had been traced by radar and with what result; and if he will make a statement.

FCO PQs

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what consultation has taken place in each of the last five years by his Department with French Service de Documentation Exterieur et de Contre-Espionnage in respect of unidentified flying objects; and if he will make a statement.

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, if he will list by month for each of the last 10 years, and this year to date, the number of occasions that MI6 has monitored unidentified flying objects investigations; and if he will make a statement.

*Not
Relevant.*

Unidentified Craft

- 1) **Mr. Redmond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what is his Department's assessment of the incident that occurred on 5 November 1990 when a patrol of RAF Tornado aircraft flying over the North sea were overtaken at high speed by an **unidentified craft**; and if he will make a statement; [39245]

1994 H

E75

E78

(2) if he will make a statement on the **unidentified flying object** sighting reported to his Department by the meteorological officer at RAF Shawbury in the early hours of 31 March 1993. [39246]

1989 H

Mr. Soames: Reports of sightings on these dates are recorded on file and were examined by staff responsible for air defence matters. No firm conclusions were drawn about the nature of the phenomena reported but the events were not judged to be of defence significance.

- 2) **Mr. Redmond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment his Department made of the photograph of an **unidentified craft** at Calvine on 4 August 1990; who removed it from an office in secretariat (air staff) 2a; for what reasons; and if he will make a statement. [39248]

1987 H

E74, 77

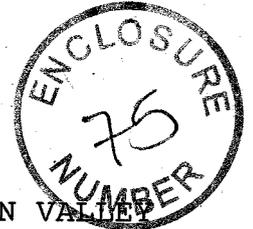
Mr. Soames: A number of negatives associated with the sighting were examined by staff responsible for air defence matters. Since it was judged that they contained nothing of defence significance the negatives were not retained and we have no record of any photographs having been taken from them.

Q. 2(a) 24 July 1996

Yes we hold this - 64/4 P+A

Release.

Taken from Hansard. Not part of request



PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION

MP: MARTIN REDMOND (LABOUR) DON VALLEY
PQ REFERENCE: 1989H, 1994H
PQ TYPE: ORDINARY WRITTEN
DRAFT ANSWER REQUIRED BY: 12:00 TUESDAY 23 JULY 1996

QUESTION: [1989H] To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, if he will make a statement on the unidentified flying object sighting reported to his Department by the meteorological officer at RAF Shawbury in the early hours of 31st March 1993.

QUESTION: [1994H] To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what is his Department's assessment of the incident that occurred on 5th November 1990 when a patrol of RAF Tornado aircraft flying over the North Sea were overtaken at high speed by an unidentified craft; and if he will make a statement.

DRAFT ANSWER:

Reports of sightings on these dates are recorded on file and were examined by staff responsible for air defence matters. No firm conclusions were drawn about the nature of the phenomena reported but the events were not judged to be of defence significance.

APPROVED BY:

Head of Sec(AS) [REDACTED] Tel: [REDACTED] Date 23.7.96

Sec(AS)2ab [REDACTED] Tel: [REDACTED] Date:

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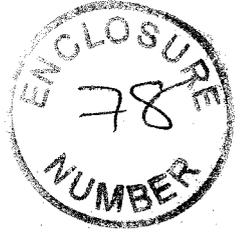
BACKGROUND PQs 1989H, 1994H

1. Mr Redmond has asked a large number of questions about military aviation issues over the years. He recently tabled four PQs about unidentified flying objects prompted, we believe, by the recent publication of a book on the subject by a former member of Sec(AS). The MP has tabled a further six questions on the subject of "UFOs" for answer before the Parliamentary recess. The two incidents to which he refers are specifically cited in this publication.

2. The sighting on 31 March 1993 was one of a number reported from the West Country and South Wales that day. These were examined in the usual manner and included a check with the US authorities about Stealth aircraft activities, which revealed nothing. The report by Tornado aircrew on 5 November 1990 suggested that they may have seen a Stealth aircraft, but there is no evidence on the file of any follow-up action. The report would have been shown to air defence experts, if the normal procedures were followed, and it may therefore be assumed that nothing of defence significance was inferred from the report.

REDACTION ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT

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PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION

URGENT ACTION REQUIRED

MINISTER REPLYING: MINISTER OF STATE FOR THE ARMED FORCES

PQ REFERENCE: 1989H
PQ TYPE: Ordinary Written

SUPPLEMENTARIES ARE REQUIRED? NO

DATE FOR RETURN TO THE PARLIAMENTARY BRANCH: 12:00 ON TUESDAY 23
JULY 1996

LEAD BRANCH: SEC(AS)
COPY ADDRESSEE(S):



MP'S DETAILS: MR MARTIN REDMOND (LABOUR) (DON VALLEY)

41|To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, if he will make a statement on the unidentified flying object sighting reported to his Department by the meteorological officer at RAF Shawbury in the early hours of 31st March 1993. [39246]

An important report came in from a military patrol guarding RAF Cosford near Wolverhampton in the West Midlands. This was dynamite. An unidentified craft in any British airspace was threatening enough, but over a high security military establishment? There was better to come. One of the sightings in Wales was from a man with vast experience of aviation and mathematics. He had watched the object flying low over the coast near Haverfordwest in Pembrokeshire and had timed its passage between two points on the shoreline whose distance from each other he knew. From that information he was able to calculate its speed at that point to be about 1,100mph an hour – the same, at that moment at least – as the top speed of an F-16.

In Rugeley, Staffordshire, five members of the same family saw a huge diamond-shaped object flying steadily over their heads. They estimated its height at less than 300m and the diameter of the craft was about 200m. They also reported a low, humming sound of the frequency you'd experience standing in front of the speakers at a pop concert, feeling the sound waves passing through your body. It wasn't pleasant, but they decided to jump in the car and follow it anyway. Either they lost the UFO, or it lost them; either way, the chase was unsuccessful. They thought it was going to land in a field beyond the road because it was flying so low. They screeched to a halt by the gate, but when they clambered out, the craft had gone. They saw nothing after that. They were disappointed, but perhaps they had had a lucky escape.

Perhaps the most interesting report came from RAF Shawbury in Shropshire, to the north of Shrewsbury. The meteorological officer there saw the most astonishing sight of that whole amazing night. An object in the sky, at first stationary, moved erratically towards him at a speed of several hundred miles an hour. At one point it fired a beam of light at the ground, which swept the countryside from left to right, as though it were looking for

something in the fields and hedgerows. The sighting was not a second's glimpse, but lasted for five minutes, long enough for the witness to estimate the size of the craft to be about that of a Jumbo jet. But as he and I knew, Jumbo jets don't hover and they don't scan the countryside with searchlights. He heard the same low frequency hum the family from Rugeley had heard.

What could I say to this man? He was a trained observer, considerably more familiar with the night sky than I was. A patronising lecture on aircraft lights seen from unusual angles seemed wholly out of place. On the phone I agreed with him that there was only one conclusion: whatever he had seen was unknown. What I didn't discuss with him was the fear I felt at his description of that probing beam searching the fields. It implied intelligent occupants of the craft, and it also implied that they might be searching for what is usually in the fields on a mild, spring night – cattle.

I carried out my usual checks, looking for the explicable, hunting for the mundane. I needed to cover my own back, to be ready for the media deluge. What were the ministry's answers? There was no unusual civil or military aircraft activity that night that came remotely close to fitting anything that had been seen. There were no weather balloons in the area of the densest sightings and no unusual planetary activity, said the Royal Observatory at Greenwich.

Then RAF Fylingdales came up with something. It confirmed that debris from a Russian rocket, Cosmos 2238, had re-entered Earth's atmosphere that night and might just have been visible from the United Kingdom. So that was it, the doubters said, orthodox science had triumphed again. But of course, it hadn't. A piece of re-entering space debris would burn up, like a meteor, and produce a flaming trail which would last only seconds. This couldn't account for the five-minute sighting from RAF Shawbury or the low hum heard there and in Rugeley; neither

would it be seen flying low over the coast near Haverfordwest, because the debris didn't come down anywhere near Britain; neither can a piece of even the smallest space debris hover – it falls with the speed dictated by gravity.

I took an unprecedented step and ordered a number of radar tapes to be impounded and sent to me. As these tapes are usually wiped for reuse, it was important to work fast. There were a few returns which fitted the times and locations when sightings were made and after several hours of scouring the standard VHS videos I could isolate and identify these. At first, the results were disappointing. The blips faded in and out all night, like ghosts in the morning light. RAF radar experts explained these conventionally enough. Ground clutter, they said, tall trees picked up now and again around one particular radar head. But the frustration turned to fear: there were too many visual sightings, and the reports were from witnesses too trustworthy to ignore. Whatever it was that zigzagged Britain on 30 and 31 March 1993, that probed our fields and raced our cars, it was not picked up by radar. And consequently, with no radar track to set the procedure in motion, we hadn't even got our aircraft into the air. Was this the same triangle that had been seen over Belgium three years earlier? And could it now evade radar altogether?

Over the coming weeks I tried to find an explanation, but every avenue led nowhere. Whatever it was had come and gone. It was time to take the whole problem 'upstairs'. Frankly, I didn't hold out much hope that my bosses would listen. As I have said, my hands-on approach and my firm views that we were facing in UFOs a genuine phenomenon that needed serious and urgent research had not met with popularity in Secretariat (Air Staff). Subtlety was the key word, I felt. I drew up a carefully constructed report of the 30–31 March sightings and sent it to my head of division. I deliberately avoided the emotive word 'UFO',

inspiner of prejudices, and opted instead for 'uncorrelated target' and 'unknown craft'. Government bureaucracies are sometimes accused of inventing jargon for the sake of it, but here I felt it was necessary, it paid off. The report was passed up the chain of command until it reached the assistant chief of the air staff himself.

Simultaneously, I contacted the American embassy and asked them whether an unusual prototype aircraft of American construction was operating over Britain and might explain the various sightings. There had been rumours for months in the corridors of power that an aircraft called Aurora, which would make the Stealth bomber look like a Sopwith Pup, was in production. There had been consistent denials everywhere, however. A high-tech, radar-evading craft capable of great speeds and manoeuvrability, the sort of machine Clint Eastwood flies in *Firefox*, belonged to fiction. Aurora, we were told, did not exist. The Americans were as nonplussed as we and the Belgians were by the sightings.

The assistant chief of the air staff noted my report – there was little else he could do. By now I had tried all possible lines of inquiry. There were no other avenues left.

So the official findings (mine) read: 'Type of craft – unknown; origin of craft – unknown; motive of occupants – unknown.' And, although it appears nowhere in the official documentation, I would have to add: 'Conclusion – unsatisfactory.'

The 30–31 March sightings brought about a marked change in my own attitude. I would play no further part in bland platitudes about UFOs being 'of no defence significance'. I sensed that some of my colleagues thought UFOs were only of defence significance if they aimed laser beams at cities. But any craft, conventional or otherwise, that can do what that triangle did is of *extreme* defence significance in itself. Our radar couldn't trace it, our jets wouldn't be able to catch it. We can all thank our God – or our lucky stars

whatever it was it was not, on that particular occasion, anyway, hostile.

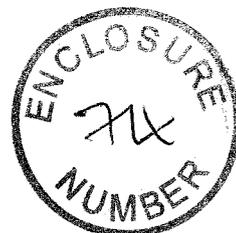
Over and over again, I pondered the significance of the date. The odds against such a phenomenon occurring coincidentally on the same night three years apart are high. That suggests that the date was not random, but was deliberately chosen and planned. Furthermore, it was chosen by an intelligence fully familiar with human frailties. Newspaper reports of incidents occurring that night would run on 1 April, the day when every national and many provincial papers carry an April Fool story. Who was going to take these stories seriously? Predictably, only the UFO community ran articles and asked questions, and followed up as best they could. The public at large just smiled wryly over their breakfast cereal. Isn't this exactly the reaction an alien force might hope to achieve by capitalising on a time when the world is unreceptive, when everyone expects bizarre stories and dismisses them out of hand? It was absolutely the best date to choose to minimise the risk that any sightings might be taken seriously.

And something else rang bells for me, too. It wasn't just the date, the precise three-year gap since Belgium, it was that business of the Russian rocket re-entry. A similar re-entry had happened on the same night as another dramatic sighting. But it wasn't over Belgium. It was here, near Woodbridge in Suffolk, at a place called Rendlesham Forest.

Rendlesham lies between the Rivers Deben and Alde, a straggling tract of mixed deciduous and coniferous forest framed by the joint RAF/USAF airbase at Woodbridge and the neighbouring military base at Bentwaters, three miles away (curiously, a scene of UFO activity in 1956). Woodbridge was, in the days of the Cold War, one of the busiest airfields in the

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File 64/4



PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION

MP: MARTIN REDMOND (LABOUR) DON VALLEY
PQ REFERENCE: 1987H
PQ TYPE: ORDINARY WRITTEN
DRAFT ANSWER REQUIRED BY: 12:00 TUESDAY 23 JULY 1996

QUESTION: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what assessment his Department made of the photograph of an unidentified craft at Calvine on 4th August 1990; who removed it from an office in Secretariat(Air Staff)2a; for what reasons; and if he will make a statement.

DRAFT ANSWER: A number of negatives associated with the sighting were examined by staff responsible for air defence matters. Since it was judged they contained nothing of defence significance the negatives were not retained and we have no record of any photographs having been taken from them.

APPROVED BY:

Head of Sec(AS) [redacted] Tel: [redacted] Date 23/7/96

Sec(AS)2ab [redacted] Tel: [redacted] Date 23/7/96

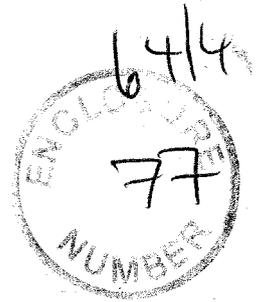
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BACKGROUND PQ 1987H

1. Mr Redmond has asked a large number of questions about military aviation issues over the years. He recently tabled four PQs about unidentified flying objects prompted, we believe, by the recent publication of a book on the subject by a former member of Sec(AS). The MP has tabled a further six questions on the subject of "UFOs" for answer before the Parliamentary recess. The incident to which he refers and the removal of a photograph of the "UFO" are specifically cited in this publication.

2. Details of the sighting and the associated photograph were examined by officials, including photographic experts, and revealed no evidence to indicate anything of defence significance.



PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION

URGENT ACTION REQUIRED

MINISTER REPLYING: MINISTER OF STATE FOR THE ARMED FORCES

PQ REFERENCE: 1987H
PQ TYPE: Ordinary Written

SUPPLEMENTARIES ARE REQUIRED? NO

**DATE FOR RETURN TO THE PARLIAMENTARY BRANCH: 12:00 ON TUESDAY 23
JULY 1996**

LEAD BRANCH: SEC(AS)
COPY ADDRESSEE(S):



MP'S DETAILS: MR MARTIN REDMOND (LABOUR) (DON VALLEY)

37|To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what assessment his Department made of the photograph of an unidentified craft at Calvine on 4th August 1990; who removed it from an office in Secretariat (Air Staff) 2a; for what reasons; and if he will make a statement. [39248]

at many times the speed of sound. Such an aircraft could only be 'black', and it would be expensive.

The role of Groom Lake as a secret airbase began in 1954. The CIA gave the giant Lockheed Aircraft Corporation the contract – and this land in the middle of nowhere – to develop a spy plane capable of greater altitudes than anything then available. In 1984 another 89,000 acres was grabbed by the government, and there was a further attempt to expand in 1993. Access to the base is strictly forbidden. There are warning signs everywhere, some featuring the threat 'Use of deadly force authorised'. It is still possible to see into the base from three local vantage points – White Sides Mountain, Freedom Ridge and Tikaboo Peak. Local computer programmer Glenn Campbell, from Rachel, a nearby hamlet, has compiled a visitors' guide, complete with information on how to evade security patrols – the 'Cammo Dudes' – and even what to do if you're caught.

Sightseers regularly witness mysterious lights over Area 51 at night and are regularly watched by military personnel in unmarked black helicopters. It was in 1989 that the lights and rumblings often associated with UFO sightings were noticed for the first time. Witnesses reported hearing a pulsing noise and seeing ringed contrails, which gave rise to speculation that a radical new type of engine called Pulsed Detonation was in use. It is in the S-4 section of Area 51, 10–15 miles south of Groom Lake, beside Papoose Dry Lake, that engineer Bob Lazar claims he worked in the late 1980s on reverse-engineering and testing alien craft. It is impossible to prove that Lazar is telling the truth, but on the other hand, it is impossible to prove he isn't.

There is some evidence that Aurora, if it exists, has been operating over Britain. A report sent to the Ministry of Defence tells of two men out walking at Calvine, a remote area twenty miles north of Pitlochry near Blair Atholl in Tayside. It was 4 August 1990. The two men became aware of a low humming

sound and turned to see a large diamond-shaped object which hovered for about ten minutes before flying off vertically at great speed. What was really intriguing was that a Harrier jet also made a number of low-level passes, as if the pilot had seen the object as well and was homing in for a closer look. One of the men on the ground had a camera and sent the photographs he took to both the ministry and the *Scottish Daily Record*. The Harrier remains untraced; the object unidentified. I kept a blow-up of one of his photographs on my office wall until one day my Head of Division noticed it and took it away.

Expert analysis had revealed that the photographs were not fakes, but neither the experts nor I accepted the Aurora theory. And even if it exists, it is most unlikely that Aurora could function in the way described in the encounter. It seemed to me to be the perfect way for UFO sceptics to explain away a difficult sighting. The Calvine report remains one of the most intriguing cases in the Ministry of Defence's files. The conclusions, however, are depressingly familiar: object unexplained, case closed, no further action.

Calvine was not the only possible Aurora sighting. On 5 November 1990, a patrol of RAF Tornados was flying over the North Sea when they were overtaken at high speed by what the pilots could only describe as a large aircraft of some sort.

In 1991 came the most peculiar reports. The United States Geological Survey recorded on their earthquake-monitoring equipment a series of strange sonic booms. They were able to calculate from their data that an airborne object had been travelling at a speed of at least Mach 3. In other words, it was moving at three times the speed of sound, some 2,100mph. And it was heading for the Nellis Air Force Base in the middle of Area 51. At around the same time, an RAF air-traffic controller reported having tracked a target in the vicinity

✓

Unidentified Flying Craft

Mr. Redmond: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will list the reports of encounters by Royal Air Force pilots with **unidentified flying craft** since 1966 which have not been released to the public; on what grounds they have been retained; and if he will make a statement. [2201]

2299 H

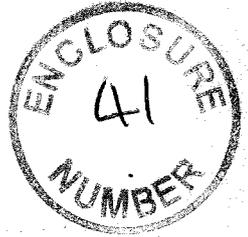
Mr. Soames: The information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

2(c) 5 November 1996

Yes We hold relevant info - 64/4 Pt B.

Release.

Taken from Hansard. Not part of request



PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION

URGENT ACTION REQUIRED

MINISTER REPLYING: MINISTER OF STATE FOR THE ARMED FORCES

PQ REFERENCE: 2299H
PQ TYPE: Ordinary Written

SUPPLEMENTARIES ARE REQUIRED? NO

DATE FOR RETURN TO THE PARLIAMENTARY BRANCH: 12:00 ON MONDAY 4 NOVEMBER 1996

LEAD BRANCH: SEC(AS)
COPY ADDRESSEE(S):



MP'S DETAILS: MR MARTIN REDMOND (LABOUR) (DON VALLEY)

11|To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, if he will list the reports of encounters by Royal Air Force pilots with unidentified flying craft since 1966 which have not been released to the public; on what grounds they are still classified documents not released to the public; and if he will make a statement. [2201]

MR SOAMES: The information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

APPROVED BY:

Head of Sec(AS) [redacted] Tel: [redacted] 4 Nov 96

Sec(AS)2 [redacted] Tel: Section 40 [redacted] Nov 96

Copy to:

- PSO/ACAS *
- AO-AD1 *
- DPR(RAF) *
- DI55c
- DPO(RAF) *

* By CHOTS.

BACKGROUND NOTE TO PQ 2299H

1. This PQ is one of two which follow 26 'UFO'-related PQs tabled last month by Mr Redmond (22 to this Department, one to the Prime Minister, and three to the FCO).
2. USofS will recall that in May this year a MOD employee, Mr Nicholas Pope, who had previously served in the Air Staffs Secretariat, published a book on the 'UFO' phenomenon 'Open Skies, Closed Minds'. Media and public interest in 'UFO' issues has increased since that time including a number of TV programmes. Mr Redmond tabled ten 'UFO'-related questions between May and July this year.
3. Since the beginning of 1966 there have been approximately 9000 'UFO' reports made to the Ministry of Defence. Once examined and judged to have no defence significance, the reports are placed on departmental files. Although the vast majority of 'UFO' reports are received from members of the public, separate records are not maintained of the source of the reports, eg. from on-duty service personnel, police, members of the public etc. To establish how many of the reports were made by military aircrew would require a paper search of all the files since 1966.
4. We are aware of one report by military aircrew on 5 November 1990, which suggested that they may have in fact seen a Stealth aircraft, but there is no evidence on the file of any follow-up action. The report would have been shown to air defence experts, if the normal procedures were followed, and it may therefore be assumed that nothing of defence significance was inferred from the report.
5. We have considered whether to expand the answer in order to avoid any impression that the Department holds a large number of reports from military aircrew, but on balance, have not done so. There is no evidence that any structured craft of unknown origin has penetrated the UK's Air Defence Region and Mr Redmond is well aware of this fact (copy of recent PQ answer attached).



1/11/96
2/11/96
3/11/96

9
37

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
MAIN BUILDING WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2HB
Telephone 0171-21.....(Direct Dialling)
0171-21 89000 (Switchboard)

PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE
FOR DEFENCE

D/US of S/FH/PQ2100H/2101H/2105H/2106H/
2109H/2111H/2112H/2114H/2118H/2123H/
2124H/2127H/2130H/2131H/2136H/96/M

28th October 1996

Dear Mr. Redmond,

Nicholas Soames undertook to write to you in his reply to your recent Parliamentary Questions about UFOs. (Official Report, cols 1092-1093 and 1095, copies attached). I am replying as this matter falls within my area of responsibility.

The MOD's interest in 'unexplained' aerial phenomena (Question 1) is limited to whether the UK Air Defence Region might have been compromised. Unless there is any evidence that this is the case, and to date no sighting has provided such evidence, we do not investigate further or seek to provide an explanation for what might have been observed. We have no expertise or role with respect to 'UFO/flying saucer' matters and, so far as the existence or otherwise of extraterrestrial lifeforms is concerned, we remain open minded but know of nothing that proves they exist. Our policy in this respect has not changed during the last thirty years.

RAF Standing Instructions (Question 2) require all RAF Station Commanders to forward reports of all 'UFO' sightings whether made by members of the public or on-duty Service personnel to the Secretariat (Air Staff), Branch 2a. Sec(AS)2a look at all 'UFO' sighting reports (Question 3) whether military or civilian reported. Reports are assessed in consultation with other MOD branches as required to determine whether there is any defence interest in what has been reported. Over the last twelve months there has been one instance of an on-duty member of the Services reporting an 'unexplained' aerial sighting, and this was not judged to be of any significance.

Martin Redmond Esq MP

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
SECRETARIAT (AIR STAFF)
BRANCH 2A
FILE 644

12



We have no evidence (Question 4) that any structured craft of unknown origin has penetrated the UK's Air Defence Region. I am unable to provide the information you seek about reports of alleged landings (Question 5) since records are maintained only of 'UFO' sighting reports which are not broken down further into specific categories.

You ask at Questions 2a, 2b and 6-12 about collaboration and consultation with a number of foreign governments. My Department has regular discussions with a number of countries on a wide range of topics of mutual interest but such discussions have not extended to 'UFO/flying saucer' issues or the existence or otherwise of extraterrestrial life forms.

I can confirm (Question 13) that my Department's Scientific Intelligence Branch holds no records under extended closure for any period in excess of 30 years. So far as the information sought at Question 14 is concerned, the PRO has confirmed that the class list giving details of preserved records is available to researchers at Kew.

Finally, I can also confirm (Question 15) that there is no unit within the Flying Complaints Flight (FCF) based at RAF Rudloe Manor (or anywhere else) specialising in investigations into unidentified flying objects. I should add that despite continuing misunderstandings about the role of RAF Rudloe Manor in alleged 'UFO' investigations, the Station is not and never has been involved in this way.

I shall arrange for a copy of this letter to be placed in the Library of the House.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

Section 40

THE EARL HOWE

17 OCTOBER 1996

Unidentified Flying Objects

1093

Written Answers

10. Mr. Redmond: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what consultation has taken place in each of the last five years by his Department with the French Ministry of Defence Centre National d'Etudes Spatiales in respect of unidentified flying objects; and if he will make a statement: [41048]
15. (2) If a lodger unit housed within his Department's Flying Complaints Flight specialises in unidentified flying object investigations; and if he will make a statement: [41036]
13. (3) how many records currently held by his Department's Scientific Intelligence Branch are under extended closure for (a) 50 years, (b) 75 years and (c) 100 years; how many of these records refer to unidentified flying objects; and if he will make a statement: [40911]
11. (4) what consultation has taken place in each of the last five years by his Department with the Royal Australian air force in respect of unidentified flying objects; and if he will make a statement: [41042]
7. (5) what consultation has taken place in each of the last five years by his Department with the Spanish Ministry of Defence's intelligence section of the Spanish air forces air operations command in respect of unidentified flying objects; and if he will make a statement: [41050]
1. (6) if he will make statement on his Department's policy towards unidentified flying objects and on how this has developed during the past 30 years: [40915]
6. (7) what co-operation there is between the Royal Air Force and the United States air force in respect of establishing the facts relating to unidentified flying objects; and if he will make a statement: [40918]
5. (8) how many alleged landings by unidentified flying objects have been recorded in each year since 1980 and this year to date; how many have been investigated by his Department's personnel; which of these had been traced by radar and with what result; and if he will make a statement: [40921]
8. (9) what consultation has taken place in each of the last five years by his Department with the Italian Ministry of Defence air force general staff (2. Department) in respect of unidentified flying objects; and if he will make a statement: [41049]
2. (10) what instructions have been sent to the commanders of Royal Air Force stations to collect reports from air crews having allegedly sighted unidentified flying objects; what inquiries have been held following such sightings; to what extent there has been collaboration between his Department and departments in (a) Canada and (b) the United States of America on this problem; and if he will make a statement: [40917]
12. (11) what consultation has taken place in each of the last five years by his Department with New Zealand's Ministry of Defence in respect of unidentified flying objects; and if he will make a statement: [41043]
9. (12) what consultation has taken place in each of the last five years by his Department with the Portuguese Ministry of Defence's joint staff of the armed forces intelligence division in respect of unidentified flying objects; and if he will make a statement: [41051]
3. (13) how many instances of unidentified flying objects have been reported on by the defence services of the United Kingdom during the last 12 months; what steps are taken to co-ordinate such observations; and if he will make a statement: [40910]
4. (14) if he will list by year for the last 30 years how many structured craft of unknown origin have penetrated the United Kingdom's air defence region; and if he will make a statement: [40919]

1095

Written Answers

Mr. Nicholas Redfern

14. Mr. Redmond: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will list the titles of the records of the Ministry of Defence's scientific intelligence branch in respect of correspondence sent to Mr. Nicholas Redfern by the Public Record Office, Kew on 21 September 1990. [40889]

Mr. Soames: I will write to hon. Member and a copy of the letter will be placed in the Library in the House.

Mr. Soames: I will write to the hon. Member and a copy of the letter will be placed in the Library of the House.

Taken from Hansard.

Unidentified Flying Objects

Mr. Redmond: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make a statement on the circumstances of the two occasions referred to in his answer of 24 July, Official Report, column 424, when RAF aircraft were scrambled or diverted from task to investigate uncorrelated radar targets; if the objects were identified;

2338

11 Nov 1996 : Column: 26

if it was judged that breaches of United Kingdom airspace had occurred; and if he will list all similar incidents which have occurred since 1979. [2932]

Mr. Soames: The targets were identified as Russian maritime patrol aircraft and were in the northern portion of the UK air defence region. They did not penetrate UK airspace. Information covering the period from 1979 is not held in a readily available form and could be provided only at disproportionate cost and effort.

260 - 11 November 1996.

Yes we hold relevant info - 64/4 Pt 6

Release?

Checked with CT & UKOps

Section 40

OK for release.



PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION

URGENT ACTION REQUIRED

MINISTER REPLYING: MINISTER OF STATE FOR THE ARMED FORCES

PQ REFERENCE: 2338H (was 2238H - change confirmed by Parl Unit)
PQ TYPE: Ordinary Written

SUPPLEMENTARIES ARE REQUIRED? NO

DATE FOR RETURN TO THE PARLIAMENTARY BRANCH: 12:00 ON THURSDAY 7 NOVEMBER 1996

LEAD BRANCH: SEC(AS)
COPY ADDRESSEE(S):



MP'S DETAILS: MR MARTIN REDMOND (LABOUR) (DON VALLEY)

11|To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, if he will make a statement on the circumstances of the two occasions referred to in his Answer of 24th July, Official Report, column 424, when RAF aircraft were scrambled or diverted from task to investigate uncorrelated radar targets; if the objects were identified; if it was judged that breaches of United Kingdom airspace had occurred; and if he will list all similar incidents which have occurred since 1979. [2932]

MR SOAMES: The targets were identified as Russian maritime patrol aircraft and were in the northern portion of the UK Air Defence Region. They did not penetrate UK airspace. Information covering the period from 1979 is not held in a readily available form and could only be provided at disproportionate cost and effort.

APPROVED BY:

Head of Sec(AS) [redacted] Tel: Section 40 [redacted] 7 Nov 96

Sec(AS)2 [redacted] Tel: [redacted] 7th Nov 96

Copy to:

- PSO/ACAS*
- DPR(RAF)*
- AO-AD1*
- DPO(RAF)*
- DI55c

*by CHOTS

BACKGROUND - PQ 2338H

1. This PQ is one of five which have been tabled by Martin Redmond for answer this week, on 'UFO'-related issues. Since the House returned from the summer recess this brings the total of Martin Redmond PQs on 'UFO'-related issues to 33.

2. A copy of the answer given to the previous question (24 July) is attached at Annex A. The incidents giving rise to the uncorrelated radar tracks mentioned in that answer occurred on 2 Aug and 6 Sep 91. The radar tracks were subsequently identified by interception as Russian maritime patrol aircraft which had penetrated the UK Air Defence Region and which were thought to have been monitoring Exercise Northern Star, a NATO maritime exercise taking place at the time.

3. The question asks for details of similar incidents from 1979 onwards. Central file records only exist for the last five years. It might be possible to obtain some information for the period from 1979 by initiating a trawl of local records (Forms 540) held by RAF stations with air defence responsibilities. Forms 540 are raised by all RAF stations for historical purposes to record noteworthy events of significance to the station, but not specifically those of an operational nature. It would involve a manual search by each station for the 17 year period since the records are not held in a readily available form. The answer to the last part of the MP's question could not therefore be provided without disproportionate cost and effort and the reply reflects this line.

DEFENCE

Plutonium

Mr. Llew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if the United States Government have since 1966 requested the United Kingdom to provide reactor grade plutonium for the purpose of conducting a nuclear test explosion under the provisions of the US-UK mutual defence agreement on atomic energy co-operation. [38500]

Mr. Arbuthnot: No such requests have been made by the United States.

Small Businesses

Mr. David Shaw: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make a statement on the impact of (a) his policies and (b) the work of his Department in helping small businesses in the last 12 months as against the previous 12 months; and if he will publish the performance indicators by which his Department monitors the impact and the statistical results of such monitoring. [39141]

Mr. Arbuthnot: The Government recognise the crucial role played by small firms in the UK economy and aim to help them by providing sound economic conditions—keeping inflation and interest rates low; reducing legislative administrative and taxation burdens; and where appropriate provide direct assistance in the form of specialist advice and support and easing access to finance.

My Department supports the DTI's small business measures and initiatives. I am the Minister within this Department for small businesses and I attend or am represented at the DTI's regular meetings.

The Defence Suppliers Service assists companies, including small businesses, in making contact with appropriate contracts branches. It also arranges for details of many forthcoming tenders to be published in the fortnightly MOD *Contracts Bulletin* which is available to any interested party on subscription. This enables small businesses either to seek to tender directly for specific requirements or, more commonly, to become sub-contractors to larger companies.

Since the Procurement Executive of the Ministry of Defence moved to the new procurement headquarters at Abbey Wood near Bristol earlier this year, the Defence Suppliers Service is in contact with the Bristol chamber of commerce and DTI's business links, whose South-west regional supply network office has become their national local point for the defence industry. Other areas of the country can reach my Department, and be reached by us, through the business links network.

As much of the assistance provided by my Department to small businesses tends to be in the sub-contractor sector, it is not possible to establish suitable performance parameters and therefore no statistics are available.

Rendlesham Forest (Incident)

Mr. Redmond: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what response his Department made to the report submitted by Lieutenant Colonel Charles Halt

relating to events in Rendlesham forest in December 1980; what interviews were held; and if he will make a statement; [39247]

(2) who assessed that the events around RAF Woodbridge and RAF Bentwaters in December 1980, which were reported to his Department by Lieutenant Colonel Charles Halt were of no defence significance; on what evidence the assessment was made; what analysis of events was carried out; and if he will make a statement. [39249]

Mr. Soames: The report was assessed by the staff in my Department responsible for air defence matters. Since the judgment was that it contained nothing of defence significance no further action was taken.

Uncorrelated Radar Tracks (Investigations)

Mr. Redmond: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence on how many occasions RAF aircraft have been (a) scrambled and (b) diverted from task to investigate uncorrelated targets picked up on radar; and if he will make a statement. [39218]

Mr. Soames: In the past five years RAF aircraft have been scrambled or diverted from task on two occasions to intercept and identify uncorrelated radar tracks entering the United Kingdom air defence region.

Unidentified Craft

Mr. Redmond: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what is his Department's assessment of the incident that occurred on 5 November 1990 when a patrol of RAF Tornado aircraft flying over the North sea were overtaken at high speed by an unidentified craft; and if he will make a statement; [39245]

(2) if he will make a statement on the unidentified flying object sighting reported to his Department by the meteorological officer at RAF Shawbury in the early hours of 31 March 1993. [39246]

Mr. Soames: Reports of sightings on these dates are recorded on file and were examined by staff responsible for air defence matters. No firm conclusions were drawn about the nature of the phenomena reported but the events were not judged to be of defence significance.

Mr. Redmond: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment his Department made of the photograph of an unidentified craft at Calvine on 4 August 1990; who removed it from an office in secretariat (air staff) 2a; for what reasons; and if he will make a statement. [39248]

Mr. Soames: A number of negatives associated with the sighting were examined by staff responsible for air defence matters. Since it was judged that they contained nothing of defence significance the negatives were not retained and we have no record of any photographs having been taken from them.

Publicity

Ms Hodge: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what is his Department's budget in 1996-97 for consultants to assist with information, publicity, press and media. [39353]

Taken from Hansard.

DEFENCE

Unidentified Flying Objects

Mr. Redmond: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what factors underlay his Department's decision that the reported sightings of unidentified flying objects on 5 November 1990 and 31 March 1993 were not of defence significance; [2898]

(2) for what reasons his Department assessed the sightings of an unidentified flying object over RAF Shawbury, referred to in his answer of 24 July, Official Report, column 424, as having no defence significance.[2928]

12 Nov 1996 : Column: 112

Mr. Soames: I refer the hon. Member to the answer that I gave him on 8 July 1996, Official Report, column 26.

2es - 12 November 1996.

Yes we hold relevant info 64/4 PER.

Release

Para 2 checked with DAS-VF. OK for release.

2334

MW

✓

REDACTION ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT

64/4.



PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION

URGENT ACTION REQUIRED

MINISTER REPLYING: MINISTER OF STATE FOR THE ARMED FORCES

PQ REFERENCE: 2334H
PQ TYPE: Ordinary Written

SUPPLEMENTARIES ARE REQUIRED? NO

DATE FOR RETURN TO THE PARLIAMENTARY BRANCH: 12:00 ON THURSDAY 7 NOVEMBER 1996

LEAD BRANCH: SEC(AS)
COPY ADDRESSEE(S):



MP'S DETAILS: MR MARTIN REDMOND (LABOUR) (DON VALLEY)

9|To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what factors underlay his Department's decision that the reported sightings of unidentified flying objects on 5th November 1990 and 31st March 1993 were not of defence significance. [2898]

PQ REFERENCE: 2344H
PQ TYPE: Ordinary Written

MP'S DETAILS: MR MARTIN REDMOND (LABOUR) (DON VALLEY)

14|To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, for what reasons his Department assessed the sightings of an unidentified flying object over RAF Shawbury referred to in his Answer of 24th July, Official Report, column 424, as having no defence significance. [2928]

MR SOAMES: I refer the hon Member to the reply I gave him on 8 July 1996, Official Report, Col 26.

APPROVED BY:

Head of Sec(AS) [redacted] Tel: Section 40 [redacted] 7 Nov 96
Sec(AS)2 [redacted] Tel: [redacted] 7 Nov 96

Copy to:

- PSO/ACAS*
- DPR(RAF)*
- AO-AD1*
- DPO(RAF)*
- DI55c

*by CHOTS

BACKGROUND NOTE TO PQs 2334H AND 2344H

1. Mr Redmond is continuing to ask a number of questions about 'UFO'-related issues. Since the House returned from the summer recess he has now tabled 33 PQs on this subject. The two incidents to which Mr Redmond refers in these PQs are specifically cited in the book by a former member of Sec(AS) on 'UFOs'.

2. The sighting on 31 March 1993 was one of a number reported from the West Country and South Wales that day. These were examined in the usual manner and included a check with the US authorities about Stealth aircraft activities, which revealed nothing. The report by Tornado aircrew on 5 November 1990 suggested that they may have seen a Stealth aircraft, but there is no evidence on the file of any follow-up action. The report would have been shown to air defence experts, if the normal procedures were followed, and it may therefore be assumed that nothing of defence significance was inferred from the report. The Official Report, 24 July 1996, Col 424, which the MP cites in his question is attached for information at Annex A.

3. As we have already explained the factors relevant to investigating 'UFO' reports (Official Report, 8 July 1996, Col 26 attached at Annex B) there is nothing further to add to what has already been said. The draft reply therefore refers to the earlier answer.

DEFENCE

Plutonium

Mr. Llew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if the United States Government have since 1966 requested the United Kingdom to provide reactor grade plutonium for the purpose of conducting a nuclear test explosion under the provisions of the US-UK mutual defence agreement on atomic energy co-operation. [38500]

Mr. Arbuthnot: No such requests have been made by the United States.

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relating to events in Rendlesham forest in December 1980; what interviews were held; and if he will make a statement; [39247]

(2) who assessed that the events around RAF Woodbridge and RAF Bentwaters in December 1980, which were reported to his Department by Lieutenant Colonel Charles Halt were of no defence significance; on what evidence the assessment was made; what analysis of events was carried out; and if he will make a statement. [39249]

Mr. Soames: The report was assessed by the staff in my Department responsible for air defence matters. Since the judgment was that it contained nothing of defence significance no further action was taken.

Uncorrelated Radar Tracks (Investigations)

Mr. Redmond: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence on how many occasions RAF aircraft have been (a) scrambled and (b) diverted from task to investigate uncorrelated targets picked up on radar; and if he will make a statement. [39218]

Mr. Soames: In the past five years RAF aircraft have been scrambled or diverted from task on two occasions to intercept and identify uncorrelated radar tracks entering the United Kingdom air defence region.

Unidentified Craft

Mr. Redmond: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what is his Department's assessment of the incident that occurred on 5 November 1990 when a patrol of RAF Tornado aircraft flying over the North sea were overtaken at high speed by an unidentified craft; and if he will make a statement; [39245]

(2) if he will make a statement on the unidentified flying object sighting reported to his Department by the meteorological officer at RAF Shawbury in the early hours of 31 March 1993. [39246]

Mr. Soames: Reports of sightings on these dates are recorded on file and were examined by staff responsible for air defence matters. No firm conclusions were drawn about the nature of the phenomena reported but the events were not judged to be of defence significance.

Mr. Redmond: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment his Department made of the photograph of an unidentified craft at Calveley on 4 August 1990; who removed it from an office in secretariat (air staff) 2a; for what reasons; and if he will make a statement. [39248]

Mr. Soames: A number of negatives associated with the sighting were examined by staff responsible for air defence matters. Since it was judged that they contained nothing of defence significance the negatives were not retained and we have no record of any photographs having been taken from them.

Publicity

Ms Hodge: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what is his Department's budget in 1996-97 for consultants to assist with information, publicity, press and media. [39353]

This helpful recommendation, which reflects the local opinions that have been voiced over many months by my hon. Friends and others, will be considered by Barnet health authority at its next meeting.

Read Codes

Mr. Morgan: To ask the Secretary of State for Health, pursuant to his answer of 1 July, *Official Report*, column 334, if he will specify the organisation or person carrying out the study of the licensing arrangements between Computer Aided Medical Systems plc and the NHS; if that organisation was chosen by competitive tenders; when the study was started; when he expected it to be completed; and if he will place a copy in the Library of the completed report. [35768]

Mr. Horam: The review of current licensing and support arrangements for Read codes will be carried out by Silicon Bridge Research. Since it was chosen for its particular skills and experience, at a cost below the single tender limit, there was no competitive tender. The review started on 4 July 1996 and is expected to be completed by the end of October 1996. A report of its findings will be placed in the Library.

Trust and Health Authorities (Debts)

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Health, pursuant to his answer of 23 May, *Official Report*, column 93, if he will show the amount of bad debts and claims abandoned for each health authority in each region broken down by category for the last three years. [33097]

Mr. Horam [holding answer 17 June 1996]: The information will be placed in the Library.

Child Abuse Inquires

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what was the total cost to public funds of (a) the independent review of residential care conducted by Lady Wagner and (b) its report, "Residential Care-A Positive Choice". [35146]

Mr. Bowis [holding answer 1 July 1996]: The information is not available.

DEFENCE

Land Mines

Mrs. Clwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many JP233 mines were left by United Kingdom forces at bomb dump M3 in Bahrain after the Gulf war; and how many of them are currently owned by the United Kingdom Government. [35360]

Mr. Soames: All JP 233 munitions in Bahrain were returned to the UK after the Gulf war.

Hawk Trainer Crash, Portugal

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, pursuant to his answer of 18 June, *Official Report*, column 416, in respect of the crash of a Hawk trainer, when the NATO standardisation agreement came into operation. [35691]

Mr. Soames: NATO standardisation agreement 3531 first came into operation in 1964.

Official Secrets (Military Accidents)

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what proposals he has to alter the provisions contained in official secrets legislation in relation to military incidents resulting in (a) injuries and (b) fatalities; and if he will make a statement. [35703]

Mr. Soames: There are no provisions in official secrets legislation relating specifically to such incidents. Service board of inquiry reports on military incidents resulting in fatalities are released to the next of kin of deceased service personnel, on request, subject to the minimum of security requirements.

Armed Forces

Mr. Galbraith: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, pursuant to his answer to the hon. Member for South Shields (Dr. Clark) of 16 May, *Official Report*, column 559, if he will break down the figures for armed forces by (a) year and (b) service for each year since 1991. [35751]

Mr. Soames: The strength of the Regular armed forces by service, on 1 April for each year since 1991, was as follows:

	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996
RN/RM	62,100	62,100	54,400	55,800	50,900	48,300
Army	154,600	152,400	140,900	128,600	115,900	113,400
RAF	88,400	86,000	80,900	75,700	70,800	64,700
Total	305,100	300,500	281,200	260,100	237,600	226,400
Others ¹	2,100	2,000	1,900	1,600	1,000	1,000

¹Locally Engaged Service Personnel. Army figures include Gurkha strengths. All figures contain an element for personnel undergoing training.

Unidentified Flying Objects

Mr. Redmond: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which office within his Department deals with sightings of unidentified flying objects. [35845]

Mr. Soames: The focal point within my Department for reports of sightings of unidentified flying objects is Secretariat(Air Staff)2a.

Mr. Redmond: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will list by (a) date and (b) location for the last 10 years unexplainable sightings of unidentified flying objects received by his Department; and what action was subsequently taken. [35844]

Mr. Soames: My Department evaluates reports of "unexplained" aerial phenomena solely in order to establish whether they may have any defence significance. Unless there is evidence to indicate that the UK air defence region may have been compromised, and to date no sighting has provided such evidence, my Department does not investigate or seek to provide an explanation for what was observed. The question of unexplainable sightings has not therefore arisen.

Section 40

From: Section 40
Sent: 24 August 2006 15:45
To: Section 40
Subject: Re: FOIA Request 14-06-2006-103522-003

Hi Section 40

Sorry to hear you're leaving your post -- good luck with whatever's next.

Obviously given your reply about the parliamentary questions I understand the process could take time, but do you think it's possible my request may have a final response before you leave? (By September 29 will take it over 100 days).

Best Regards

Section 40

----- Original Message -----

From: Section 40
To: Section 40
Sent: Thursday, August 24, 2006 10:59 AM
Subject: FOIA Request 14-06-2006-103522-003

Dear Section 40

On the 30th July I informed you that I was conducting a Public Interest Test for your Freedom of Information request regarding a number of Parliamentary Questions in 1996 and I estimated that I would be able to provide you with a response by the 25 August 2006. However, it has been discovered that there are in fact 13 Parliamentary Questions relevant to your request, some of which involve advice from other MOD departments. 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. We expect to be able to provide you with a final response by 29 September 2006. If there are any further delays you will be informed.

I should inform you that I will be on holiday between 31st August - 15th September and I will be leaving this post on the 20th September. If you wish to contact this department please use our office email address of das-ufo-office@mod.uk to insure that your email reaches those who need to see it. Postal correspondence can be sent to this address and will be opened by my successor.

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

Section 40

From: Section 40
Sent: 30 June 2006 12:26
To: Section 40
Subject: Internet-authorised:Freedom of Information Request
Attachments: 20060630 U PIT Letter Section 40 14-06-2006-103522-003.doc

Dear Section 40

A response to your e-mail of 13 June has been sent to you in the post and you should receive it shortly. In the meantime, I attach an electronic copy for your information.

Regards

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



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

Our Reference
14-06-2006-103522-003

Hessle
East Yorkshire

Date
30th June 2006

Section 40

Dear Section 40

I am writing concerning your email of 13 June in which you requested information on our UFO reports database, UAP radar reports, a particular UFO sighting on 5 March 1992 and background information to responses to 6 parliamentary questions in 1996. Your correspondence has been considered to be a request for information in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

First you asked whether we had been able to complete any further years of our UFO database. We are continuing to add details to our database and hope to release further information into the Ministry of Defence Publication Scheme in due course. However, we are currently experiencing some difficulties with the retrieval of records from archives and this has resulted in us being unable to complete any further years. Clearly, we cannot publish information which is incomplete so for the time being there will be no new releases. When we are able to make this information available it will be placed on the MOD website, in the Publication Scheme and highlighted in the Top Choices section on the Freedom of Information home page.

You also asked if any files had been compiled specifically containing "UAP/UFO radar detections". I am unaware of any such files having been compiled by any Ministry of Defence branch.

You also requested information on a UFO sighting by a Section 40 of Section 40 Shipham around 5 March 1992. I have searched all the appropriate UFO files of the period and no relevant information has been located.

With regard to the remaining part of your request, namely requests 1 and 2 (a) to (e) I can inform you that the Ministry of Defence holds information relevant to these requests but we believe this information falls within the scope of a qualified exemption of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. This is 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 40 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 25 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

Section 40

From: Section 40
Sent: 24 August 2006 10:59
To: Section 40
Subject: Internet-authorised:FOIA Request 14-06-2006-103522-003

Dear Section 40

On the 30th July I informed you that I was conducting a Public Interest Test for your Freedom of Information request regarding a number of Parliamentary Questions in 1996 and I estimated that I would be able to provide you with a response by the 25 August 2006. However, it has been discovered that there are in fact 13 Parliamentary Questions relevant to your request, some of which involve advice from other MOD departments. 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. We expect to be able to provide you with a final response by 29 September 2006. If there are any further delays you will be informed.

I should inform you that I will be on holiday between 31st August - 15th September and I will be leaving this post on the 20th September. If you wish to contact this department please use our office email address of das-ufo-office@mod.uk to insure that your email reaches those who need to see it. Postal correspondence can be sent to this address and will be opened by my successor.

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

24/08/2006

Section 40

From: Section 40

Sent: 04 July 2006 09:34

To: Section 40

Subject: Internet-authorized: Freedom of Information Request

Dear Section 40

Thank you for your message.

With regard to your comments about exemption 36, it may be helpful if I clarify that the Freedom of Information Act requires that where a Qualified exemption applies to requested information the Department is required to consider whether the Public Interest ways in favour of disclosure or release. Each request is considered individually taking into consideration all the circumstances of the case and the fact that we are conducting a Public Interest Test for the information you have requested does not mean that the information will be withheld, as the result of the Public Interest Test may ultimately favour release. As soon as we have made a decision regarding your requests I will let you know the result.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

Directorate of Air Staff – Freedom of Information

From: Section 40

Sent: 03 July 2006 11:06

To: Section 40

Subject: Re: Freedom of Information Request

Hi Section 40

Thanks for your prompt letter and email of 30 June, 2006 and for answering my questions succinctly, your correspondence and patience are always gratefully appreciated.

With regard to exemption S 36 and my questions 1 and 2 from my enquiry 13 June, if the MoD decide negatively upon this then I most certainly will have to challenge the decision, as these documents would indeed be in the public interest. In fact I could probably cite several reasons for this. However, since it's early days, what I may do in the interim is point to other examples of similar releases of briefing documents were S 36 was initially employed.

The MoD set a precedent in releasing briefing documents to ministers when exemption 36 was challenged to release the remaining MoD Rendlesham documents. Also more recently, the briefing papers supplied to Defence Minister Tom King in March 1992 in preparation for response to a PQ by George Foulkes MP on the topic of Aurora black project. These papers were released to Dr David Clarke following an FOI request he made in 2005 (see The Guardian, June 24, 2006). In short, if the MoD are seen to be using exemption 36 as a catch-all for any what might be considered slightly embarrassing documents concerning MPs, or alternatively perceived to be releasing information in any way impartially, this would raise serious questions on commitments and responsibilities to FOIA.

Additionally, what I might also add to this communication for consideration in the MoD's decision on questions 1 & 2 of my communication is that the materials asked for stem from a decade ago now. Having to go through the process of appeal, which might then return a positive decision anyhow, is in my opinion a waste of the MoD's time and resources when a precedent of releasing briefing documents has already been set?

Of course I accept your predicament and any delay patiently.

Best Regards

Section 40

----- Original Message -----

From: Section 40

To: Section 40

Sent: Friday, June 30, 2006 12:25 PM

Subject: Freedom of Information Request

04/07/2006

Dear **Section 40**

A response to your e-mail of 13 June has been sent to you in the post and you should receive it shortly. In the meantime, I attach an electronic copy for your information.

Regards

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



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:	Section 40
Departmental Case Ref:	
Is this person the first point of contact for this case? (Please check box)	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> (If no, please indicate first point of contact in Key Contacts section)

Timeframes	
Date request received:	14 June 2006
Date Clearing House advice required by:	14 August 2006
Deadline for response to applicant:	24 August 2006
Is there a prospect of using NCND?	No

Case Details:	
Name / organisation of applicant and exact wording of request:	<div style="background-color: black; color: white; padding: 2px; margin-bottom: 5px;">Section 40</div> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Copies of all papers held by MoD relating to questions on UFOs - (Hansard 17 October 1996), to Prime Minister John Major, including briefing papers. 2. Copies of 'briefing papers' relevant to Martin Redmond's questions on UFOs in Parliament from:- <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) 24 July 1996 "Unidentified Craft" b) 17 October 1996 "Defence Intelligence Branches" question about current function of DI 55 and DI61 etc; "RAF Rudloe Manor" c) 5 November 1996 "Unidentified Flying Craft" - question on number of RAF encounters with UFOs since 1996. d) 11 November 1996 "Unidentified Flying Objects" question on number of times aircraft scrambled since 1979. e) 12 November 1996 - Unidentified Flying Objects follow up question on Cosford incident, 1993. <p style="margin-top: 10px;">In reference to 2, I understand Nicholas Soames made official response, I am not interested in the official reply; but rather want Soames' official briefings given by Sec(AS), DIS and any internal correspondence etc in preparation for his replies.</p> <p style="margin-top: 10px;">Part of request referring to S.36 information. Copy of the full request is attached.</p>

<p>Please give detailed background information on the subject matter and sensitivities (including media interest) surrounding the request:</p>	<p>The subject of UFOs attracts a lot of public and media attention. The applicant is well known amongst "Ufologists" and makes public and media appearances. Any information released to the applicant is likely to appear on the internet and/or in the media.</p>
<p>What Clearing House triggers are engaged by this request? (Refer to Clearing House toolkit at http://www.foi.gov.uk/guidance/pdf/toolkit.pdf)</p>	<p>The information consists of background briefing provided for a Minister. One of these requests also involves advice to a previous administration.</p>
<p>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?</p>	<p>No</p>

Exemptions:	
<p>Which exemptions may apply to the information held, and why?</p>	<p>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. At least one of these requests also involves advice to a former Prime Minister from another political party. Release of this information could inhibit the free and frank provision of such advice.</p>

Internal Departmental action to date:	
<p>Summary of case action (including contact with applicant) taken by Department so far:</p>	<p>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. Other parts of this request not relating to S.36 have been answered in full.</p>
<p>Next steps for Department (including internal clearance procedures) and timeframes:</p>	<p>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.</p>

Involvement of Other Government Departments/NDPBs:	
Is this a suspected Round Robin request? (Please check box)	
<p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>

If not a Round Robin, are any other Government Departments or NDPBs likely to be involved? (Please check box)			
<p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>Possibly <input type="checkbox"/></p>	

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 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Name:	Section 40	
E – mail:	@mod.uk	
Telephone Number:		

Key Contact Details – Departmental Lawyer		
		Please check if this is first point of contact <input type="checkbox"/>
Name:		
E – mail:		
Telephone Number:		

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 I 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 I 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

24 July 1996 -

D/Sec (AS) 12/4 Pt B. UFOs PQ/PE3

1995 ✓

D/Sec (AS) 64/4 Pt B " "

1996 (Sep-Nov) ✓

D/Sec (AS) 64/4 Pt C " "

~~1996 (Nov) 1997 (July)~~

Info Percol

64/4 Pt A ✓

1995-1996

5. March 1992 - UFO Reports - D/Sec (AS) 12/2 Pt L
- UFO Correspondence - D/Sec (AS) 12/3 Pt I ✓

checked.
Nothing relevant
Relevant from
TNT
26/6.

Nothing relevant
up to July.

Check Policy file:

Section 40

From: Section 40
Sent: 24 August 2006 15:45
To: Section 40
Subject: Re: FOIA Request 14-06-2006-103522-003

Hi Section 40

Sorry to hear you're leaving your post -- good luck with whatever's next.

Obviously given your reply about the parliamentary questions I understand the process could take time, but do you think it's possible my request may have a final response before you leave? (By September 29 will take it over 100 days).

Best Regards

Section 40

----- Original Message -----

From: Section 40
To: Section 40
Sent: Thursday, August 24, 2006 10:59 AM
Subject: FOIA Request 14-06-2006-103522-003

Dear Section 40

On the 30th July I informed you that I was conducting a Public Interest Test for your Freedom of Information request regarding a number of Parliamentary Questions in 1996 and I estimated that I would be able to provide you with a response by the 25 August 2006. However, it has been discovered that there are in fact 13 Parliamentary Questions relevant to your request, some of which involve advice from other MOD departments. 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. We expect to be able to provide you with a final response by 29 September 2006. If there are any further delays you will be informed.

I should inform you that I will be on holiday between 31st August - 15th September and I will be leaving this post on the 20th September. If you wish to contact this department please use our office email address of das-ufo-office@mod.uk to insure that your email reaches those who need to see it. Postal correspondence can be sent to this address and will be opened by my successor.

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

19/09/2006

Section 40

From: Section 40

Sent: 19 September 2006 10:23

To: Section 40

Subject: RELEASE OF PQ BACKGROUND NOTES/CORRESPONDENCE

Section 40

I have spoken to Section 40 and the DIS Subject Matter Expert Section 40 regarding the potential release of the background notes and correspondence related to the various PQs from Martin Redmond on UFOs. We have looked through the documents that you provided us with and the decision is that they can all be released, the only redactions required are those you have already highlighted (ie. people's names).

Regards,

Section 40

DI CSD Sec 3

Section 40

AITCases

14062006: Section 40 14-06-2006-103522-003

 New Item |  Edit Item |  Delete Item | Alert Me | Go Back to List

Title: Section 40 14-06-2006-103522-003

Person_Title: [REDACTED]

First_Name: [REDACTED]

Surname: [REDACTED]

Organisation:

Applicant_Type: Not Specified

Address_Line_1: Section 40

Address_Line_2: [REDACTED]

Address_Line_3: Hessle

TownCity: East Yorkshire

Postcode: Section 40

Country: United Kingdom

Email: Section 40

Telephone: Section 40

Fax:

Request_Details:

1. Copies of all papers held by MOD relating to questions on UFOs - (Hansard 17 October 1996), to Prime Minister John Major, including briefing papers.
2. Copies of 'briefing papers' relevant to Martin Redmond's questions on UFOs in Parliament from:
 - a) 24 July 1996 "Unidentified Craft"
 - b) 17 October 1996 "Defence Intelligence Branches" question about current function of DI55 and DI61 etc, "RAF Rudloe Manor".
 - c) 5 November 1996 "Unidentified Flying Craft"- question on number of RAF encounters with UFOs since 1996.
 - d) 11 November 1996 "Unidentified Flying Objects" - question on number of times aircraft scrambled since 1979.
 - e) 12 November 1996- "Unidentified Flying Objects" - follow up question on Cosford Incident 1993.

In reference to 2, I understand Nicholas Soames made official response, I am not interested in the official reply; but rather want Soames' official briefing given by Sec(AS), DIS and any internal correspondence etc in preparation for his replies.
3. A report of 'aerial phenomena' both a visual and radar sighting, possibly form March 5, 1992 by a Section 40 Section 40 Shipham has come to my attention. Apparently this was seen by Bristol controllers

as a steady return on a radar bearing of 240 true range 4 nautical miles. Can you confirm if this report is filed with MOD and whether there are any papers or correspondence relevant to it?

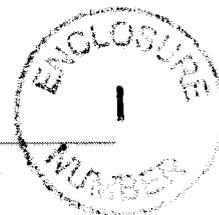
If the scope of this request is too large Section 40 would you please apprise what elements are do-able?

Best Regards

Case_Number: 14-06-2006-103522-003
Originator: DII Section 40
User_Group: GxAITESTPTCDAS
Date_Received: 14/06/2006
Date_Due: 25/08/2006
Status: Authorise closing of Calculate Fees Closed
Responder: DII Section 40
Vexatious_Type:
Vexatious_Reason:
Quick_Response_Type:
Quick_Resp_Cov_Letter_Issued: No
Media_Preference_Met: Yes
Media_Date_Sent: 23/10/2006
Media_Response_Sent: Yes
Media_Preference_Comments:
Closed: Yes
Date_Closed: 16/11/2006
Media_Type:
Requested_Language: English
Standard_Response_Comment:
Offline_Assigned_To:
Offline_Date_Due:
Offline_Date_Responded:
Ext_Ref_Department_Name:
Ext_Ref_Sent_To_PRO:
Ext_Ref_Date_Sent_To_PRO:
Ext_Ref_PRO_Accepted:
Ext_Ref_Date_PRO_Accepted:
Vexatious_Supporting_Cases:
Vexatious_Authorised_By:
Vexatious_Date_Authorised:
Vexatious_Reference:
Request_Location:
Hold_Resp_Reason:
Hold_Resp_Request_Type:
Hold_Resp_Date_Response_Expected:
Hold_Resp_Letter_Sent:
Hold_Resp_Date_Letter_Sent:
On_Hold:

Exemption_Applied: No
Exemptions_Authorised_By:
Exemptions_Date_Authorised:
Exemptions_Ref_Number:
Std_Resp_Authorised:
Std_Resp_Authorised_By:
Std_Resp_Date_Authorised:
Std_Resp_Reference:
Fees_Total_Cost:
Fees_Resp_Justification:
Fees_Resp_To_Applicant:
Fees_Notice_Details:
Fees_Refusal_Letter_Details:
Fees_Notice_Sent:
Fees_Notice_Date_Sent:
Fees_On_Hold:
Fees_Date_Paid:
Fees_Offline_Authorised_By:
Fees_Offline_Authorised: No
Fees_Date_Authorised:
Fees_Auth_Ref_Number:
Fees_Online_Authorised_By:
Fees_Online_Authorised:
Fees_Ref_Letter_Date_Sent:
Fees_Refusal_Notice_Sent:
Fees_Close_Case:
Attachments: Comments.xml
Exemptions.xml
Holding Response-14-06-2006-103522-003.rtf
SearchResults.html
Tracing.xml

Created at 14/06/2006 10:35 by AccelK2_svc
Last modified at 16/11/2006 14:08 by AccelK2_svc



Section 40

From: Section 40

Sent: 22 September 2006 11:45

To: Section 40

Subject: Internet-Authorised: FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST 09-05-2006-065541-004

Dear Section 40

My colleague, Section 40, promised to write to you regarding MOD involvement in research of the type of technology that could make space exploration possible. She has now transferred to another branch and I am covering her work on a temporary basis.

Having consulted with other branches, I can confirm that the Ministry of Defence's research programme necessarily covers a wide range of technologies but it has no specific programmes aimed at the type of technologies you list in your correspondence with the object of deep space travel.

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, please accept my apologies for the delay in answering your query.

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

22/09/2006

Section 40

From: Section 40
 Sent: 30 August 2006 20:37
 To: Section 40
 Subject: RE: Freedom of Information Request 09-05-2006-065541-004

Dear Section 40

Thank you very much for your response, and your efforts in answering my questions.

I have downloaded the document from the "Unidentified Aerial Phenomena (UAP) in the UK Air Defence Region" page for offline reading - I presume this is the correct document?

I look forward to hearing from you in the future regarding point 5 of my FOI request.

Again, many thanks for your efforts and your reply.

Kind regards,

Section 40

From: Section 40
 Sent: 30 August 2006 15:10
 To: Section 40
 Subject: Freedom of Information Request 09-05-2006-065541-004
 Importance: High

Dear Section 40

I am writing concerning your request for information in which you asked for a copy of a recently released UFO study and asked several questions about the Ministry of Defence's position regarding extraterrestrial life-forms. Your request has been passed this department because we are the focal point within the MOD for correspondence concerning UFOs. I apologise for the delay in replying.

I will answer your questions in the same order as your letter.

1. You requested a copy of the UFO study recently released to Section 40. A full copy of this document can be found on the MOD website at <http://www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/FreedomOfInformation/PublicationScheme>.
2. With regard to your question about whether the MOD is in possession of any extraterrestrial material, I can assure you that the MOD does not hold any such material.
3. The MOD is not actively involved in the search for extraterrestrial life-forms. Our only interest in the UFO sighting reports we receive is whether they provide any evidence that the UK's airspace might have been compromised by hostile or unauthorised air activity. Once it is established that a report does not contain such evidence we do not attempt to positively identify what was seen.
4. The MOD has no plans to conduct research into the existence of extraterrestrial intelligence in the foreseeable future.
5. With regard to your question about research into space exploration using cryonics, faster than light propulsion etc, this department holds no such information. I am however making some enquiries within the MOD to see if any relevant information is held by other departments. I will write to you again regarding this as soon as I have a response.

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

19/09/2006

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
SW1A 2HB

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

Section 40

From: Section 40
Sent: 16 May 2006 09:01
To: Section 40
Subject: RE: FOI

Section 40

Reference your email below, I have asked around the DIS and the answer is 'No', the DIS is not involved in any sort of research concerning propulsion technology. However, I have been advised that the person who can give a definitive answer for the rest of the MoD is a Section 40 who is the Director responsible for S&T policy in the MoD. It may therefore be worth emailing him the question below and asking for his views.

Hope that helps !

Section 40

From: Section 40
Sent: 15 May 2006 12:30
To: Section 40
Subject: FOI

Section 40

Thanks for bring the report over. APS1/ US of S now has it. He said that he does not expect the Minister to read it all and if he does, they are probably not giving him enough work to do. The APS will call me when he has finished with it and I will keep it here. Hopefully the Minister wont have any further questions.

As discussed the Minister has asked us to make the press line about the cost of the report more robust. They have asked us to include something like "the report lead to DIS no longer receiving UFO reports, therefore allowing them to focus resources where more adequately needed". Please could you have a look at this. The APS has asked to see the revised line.

With regard to the other request I mentioned, the question is as follows;

"Is the Ministry of Defence involved in the research of technology that could make exploration of this and nearby star systems possible, for example: cryonics, nuclear / ion / solar / faster than light propulsion etc – if so, how far along are these projects, and how much is their estimated / actual cost to the tax payer per financial year?"

I think the answer is no, but I would be grateful for your advice on this one.

Regards

Section 40
DAS-FOI

17/05/2006

Section 40

From: Section 40

Sent: 30 August 2006 12:18

To: Section 40

Subject: Freedom of Information Request

Dear Section 40

Several months ago I asked if you could assist with some information requested as part of a Freedom of Information request to this department. You may recall I also telephoned you and we discussed this and you said you would send me a paragraph which I could include in my response to the applicant. I have subsequently also spoken to a lady in your office who said she would speak to you about this. I would be grateful if you could advise me as soon as possible whether you hold any relevant information and if so whether it can be released to the applicant. The information requested is as follows;

Is the MOD involved in the research of technology that could make exploration of this and nearby star systems possible, for example: cryonics, nuclear / ion / solar / faster than light propulsion etc – if so, how far along are these projects, and how much is their estimated / actual cost to the tax payer per financial year?

If this is not a matter for your department, please could you advise me as soon as possible.

Regards

Section 40

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

DAS-FOI

Section 40

No.

MOD's research programme, necessarily covers a wide range of technologies but it has no specific programmes aimed at the type of technologies you list in your correspondence ~~aimed at~~ with the object of deep space exploration.

30/08/2006

Section 40

From: Section 40
 Sent: 30 August 2006 15:10
 To: Section 40
 Subject: Internet-authorized:Freedom of Information Request 09-05-2006-065541-004
 Importance: High 

Dear Section 40

I am writing concerning your request for information in which you asked for a copy of a recently released UFO study and asked several questions about the Ministry of Defence's position regarding extraterrestrial life-forms. Your request has been passed this department because we are the focal point within the MOD for correspondence concerning UFOs. I apologise for the delay in replying.

I will answer your questions in the same order as your letter.

1. You requested a copy of the UFO study recently released to Section 40. A full copy of this document can be found on the MOD website at <http://www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/FreedomOfInformation/PublicationScheme>.
2. With regard to your question about whether the MOD is in possession of any extraterrestrial material, I can assure you that the MOD does not hold any such material.
3. The MOD is not actively involved in the search for extraterrestrial life-forms. Our only interest in the UFO sighting reports we receive is whether they provide any evidence that the UK's airspace might have been compromised by hostile or unauthorised air activity. Once it is established that a report does not contain such evidence we do not attempt to positively identify what was seen.
4. The MOD has no plans to conduct research into the existence of extraterrestrial intelligence in the foreseeable future.
5. With regard to your question about research into space exploration using cryonics, faster than light propulsion etc, this department holds no such information. I am however making some enquiries within the MOD to see if any relevant information is held by other departments. I will write to you again regarding this as soon as I have a response.

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>.

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

30/08/2006

Expiry Date - 07/06/06

09-05-2006-065541-004

Section 40

From: Section 40
Sent: 09 May 2006 07:00
To: Section 40
Cc:
Subject: FW: FOI INFORMATION REQUEST PS 09-05-2006-065541-004 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: 09 May 2006 01:07
To: Info-Access-Office
Subject: FOI INFORMATION REQUEST PS 09-05-2006-065541-004 Section 40

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted on Tuesday, May 9, 2006 at 01:06:55

FirstName: Section 40
LastName: Section 40
Address1: Section 40
Address2: Muxton
City: Telford
State: Shropshire
zip: Section 40
Country: United Kingdom
e-mail: Section 40

Reply part drafted -
Q.5. to Section 40 for
advice. 17/5/2006

2nd e-mail sent 5/6/06
Spoke to Section 40 He will provide a
Section 40 paragraph.
phoned again 12/7/2006

preferred format: electronic

infosubject: To be provided with the following information:

1. * A copy of the UFO Study recently released to Section 40
2. * Is the Ministry of Defence in possession of any extraterrestrial material - either man made debris, natural cosmic material or otherwise; if so, what are they, where were they recovered, have any experiments been carried out on them and if so with what results, and what plans exist for their future?
3. * Is the Ministry of Defence actively involved in the search for extraterrestrial intelligence / life?
4. * Does the Ministry of Defence have any plans or projects scheduled to conduct further research into the existence of extraterrestrial intelligence / life?
5. * Is the Ministry of Defence involved in the research of technology that could make exploration of this and nearby star systems possible, for example: cryonics, nuclear / ion / solar / faster than light propulsion etc - if so, how far along are these projects, and how much is their estimated/actual cost to the tax payer per financial

year?

If possible, I would like a hard copy response to this request as well as an email reply.

submit: Send Form
