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# Registered File Disposal Form

MOD Form 262F  
(Revised 9/01)

FILE TITLE: (Main Heading - Secondary Heading - Tertiary Heading etc)  
*UFOO - Resident Correspondence -  
 Dr David Clarke*

Reference:  
 (Prefix and Number): *DIDAS/64/3/11*  
 Part: *F*

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

Date of last enclosure: *23/07/08*

Date closed: *23/07/09*

**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**

\_\_\_\_\_  \_\_\_\_\_  \_\_\_\_\_   
 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):

*For permanent preservation*

LEGAL <input type="checkbox"/>	DEFENCE POLICY + OPERATIONS <input 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"/>

(ii) Key enclosures which support the recommendation are:

UFO related documents

(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: C2 Date: 30/7/09

Branch Title and Full Address:

RAF BUSINESS SECRETARIAT  
HQ AIR COMMAND  
RAF HIGH WYCOMBE

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)

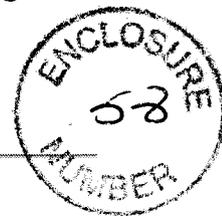
Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

(Block Capitals)

Grade/Rank: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\*(FOR DR USE ONLY)



Section 40

**From:** David Clarke Section 40  
**Sent:** 23 July 2008 10:55  
**To:** Section 40  
**Subject:** Re: Cardiff UFO

Dear Section 40

Many thanks for your response dated 26 June.

My story on the current media UFO hype is published in the current edition of Fortean Times, but you can read a version on my web-page here:

<http://www.dr david clarke.co.uk/news2.htm>

I trust your inbox is a little less troubled now the Sun appear to have dropped the story.

Yours,

David Clarke

On Thu, Jun 26, 2008 at 9:20 AM, Section 40 wrote:

Dear Dr Clarke,

Thank you for your e-mail of 25 June 2008.

The MoD has not received a report of this incident and has therefore not investigated the matter.

Section 40

DAS-FOI

05-H-13

MoD Main Building

Whitehall

London

SW1A 2HB

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**From:** David Clarke [mailto:[Section 40](#)]  
**Sent:** 25 June 2008 11:27  
**To:** [Section 40](#)  
**Subject:** Cardiff UFO



Dear [Section 40](#)

No doubt MoD will have had many inquiries regarding the alleged sighting of a UFO by the crew of a police helicopter in South Wales on 7/8 June.

You may be interested to read this item on the BBC Wales news page posted yesterday, which provides a satisfying explanation for this and the other sightings, as Chinese lanterns released from a wedding party near Cardiff airport:

Source: [http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk\\_news/wales/7471724.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk_news/wales/7471724.stm)

I understand from the media coverage that MoD has not (as of the weekend) received any formal report from South Wales police on the original incident.

Can you confirm this remains the case? I would have expected this report, if such exists, to have been filed with the CAA as an airprox or 'Mandatory Occurrence Report'. Have you received notification of such a report?

If you have received a report does MoD intend to make further inquiries, or are satisfied there is no defence interest in this incident?

This is more of a press inquiry than a formal FOI. I have been asked to write a short piece

for the media and wish to ensure that I state the MoD's position on this matter clearly and directly.

I would be grateful for any assistance you can provide.

I look forward to hearing from you

Yours Sincerely,

Dr David Clarke

--

David Clarke

<http://www.drdavidclarke.co.uk/>

## WHY LET THE FACTS GET IN THE WAY OF A GOOD STORY?

Silly Season: 'the summer month of August is traditionally viewed as journalism's silly season, in which there is very little news, allowing senior editorial staff in particular to take holidays. Politicians are in the middle of their long break from Parliamentary duty and government offices are short-staffed, suggesting nothing of major importance is likely to happen and resulting in the media turning to the reporting of more trivial matters.' (The Guardian, 31 July 2002).

In July 2007 Britain's favourite tabloid tried to persuade us that a great white shark had visited the normally serene Cornish coast, complete with wobbly video clips showing sinister dark fins breaking the waves. The Sun's shark mania soon evaporated when it was revealed the footage was taken in Cape Town, not St Ives.

In 2008 the silly season arrived earlier than usual and for most of June Jaws mania was swapped for an invasion by 'the Alien Army'. For certain sections of the media UFOs have now become perennial silly season fodder. Tabloid newspapers in particular will print anything UFO-related without any iota of critical scrutiny. As Nick Davies points out in Flat Earth News, this type of story is cheap and easy to cover and gives the punters what they want.

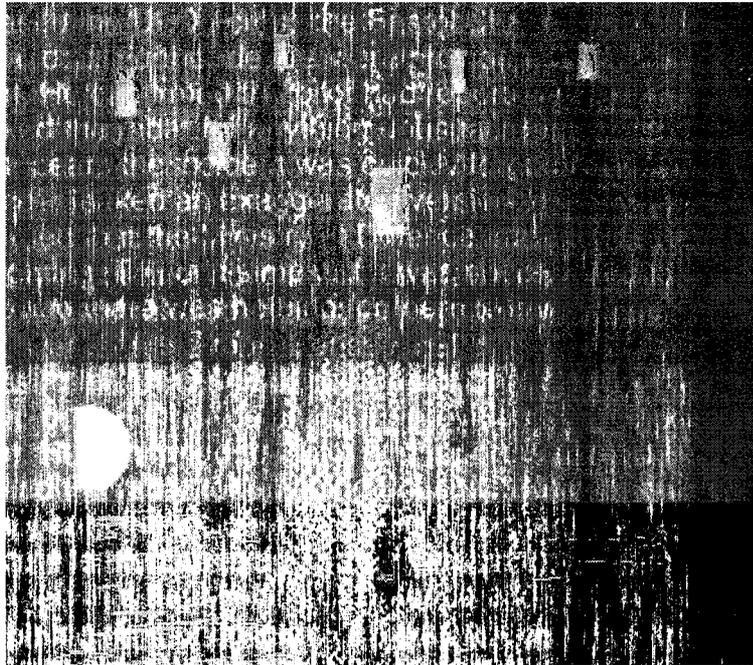
During the spring of 2008, with the MoD files story simmering away and the imminent release of a new X-file movie, it was inevitable that UFOs would soon be back in force. As one UFO witness caught up in the hype told me: "a journalist intuitively seemed to understand this when he said to me: 'it's about time we had another UFO story.' "

Add a flotilla of sky lanterns to the heady brew and – hey presto - a media-created UFO flap was upon us. For a full week in June The Sun filled its pages with exciting tales of UFOs bothering police helicopters and buzzing bemused squaddies. And when these tales dried up there was an army of eager readers on hand to stoke the embers by sending in their own grainy images of lights in the sky filmed on mobile phones and camcorders.

This summer's UFO mania kicked off on 20 June with a Sun exclusive. The crew of the South Wales police helicopter were confronted by a 'flying saucer shaped' object as they approached their landing pad at just 500 feet. According to 'an anonymous source' the pilot had to bank sharply to avoid a collision above St Athan, near Cardiff International Airport, shortly after midnight on 8 June. The pilot then set off across the Bristol Channel in hot pursuit of the intruder, but had to turn back when fuel ran low over the North Devon coast. Most police copters carry hi-tech equipment such as surveillance cameras but nothing was captured on film which suggests this was a fleeting observation. Even stranger, although the UFO – described as 'circled by flashing lights' – was clearly visible to the naked eye, nothing could be seen through the crew's night-vision goggles. They reported their encounter to senior officers who then passed it "to Britain's UFO investigators." Within hours of publication on the Sun's website the story was republished around the world.

The police, by now inundated with press inquiries, dismissed The Sun's story as factually

inaccurate. They said the incident did occur but the crew simply saw an “unusual aircraft” not a “flying saucer”. The force refused to release any further details of the crew’s report but were quick to pour cold water on the more sensational claims made by The Sun’s source. The copter had not chased the UFO across the Bristol Channel, nor had to take evasive action to avoid it, they added. Further details were provided by a spokesman for air traffic control at Cardiff airport. He confirmed the pilot had reported his sighting to the controller who immediately checked the radar for anything unusual. But they could see nothing other than the helicopter. It appears the incident was quickly forgotten about until someone - The Sun’s mysterious source – leaked an exaggerated version to the media. This was confirmed when it emerged that the Ministry of Defence and the Civil Aviation Authority had no knowledge of the sighting. To put it simply, if it was not reported to them directly, then as far as they were concerned there was nothing for them to investigate!



Meanwhile BBC Wales put the spotlight on the sightings with a story from newlyweds Lucy and Lyn Thomas. They celebrated their wedding with sky lanterns released by guests at their wedding party. The celebration was held at the Glyn Cowbridge which is three miles southeast of St Athan, on the shore of the Bristol Channel. Numerous paper lanterns, 2ft 6 in high (0.79m), behave exactly like the balloons. The lanterns released at night have been the source of many UFO sightings. The couple purchased 100 lanterns for the event and had to follow strict aviation safety regulations before going ahead. Thirty were released at 10.30pm on 11 June. The northwesterly winds that evening would have blown the lanterns towards the helicopter base. But The Sun – and the police – were having none of it. The crew were very experienced and “we do NOT believe it [the UFO] was one of these lanterns,” an indignant force spokesman told us. But whatever the case, it was a coincidence that both a UFO and a fleet of sky lanterns happened to visit the same area at the same time?

### Alien fleet over Shropshire

On 25 June The Sun was put to bed with a page one splash to follow its UFO exclusive. This was complete with mobile phone footage of 13 UFOs “spinning in the skies” above a military base in the Midlands. Colonel Mark Proctor and three



Section 40

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**From:** Section 40  
**Sent:** 26 June 2008 09:21  
**To:** 'David Clarke'  
**Subject:** Release-authorized: Cardiff UFO

Dear Dr Clarke,

Thank you for your e-mail of 25 June 2008.

The MoD has not received a report of this incident and has therefore not investigated the matter.

Section 40

DAS-FOI  
05-H-13  
MoD Main Building  
Whitehall  
London  
SW1A 2HB

---

**From:** David Clarke [mailto:Section 40]  
**Sent:** 25 June 2008 11:27  
**To:** Section 40  
**Subject:** Cardiff UFO

Dear Section 40

No doubt MoD will have had many inquiries regarding the alleged sighting of a UFO by the crew of a police helicopter in South Wales on 7/8 June.

You may be interested to read this item on the BBC Wales news page posted yesterday, which provides a satisfying explanation for this and the other sightings, as Chinese lanterns released from a wedding party near Cardiff airport:

Source: [http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk\\_news/wales/7471724.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk_news/wales/7471724.stm)

I understand from the media coverage that MoD has not (as of the weekend) received any formal report from South Wales police on the original incident.

Can you confirm this remains the case? I would have expected this report, if such exists, to have been filed with the CAA as an airprox or 'Mandatory Occurrence Report'. Have you received notification of such a report?

If you have received a report does MoD intend to make further inquiries, or are satisfied there is no defence interest in this incident?

This is more of a press inquiry than a formal FOI. I have been asked to write a short piece for the media and wish to ensure that I state the MoD's position on this matter clearly and directly.

I would be grateful for any assistance you can provide.

I look forward to hearing from you

26/06/2008



Yours Sincerely,

Dr David Clarke

12-04-2007 -  
103451-003  
EXP 9 MAR - 7



Dr David Clarke

Section 40  
[Redacted]

Tel: Section 40

e-mail: Section 40

Section 40

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



Answered  
JGMC.

Section 40  
[Redacted]

11 April 2007

**FOI Request**

Dear Section 40

I wish to make a request under the Freedom of Information Act for information relating to MoD's internal discussions concerning public statements made by a former desk officer on the subject of UFOs.

As you will no doubt be aware one of your predecessors, Mr Nick Pope, who was Sec(AS)2a from 1991-94, publicly declared his conversion to "a believer" in UFOs in 1995 after he left the post (*Mail on Sunday*, 2 July 1995). In the following year a book he had written about UFOs, and his experience as a desk officer responsible for dealing with public inquiries about UFOs on behalf of MoD, *Open Skies Closed Minds*, was published. The book set out Mr Pope's belief that UFOs *did* pose a possible defence threat to the UK – in stark contrast to the publicly stated MoD policy (which remains in place today) that the phenomenon has been repeatedly judged, most recently by the DIS report on UAPs, to be "of no defence significance."

I am fully aware that Mr Pope's statements, during his employment with the MoD, were made in a private capacity and that he was not authorised to speak on behalf of the MoD. I also appreciate that the Data Protection Act 1998 protects information of a personal nature. Nevertheless during his employment, and specifically in 1995-96, Mr Pope was a serving MoD officer and the stance that MoD decided to adopt in response to his very public statements – that were clearly in contrast to the department's stated line – must fall within the category of information defined as "in the public interest."

The Information Commissioner's guidance on the DPA is clear: "Information which is about the home or family life of an individual, his or her personal finances, or consists of personal references, is likely to deserve protection. By contrast, information which is about someone acting in an official or work capacity should normally be provided on request unless there is some risk to the individual concerned." (FOIA Awareness Guidance No 1, pg 3, Information Commissioner). As Mr Pope is a self declared "TV personality and former head of the MoD's UFO Project" I submit that such risks are minimal or non-existent.

Furthermore, on pg 4 of the FOIA guidance note the Commissioner states: "It is often believed that the [DPA] prevents the disclosure of any personal data without the consent of the person concerned. This is not true. The purpose of the [DPA] is to protect the private lives of individuals. Where information requested is about the people acting in a work or official capacity then it will normally be right to disclose."

I submit that:

\*Mr Pope was undoubtedly "acting in a work or official capacity" whilst in Sec (AS)2a 1991-94 and that responsibility did not end in 1994 by virtue of the fact that he remained as a serving MoD officer during the period, in 1995-96, when his book was first published.

\*His personal views on UFOs and his conflict of opinion with his employers cannot be defined as "private" as his version of the events surrounding the publication of his book have been widely disseminated in interviews given and articles written by Mr Pope to the present day.

\*It must be in the public interest for documents relating to the MoD's internal deliberations on both Mr Pope's statements and on the contents of his book to be released, not least to provide the public with balance and context. At the moment all the public have is Mr Pope's version of the sequence of events leading to his "conversion" to UFO believer and the publication of his book. Mr Pope frequently articulates his version of this story and until recently he was frequently presented by the media as "the MoD's expert" on the subject, without official contradiction. Therefore, without the benefit of the official documentation relating to this period the public are unable to reach a balanced judgement about the accuracy of his stated version of the events surrounding the publication of his book. Once again, I submit it is undoubtedly in the public interest to release this information.

Furthermore, it is my understanding that the manuscript of Mr Pope's first book was submitted to the MoD for vetting and was eventually approved by the Publication Clearance Branch (PCB) after changes had been made. I accept that the contents of the original MS and discussion relating to those changes rightly fall under Section 41 of the FOIA (Information provided in Confidence) and are rightly protected. However, that protection cannot be extended to cover specific matters which are already in the public domain by virtue of the fact that Mr Pope has discussed these matters publicly. For

example, in an interview published by the *International UFO Reporter* (fall 1996, pg 18) Mr Pope states:

“There was a faction [in the MoD] that certainly didn’t want the book to appear. I submitted the text to the [PCB]...to my utter amazement – and for the first time to my knowledge – the manuscript was returned with a short letter...It said a number of things, but the quote which stunned me most said that my manuscript was ‘completely unacceptable to MoD and quite beyond any suitable amendment.’”

At the moment all we have is Mr Pope’s version of this story. It must be in the public interest to release the relevant documents relating to the context of this statement.

I am conscious of the £600 limit for central Government for the processing of a complex request of this nature. Therefore I have carefully constructed my specific request as follows in order to assist you in locating relevant material for release.

My request, therefore, is for copies of MoD papers, records or other information relating to any or all internal discussion, policy and/or briefings in response to 1) public statements made to the media and 2) via the release of *Open Skies Closed Minds* by Mr Nicholas Pope during the period 1995-96. I wish you to include specific public interest material within the coverage of this request as follows:

- a) Any internal discussion relating to Mr Pope’s public statements in the *Mail on Sunday*, 2 July 1995, *The Independent* 3 June 1996 and other press articles during 1995-96
- b) Any specific discussion relating to Mr Pope’s published statements that contradicted the department’s officially stated policy on the subject of UFOs/UAPs, for example on the ET nature of UFOs and their supposed defence threat.
- c) Any papers, generated by MoD or its PCB branch, that relate to Mr Pope’s public allegation that “...there was a faction [in the MoD] that certainly didn’t want the book to appear.” Specifically I request a copy of “the short letter” referred to in Mr Pope’s interview with IUR which allegedly said his manuscript was “completely unacceptable to MoD and quite beyond any suitable amendment.” and any related discussion which resolved this issue. As Mr Pope has spoken of this matter openly and in public it cannot be seriously argued that this material falls within the auspices of the DPA.

At three of these specific requests, within the umbrella of my main request, are – I submit – very much in the public interest and I believe the Information Commissioner would take the same viewpoint.

I look forward to receiving your response to this request and thank you for your attention to my letter.

*Basically this is the discussion of his book*

Yours Faithfully,

**Dr David Clarke**

## UNIDENTIFIED AERIAL PHENOMENA (UAP) IN THE UK AIR DEFENCE REGION – RESULT OF INTERNAL REVIEW

Following a request for an Internal Review to be conducted, which specifically asked for the decision to withhold information under exemptions s.26 and s.27 to be reviewed, some of the previously redacted sections from the UAP report have now been released. This has resulted in amendments to eleven of the previously released pages.

The pages affected are as follows:

### 1. Executive Summary:

Executive Summary, final page.

The distribution list of the UAP Report, found on the last page of the Executive Summary, has now been released.

(Please see Executive Summary, page 22 of the Report on the FOI Disclosure Log (<http://www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/FreedomOfInformation/PublicationScheme/SearchPublicationScheme/UapInTheUkAirDefenceRegionExecutiveSummary.htm>) for the previously released (redacted) version of this page).

### 2. Volume 1:

#### **Volume 1, chapter 1, page 1, paragraph 2**

The words '**the CIA**' have now been released.

(Please see Volume 1, Part A, page 9 of the Report on the FOI Disclosure Log (<http://www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/FreedomOfInformation/PublicationScheme/SearchPublicationScheme/UapInTheUkAirDefenceRegionVolume1.htm>) for the previously released (redacted) version of this page).

### 3. Volume 1:

#### **Volume 1, chapter 5, page 4**

In the paragraph starting "The reasons affecting", the words "**.....the possibility of .....**" and "**.....it is noted that the implications have already been briefed to the relevant MOD technology managers**" have now been released.

(Please see Volume 1, Part G, page 12 of the Report on the FOI Disclosure Log (<http://www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/FreedomOfInformation/PublicationScheme/SearchPublicationScheme/UapInTheUkAirDefenceRegionVolume1.htm>) for the previously released (redacted) version of this page).

4. **Volume 2:**

Volume 2, Introduction page 1

The '**Special Notice**' on this page has now been released.

(Please see Volume 2, Part A, page 3 of the Report on the FOI Disclosure Log (<http://www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/FreedomOfInformation/PublicationScheme/SearchPublicationScheme/UapInTheUkAirDefenceRegionVolume2.htm>) for the previously released (redacted) version of this page).

5. **Volume 2:**

Volume 2, Working Paper 5, page 5-1, paragraph 1.

The sentence "**The incidence of visual occurrences of UAP sightings, together with their coincidental detection on radar is extremely low**" has now been released.

(Please see Volume 2, Part D, page 11 of the Report on the FOI Disclosure Log (<http://www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/FreedomOfInformation/PublicationScheme/SearchPublicationScheme/UapInTheUkAirDefenceRegionVolume2.htm>) for the previously released (redacted) version of this page).

6. **Volume 2:**

Volume 2, Working Paper 5, page 5-1, paragraph 3h.

This paragraph has now been released, except for four minor redactions.

(Please see Volume 2, Part D, page 11 of the Report on the FOI Disclosure Log (<http://www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/FreedomOfInformation/PublicationScheme/SearchPublicationScheme/UapInTheUkAirDefenceRegionVolume2.htm>) for the previously released (redacted) version of this page).

7. **Volume 3:**

Volume 3, Executive Summary, Page 1, paragraph 4.

The following sentence from this paragraph has now been released: "**.....Charged plasmas are capable of being transported at enormous speeds under the influence and balance of electrical charges in the atmosphere and they have a relatively short life.....**".

(Please see Volume 3, Part A, page 8 of the Report on the FOI Disclosure Log (<http://www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/FreedomOfInformation/PublicationScheme/SearchPublicationScheme/UapInTheUkAirDefenceRegionVolume3.htm>) for the previously released (redacted) version of this page).

8. **Volume 3:**

Volume 3, Executive Summary, Page 2, paragraph 7.

The following sentence from this paragraph has now been released: **“.....It is important to note that longer wavelength radars can detect those plasmas with lower electron densities which are, in fact, absorbers to microwave radars.....”**

(Please see Volume 3, Part A, page 8 of the Report on the FOI Disclosure Log (<http://www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/FreedomOfInformation/PublicationScheme/SearchPublicationScheme/UapInTheUkAirDefenceRegionVolume3.htm>) for the previously released (redacted) version of this page).

9. **Volume 3:**

Volume 3, Chapter 1, page 3, paragraph 11.

The following sentence from this paragraph has now been released: **“In summary there are several viable reasons why there are a number of UAP reports daily, probably of plasma-type entities,.....”**

(Please see Volume 3, Part B, page 3 of the Report on the FOI Disclosure Log (<http://www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/FreedomOfInformation/PublicationScheme/SearchPublicationScheme/UapInTheUkAirDefenceRegionVolume3.htm>) for the previously released (redacted) version of this page).

10. **Volume 3:**

Volume 3, Chapter 1, page 4, paragraph 13(d).

The following sentence from this paragraph has now been released: **“Unlike ‘solid’ targets, for the electron density selected, the reflectivity is low.....”**

(Please see Volume 3, Part B, page 4 of the Report on the FOI Disclosure Log (<http://www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/FreedomOfInformation/PublicationScheme/SearchPublicationScheme/UapInTheUkAirDefenceRegionVolume3.htm>) for the previously released (redacted) version of this page).

11. **Volume 3:**

Volume 3, Chapter 1, page 5, paragraph 21.

The following sentence from this paragraph has now been released: **“In summary there are several viable reasons why there are a number of UAP reports daily, probably of plasma-type entities,.....”**

(Please see Volume 3, Part B, page 5 of the Report on the FOI Disclosure Log (<http://www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/FreedomOfInformation/PublicationScheme/SearchPublicationScheme/UapInTheUkAirDefenceRegionVolume3.htm>) for the previously released (redacted) version of this page).

12. **Volume 3:**

Volume 3, Chapter 1, page 8, paragraph 27, first bullet.

The following sentences from this paragraph have now been released (the first two with minor redactions): **“Horizon Geometry - the inner rings around the sites at Figure 1-1 shows the horizon range rings for targets at XX altitude. Targets further away and those at less than XX altitude will not be seen”.**

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX **“[These areas may or may not be those where visual witnesses happen to be present at the time]”.**

(Please see Volume 3, Part B, page 8 of the Report on the FOI Disclosure Log (<http://www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/FreedomOfInformation/PublicationScheme/SearchPublicationScheme/UapInTheUkAirDefenceRegionVolume3.htm>) for the previously released (redacted) version of this page).

13. **Volume 3:**

Volume 3, Chapter 4, page 3, paragraph 12.

The following sentence from this paragraph has been partially released: **“The Society for Scientific Exploration XXXXXXXXXXXX have made a mid-1998 statement to the effect that the topic of UFOs should be studied – only in that it might expose some new scientific information”.**

(Please see Volume 3, Part E, page 3 of the Report on the FOI Disclosure Log (<http://www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/FreedomOfInformation/PublicationScheme/SearchPublicationScheme/UapInTheUkAirDefenceRegionVolume3.htm>) for the previously released (redacted) version of this page).

The revised pages are as follows:

**Section 40****From:** **Section 40****Sent:** 23 August 2006 09:56**To:** 'david clarke'**Subject:** Internet-authorized:Freedom of Information

56

Dear Dr Clarke,

Further to my letter of 21 August I am now in a position to respond to the three outstanding questions in your letter of 27<sup>th</sup> July 2006 relating to the 'UAP Report'. Following consultation with the subject matter experts in the Defence Intelligence Staff (DIS) and Counter Terrorism and UK Operations (CTandUKOps), I am able to provide you with the following information.

As you are aware, following your request on 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2006 for copies of any comments that were made by the Branches who received a copy of the Report, a thorough search of all the relevant files was undertaken and no comments from these Branches was found (my letter to you reference 23-05-2006-100609-001 of 16<sup>th</sup> June 2006 refers). In response to your latest question, DIS staff have again undertaken a search of the relevant files and no correspondence from the Branches has been found. Therefore, it can be confirmed that no comments on the UAP Report were received.

With regard to your question regarding any views expressed or action taken by DAO (now CTandUKOps) I can confirm that CTandUKOps have searched all their available records and have found no relevant information.

As a result of the findings in the UAP report, the DIS no longer monitors and receives copies of UFO sighting reports. It is not considered contradictory that the DIS has a file on UAP/UFO policy. As you say earlier in your letter, the topic of UFOs is of great interest to the public and they continue to write. It is our duty to respond to letters from the public and these letters and responses (such as this one) are filed along with any newspaper reports which may have prompted the letters.

I hope this is helpful.

Finally, I should inform you that I will be on two weeks leave from 31<sup>st</sup> August and shortly after my return in mid September I will be moving to a new post in the MOD. To insure that any future emails reach this office please use our office email address of [das-ufo-office@mod.uk](mailto:das-ufo-office@mod.uk). 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, Desk 13  
Main Building  
Whitehall  
LONDON  
SW1A 2HB

e-mail:[das-ufo-office@mod.uk](mailto:das-ufo-office@mod.uk)

23/08/2006



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

ENCLOSURE  
55

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

Dr David Clarke

**Section 40**

Our Reference  
03-08-2006-114552-004

Date  
21 August 2006

Dear Dr Clarke

Thank you for your letter of 27<sup>th</sup> July 2006 in which you raised a number of questions regarding the 'UAP Report' and also submitted a new request for the release of the MoD file 'DI55/108/15', part 4. Your request has been considered as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000 and I can confirm that the Ministry of Defence does hold the requested information.

As you correctly recall in your letter, your original request for this file was refused as to retrieve, extract and, where necessary, carry out redactions, would have been above the FOIA cost limit. This remains the case and, therefore, we are still unable to consider releasing the file in total. However, we have produced a summary of the subject areas which are covered in the file which is attached at annex. It is hoped that this will now enable you to be more specific about the information you are seeking and, if you wish, submit a further, more focused, request and specify exactly which subject area(s) you are interested in. We will then be pleased to look again at your request and, subject to it being within the FOIA cost limit, assess the releasability of the relevant enclosures.

You should also be aware that the FOIA regulations state that where two or more requests "relate, to any extent, to the same or similar information" and the requests are received within any period of sixty consecutive working days, the estimated cost of compliance is taken to be the total costs of complying with all of them. Therefore, should you submit a refined request for information based upon the attached summary and submit a further request for information from the file within the sixty working day period, your requests will be combined and work to process your requests will only be carried out up to the FOIA cost limit.

The three questions you raised regarding the 'UAP Report' are currently being addressed and a separate reply will be sent to you in due course.

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-D@mod.uk](mailto:Info-D@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

**SUMMARY OF CONTENTS OF FILE DI55/108/15 – Part 4 ‘UFO Policy’**

The file covers the period December 1971 to December 1996. The subject areas covered by the contents of the file is as follows:

Copies of newspaper and magazine articles relating to UFOs.

Correspondence relating to the ‘UAP’ report/study (some or all of which is likely to have already been released through previous requests).

Letters from the public and correspondence relating to UFO programmes on the TV and radio, and articles in newspapers.

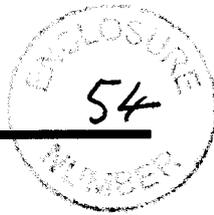
MoD correspondence concerning public access to UFO files.

Ministerial correspondence relating to the House of Lords debate on UFOs 1979 (some or all of which is likely to have been released through previous requests).

UFO sightings correspondence (some of which is likely to have been released through previous requests).

General MoD correspondence relating to UFO policy and procedures (all pre 1979).

Unwin, Linda Mrs



**From:** david clarke Section 40  
**Sent:** 27 July 2006 09:47  
**To:** Section 40  
**Subject:** Re: FOIA request

**Attachments:** MoDFOIJuly06.doc



MoDFOIJuly06.doc  
(29 KB)

27 July 2006

Dear Section 40

Please find attached a letter including a Freedom of Information request.

Yours,

David Clarke

Dr David Clarke

Section 40

Section 40

Directorate of Air Staff - FOI  
Ministry of Defence  
5<sup>th</sup> Floor, Zone H  
Main Building  
Whitehall  
London SW1A 2HB

27 July 2006

**FOI Request – UAP Report**

Dear Section 40

1 Thank you for your letters of 16 June in response a) to my Freedom of Information Act request dated 22 May 2006 and b) my follow-up questions relating to the UAP report. This letter includes some further questions plus a fresh FOI request.

2 My questions relate to issues arising from the completion and circulation of the UAP report in the year 2000 which I feel remain a little ambiguous.

3 Firstly, I am puzzled by the seeming lack of reaction or interest from the various MoD branches copied in on sections of the report, under the cover letter 4 December 2000. Given the fact that the author spent three years producing a detailed report in an attempt to resolve a problem which had persisted since the '50s, I would have expected at least some brief comment on the findings and recommendations from the addressees who received a copy. Is it the case that none of the branches listed expressed any interest or views in respect of the findings?

4 Secondly, I note in your letter dated 16 June that you say the report's findings were sent to DAO/UKADGE who would have been responsible for passing on the specific recommendations concerning "Potential UAP Hazards to Aircraft" (Vol 3, Chapter 2 of the report) to the CAA (and presumably the RAF). Given that fact, do DAO hold any record in their files of action taken in response to these recommendations or views expressed with respect to the report's findings?

5 Thirdly, I note that the Key Recommendation of the UAP report was that "it should no longer be a requirement for DI55 to monitor UFO reports as they do not...provide information useful to Defence Intelligence." Given that finding, I draw your attention to your response to my request of 22 May for "a list of files or records held by DIS which have the acronym 'UAP' in the title." In your letter of 16 June you list four DI 55 files,

titled "UAP Policy", the third which was opened in December 2000 (the same month the findings were delivered) and closed in March 2004, and the fourth opened in March 2004 and which remains open.

- 6 Could you explain why, if the DIS interest in this subject ended in 2000, and reports were no longer sent to them, that department continues to maintain files on the subject to this day? It appears somewhat contradictory that a department which professes to have no interest in UFOs/UAPs after 2000 continues to maintain a policy file on the subject.
- 7 Finally, I wish to make a request under the Freedom of Information Act for a paper copy of part, or whole, of the DI 55 Policy file D/D/DI55/108.15 Pt 4, which covers the period 1971-96. C3-C8-2006-114552-  
CC4.  
24 Aug 2006
- 8 You may recall that I originally made a request for this file as part of an earlier FOI request in 2005. In your response dated 23 August 2005 you explained the file contains more than two hundred pages, some of which are classified. My request was rejected by DIS because it was deemed that the costs of copying, examining and removing sensitive, irrelevant or personal information from every page of their file would exceed the limit.
- 9 I do appreciate how time consuming the processing of a document of this kind must be. However, Section 16 of the FOIA requires departments to provide an applicant with advice and assistance in cases such as this, especially where other options could be negotiated for the release of the information.
- 10 I would also point out that the UAP report itself, at more than 600 pages (double the length of the request I am currently making) also exceeded the £600 limit but nevertheless was processed because it was deemed to be in the public interest to make the contents available publicly.
- 11 I hardly need to point out the considerable amount of public interest in the subject of UFOs, particularly in the wake of the release by MoD of the UAP report (which remains ranked in the top 5 documents in your 'Disclosure Log'). I believe the contents of this UFO policy file are equally of interest both to the public and for purposes of academic research, as the contents frame the background against which the UAP report was commissioned and produced.
- 12 I also believe it is important for the MoD not to be seen to be with-holding information on a subject of public interest, such as UFOs, which is often forms the ground, in itself, for baseless allegations of cover-ups.
- 13 Therefore I would like MoD/DIS to reconsider the decision to reject my request and/or consider one or more of the following options as a compromise response:
  - a) release of part of the file within the £600 limit; for example, enclosures covering the period 1971 to 1990 (noting that the processing of the documents from the 1970s should not require much expense in redaction as they fall within the old 30

year rule and would have to be considered for TNA release if they were not associated with younger enclosures).

- b) I agree to pay costs incurred above the £600 limit for processing of the whole file (if MoD supply an estimate in advance).
- c) MoD supply a list of the titles/subject matter of enclosures which could form the basis for a subsequent request more tightly focussed upon specific area of interest identified.

I hope you will take the points above into due consideration in your response to my request. In the meantime, I look forward to hearing from you,

Yours sincerely,

ENCLOSURE  
53  
NUMBER

Section 40

From: Section 40  
Sent: 03 August 2006 09:08  
To: Section 40  
Cc: Section 40  
Subject: RE: UFOs etc.

Section 40

Dr David Clarke has made several requests to the MOD on UFOs but I haven't seen this one. However, he sometimes submits requests direct to the area of the Department that leads on the subject. I am also sending this to Section 40 of Directorate Air Staff Section 40: Section 40 you let Section 40 from the Clearing House know if you have received this directly and not yet logged on the AIT? He is on Section 40

This seems typical of Dr Clarke - once he has a list of any files, he will follow up. He then looks at the copy addressees on correspondence that is released to him and submits requests asking them to trawl for files - that sort of thing. He is frustrated with MOD because it is known that some info is held in our "asbestosed" files and cannot be looked at so, if he has not asked FCO before, he may have gone to them because he has exhausted his trail with MOD. If they do have files on UFOs, you'd better warn them to be in for a long slog!

Regards

Section 40

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

From: Section 40 [mailto:Section 40]  
Sent: 03 August 2006 08:35  
To: Section 40  
Subject: UFOs etc.

Section 40

FCO have received a request for file titles re. UFOs (full text below) - have you had the same? Requestor name is Dr David Clarke. Grateful if you could let me know if you have - we're not treating as a RR formally, just co-ordinating responses. Many thanks,

Section 40

'I wish to make a request under the Freedom of Information Act for a list of records held by the Foreign & Commonwealth Office that contain information relating to the subject of:

Unidentified Flying Objects (UFOs) - please note that information on the subject might also be held under the key- words "Flying Saucers" (popularly used during the period 1947-1970) and/or "Aerial Phenomena."

Please could you search for information held on this topic/theme under these three themes/key-words, relating to any foreign country

My period of interest is anytime from 1947 to present. I am aware that records prior to mid-1970s may have been transferred to The National Archives but I would be interested to know if the FCO retain any files in department relating to this subject area.

Please note this request is not for copies of material held. The request is for a list of files, records or material held on this topic so that I will be able to narrow my request for specific material in any future FOI request.'

This e-mail (and any attachment) is intended only for the attention of the

addressee(s). Its unauthorised use, disclosure, storage or copying is not permitted. If you are not the intended recipient, please destroy all copies and inform the sender by return e-mail.

Internet e-mail is not a secure medium. Any reply to this message could be intercepted and read by someone else. Please bear that in mind when deciding whether to send material in response to this message by e-mail.

This e-mail (whether you are the sender or the recipient) may be monitored, recorded and retained by the Department For Constitutional Affairs. E-mail monitoring / blocking software may be used, and e-mail content may be read at any time. You have a responsibility to ensure laws are not broken when composing or forwarding e-mails and their contents.



LOOSE MINUTE

D/DI BCR CG/10/4/3/13/59

\*\*\* August 2006

**Info Access Pol 2**

**RELEASE OF DIS REPORT - UNIDENTIFIED AERIAL PHENOMENA (UAP) IN THE UK AIR DEFENCE REGION - INTERNAL APPEAL**

1. Your email to DAS-FOI of 2<sup>nd</sup> August regarding the UAP report internal appeal asked for clarification on a number of issues. Following discussions with DIS FOI staff and the subject matter expert, our comments in response are as follows:

- **While the author can obviously be withheld under s.40 as we can not find him to ask his permission, can it also be withheld under s.24-National Security- as he may be targeted to obtain secret information that we have with held and he may inadvertently release?**

We do not consider that s.24 National Security is an appropriate exemption to use in this case. If it is considered that the author of the report maybe targeted, the use of exemption s.38 Health and Safety is considered a more appropriate exemption. ✓

- **The name of the company currently withheld under s.43- as DIS still use this company is it withheld so that this is not known? If so, this is not s.43 but s.24 and must be stated as such.**

The name of the company was withheld to prevent disclosure of its relationship with the DIS. Release of this information may prejudice the commercial interests of the company. In addition, disclosure of the company's name may inadvertently lead to the name of the author of the report being disclosed. It is considered that in this case s.43 remains the correct exemption to use. ✓

- **In Volume 2, working paper no. 5. Page 5-3, paragraph 9. This has been redacted under s.26 Defence, but is this really the case- or is it possibly commercial? This would therefore be s.43. It gives away the key reasoning which we have paid for and should it just be given out to others- it could be argued that others could produce the same information butt should we point them in the right direction?**

This paragraph was redacted following the advice of CT&UK Ops. Since it concerns the performance of UKADGE radars in reflecting plasmas it is considered that s.26 is the only appropriate exempt to use and can see no reason why s.43 should be cited. ✓

- **In Executive Summary, page 3, paragraph 11 has been redacted under s.27, but this should have been s. 26 or possibly s.23, as the information is an assessment and could be from intelligence sources.**

Presumably this refers to the Executive Summary in Volume 3 ? The source of the information in this paragraph could not be established. However, it is not s.23 ✓

material or the classification would have been much higher. The use of s.27 for this paragraph is considered the correct and only one that should be used as disclosure of this paragraph could prejudice relations with the state concerned.

- **Volume 3-Miscellaneous Related studies, Chapter 1, page 5, paragraph 21- while this paragraph was previously redacted in whole, it has now been agreed to release some of paragraph 11, the opening phrase of paragraph 21 is the same as the opening phrase of paragraph 11 which will be released.**

As this was originally redacted following the advice of CT&UK Ops, if they are now content for the opening phrase in paragraphs 11 and 21 to be released, the DIS has no objection. ✓

- **Volume 3- Miscellaneous Related Studies, Chapter 1, Page 7, second bullet. Redacted under s.26, should it be s.43? Is this knowledge that we do not want known, as we paid for it- and we do not want to supply this to any competitors?**

This was redacted following the advice of CT&UK Ops and refers to the performance and characteristics of UK radar, disclosure of which could potentially prejudice the defence of the UK. It is considered that s.26 is the most appropriate exemption and that s.43 is not relevant in this case as radar manufacturers would be familiar with 'normal radar design'. ✓

- **Volume 3- Miscellaneous Related Studies. Chapter 4, page 1, paragraph 3- is this s.26? It reveals DIS organisation- security.**

We consider that s.26 remains the correct exemption to use in this case. The guidance for handling intelligence-related requests for information advises that s.26 can be used for issues relating to MoD security. As disclosure of DIS organisation details would fall under MoD security, s.26 is therefore considered the most appropriate exemption. ✓

**Paragraph 4- this was s.27, but should it be s.25? How was the information gathered?**

Presumably you mean s.23 and not s.25 ? The source of the information in this paragraph could not be established. However, it is not s.23 material or the classification would have been much higher. The use of s.27 for this paragraph is considered the correct and the only one that should be used as disclosure of this paragraph could prejudice relations with the state concerned. ✓

**Paragraph 9- also s.27 but should it be s.25? How was it gathered?**

Presumably you mean s.23 and not s.25 ? The source of the information in this paragraph could not be established. However, it is not s.23 material or the classification would have been much higher. The use of s.27 for this paragraph is considered the correct and the only one that should be used as disclosure of this paragraph could prejudice relations with the state concerned. ✓

**In regard to the following two points- these are on my understanding- and if you wish to disagree please let me know- if correct can they be released?**

- **Volume 3-Miscellaneous Related Studies, Chapter 4, page 3, paragraph 12, while information regarding DIS, the CIA desk officer and DI51 must remain**

redacted- the information regarding the statement made in mid 1998 by the society of scientific exploration is already in the public domain:

<http://www.scientificexploration.org/jse/abstracts/v12n2a1.php>- *"The panel nevertheless concluded that it would be valuable to carefully evaluate UFO reports since, whenever there are unexplained observations, there is the possibility that scientists will learn something new by studying these observations"*.

We are content for the last sentence in this paragraph to be released **except** for the wording in brackets which refers to the work of DI51. This should be redacted under s.26. ✓

- **Volume 3-Miscellaneous Related Studies, Chapter 4, Page 3, paragraph 14, the final sentence of which has been redacted under s.27, this also is in the public domain: the following report was carried out by the University of Colorado under contract from the US Air Force.**  
<http://www.ncas.org/condon/text/s6chap07.htm> It states: *Basic plasma research is vital in many technological areas. In the field of communication, problems arise in connection with radio and radar transmission through plasma regions such as the ionosphere and the ionized sheath surrounding re-entering spacecraft. Laboratory efforts are under way to control the reactions of nuclear fusion for power generation. If successful, present experiments may lead to efficient sources of power which do not require fossil fuel or fissionable materials. In the field of space technology, engineers are developing low thrust ion rocket engines to propel the next generation of interplanetary spaceships.*

It is considered that the last sentence in paragraph 14 should remain redacted under s.27. The sentence in the UAP report specifies which country has initiated plasma related programmes. Unless the University of Colorado has specifically revealed the fact the USA has initiated these programmes, then it should remain withheld. Your extract above "*Basic plasma research is vital in many technological areas.....*" does not disclose this fact. ✓

- **Annex A- Introduction Paragraph- this was redacted under s.27, but should this have been either s.23 or s.26 as we do not know how the information was gathered.**

Presumably this refers to Volume 3, Annex A, page A-2, paragraph 2 ? The last sentence in this paragraph was redacted under s.26, not s.27. ✓

2. If you require any further information, or clarification on any of the above, please contact me.

Section 40

DI BCR CG3

WH306

Section 40

Section 40

**From:** Section 40  
**Sent:** 02 August 2006 14:24  
**To:** Section 40  
**Subject:** FW: Clarke-UFO  
**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Red

Section 40

Please see the message below from Section 40 or C appeal. I only have a redacted copy of the report so I don't know which bits she is referring to. Please can we discuss?

Regards

Section 40

**From:** Section 40  
**Sent:** 02 August 2006 14:06  
**To:** Section 40  
**Subject:** Clarke-UFO

Hi Section 40

After much discussion at this end between David Wray and CTUKOps SO1 Air, there are several redactions that will now be released- but before this is possible there are several more things we need to clarify.

Dr Clarke has obviously asked for the name of the author and the company responsible for the report.

- While the author can obviously be withheld under s.40 as we can not find him to ask his permission, can it also be withheld under s.24-National Security- as he may be targeted to obtain secret information that we have with held and he may inadvertently release?
- The name of the company currently withheld under s.43- as DIS still use this company is it withheld so that this is not known? If so, this is not s.43 but s.24 and must be stated as such.
- In Volume 2, working paper no. 5. Page 5-3, paragraph 9. This has been redacted under s.26 Defence, but is this really the case- or is it possibly commercial? This would therefore be s.43. It gives away the key reasoning which we have paid for and should it just be given out to others- it could be argued that others could produce the same information butt should we point them in the right direction?
- In Executive Summary, page 3, paragraph 11 has been redacted under s.27, but this should have been s. 26 or possibly s.23, as the information is an assessment and could be from intelligence sources.
- Volume 3-Miscellaneous Related studies, Chapter 1, page 5, paragraph 21- while this paragraph was previously redacted in whole, it has now been agreed to release some of paragraph 11, the opening phrase of paragraph 21 is the same as the opening phrase of paragraph 11 which will be released.
- Volume 3- Miscellaneous Related Studies, Chapter 1, Page 7, second bullet. Redacted under s.26, should it be s.43? Is this knowledge that we do not want known, as we paid for it- and we do not wan to supply this to any competitors?
- Volume 3- Miscellaneous Related Studies. Chapter 4, page 1, paragraph 3- is this s.26? It reveals DIS organisation-security.

information gathered?

Paragraph 4- this was s.27, but should it be s.25? How was the

Paragraph 9- also s.27 but should it be s.25? How was it gathered?

07/08/2006

In regard to the following two points- these are on my understanding- and if you wish to disagree please let me know- if correct can they be released?

- Volume 3-Miscellaneous Related Studies, Chapter 4, page 3, paragraph 12, while information regarding DIS, the CIA desk officer and DI51 must remain redacted- the information regarding the statement made in mid 1998 by the society of scientific exploration is already in the public domain:  
<http://www.scientificexploration.org/jse/abstracts/v12n2a1.php>- *"The panel nevertheless concluded that it would be valuable to carefully evaluate UFO reports since, whenever there are unexplained observations, there is the possibility that scientists will learn something new by studying these observations"*.
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Finally:

- Annex A- Introduction Paragraph- this was redacted under s.27, but should this have been either s.23 or s.26 as we do not know how the information was gathered.

If this is ok, once we have checked all of these details, I will email you the full list of redactions that it has now been agreed to release.

I didn't want to email the full list at once and have it get too confusing. If you want the list earlier please let me know and I can send it in another email.

I hope this all makes sense, any problems please contact me.

Thanks for all your help.

**Section 40**

Info-AccessPol2

Main Building, Level 6, Zone E, Desk 09

Phone (Mil) **Section 40**

(Civ)

Email **Section 40** @mod.uk

Section 40

From: Section 40  
 Sent: 02 August 2006 16:24  
 To: Section 40  
 Subject: FW: 20060802 R Info-Access advice re Clarke Section 40 and Section 40 requests  
 Attachments: 19-01-2006-123339-012 Response.doc



Section 40

Please see Section 40 email below.....not quite what I was expecting re Section 40. We can discuss on Friday, unless you decide never to come back and to emigrate to Clacton, in which case can you please give me your forwarding address !!!

Section 40

From: Section 40  
 Sent: 02 August 2006 16:13  
 To: Section 40  
 Subject: 20060802 R Info-Access advice re Clarke Section 40 and Section 40 requests

Section 40 – it was good to talk.

As I mentioned, I spoke with Section 40 and glad to report my initial advice wasn't too far off course. Just to recap, we recommend the following course of action for each of the two topics we discussed;

Dr Clarke Section 40 requests

We feel there is a need to assist the applicant, and in doing so consider what the ICO might reasonably consider to be helpful. We can't really ask the requesters to be more specific when we know they don't know what is in the files, and so I would propose that you review the contents of the file and provide a list or short summary of the broad contents. You are then quite within your rights to ask the applicant to be more specific. If he does not, then the case can be closed. I note in some of the paperwork you gave me that Section 40 stated she was trying to establish MOD policy on UFOs between 1970 and 2000 – is there a standard line we could use on this?

They are likely to come back, possibly appeal – that is their right and out of our hands. Section 40 concur with the need here to take a somewhat firmer line in such cases, and the way we would propose doing this here is to be quite specific about the what the fees include, you should be aggregating his requests (to you and to DAS), and that he will be restricted (by the Act) to submitting subsequent requests for the same/similar information at the minimum of 60 day intervals. These points should be reflected in the letter to him, in a firm manner. This approach should stand up to Internal Review and any further appeal. You should consult with DAS on this. I will be happy to review a draft if you would like. Please see attached response where the 60 days were referred to.

Section 40

I found the original request from Section 40: 07-06-2006-092522-003 : I request any and all files, paperwork, documents, photographs, etc, regarding the investigation, operational use of, and discussion of the process known as "remote viewing", and also note a second request from him (I presume it's the same person) on 12-07-2006-110222-005 : UFO's. What I'm not sure about is the latter the same as the question he posed in his email to Section 40 08 July where he acknowledged you had nothing on remote viewing and now wanted info of UFO's. Only significant if someone else is dealing with the 12-07 request and you respond separately to the 8-07 email. I presume it would be Section 40 anyway. The latter part of Section 40 email to Section 40 talks about physic warfare, and it is not clear to me if this is a third request or if it relates to the remote viewing request.

First point of clarification here is, is the term "remote viewing" the recognised term that we use, or are we inferring what he means from the phrase remote viewing?

In hindsight, I think it would more appropriate to conduct a fuller analysis of what you may have, its direct relevance to the original request, and consideration of any sensitivities BEFORE writing back to the applicant. We agree that we need to come clean with the applicant. [There are a number of good reasons for this – it was a genuine mistake, we may hold relevant info, there may be a future similar request, not doing so would be criticised at appeal etc.] Consultation with NSLG may indeed be wise once this has happened, but let's see. You may wish to conduct your own consultation to establish the wider view. An idea of how much was spent would be useful in this debate, and I would recommend you

18/08/2006

start some enquiries on this. Should it be assessed that there would be media interest in any release then obviously update the Press Office and Top of the Shop to alert them.

Hope [redacted] helps,

Section 40

Section 40

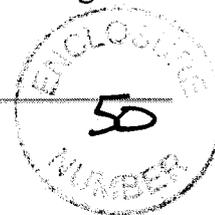
Info-Access-Pol 1  
MB 06-E-11  
MoD Main Building  
Whitehall  
London SW1A 2HB

tel : Section 40

fax

Section 40 @mod.uk

Section 40



From: Section 40

Sent: 02 August 2006 14:06

To: Section 40

Subject: Clarke-UFO

Hi Section 40

After much discussion at this end between David Wray and CTUKOps SO1 Air, there are several redactions that will now be released- but before this is possible there are several more things we need to clarify.

Dr Clarke has obviously asked for the name of the author and the company responsible for the report.

- While the author can obviously be withheld under s.40 as we can not find him to ask his permission, can it also be withheld under s.24-National Security- as he may be targeted to obtain secret information that we have with held and he may inadvertently release?
- The name of the company currently withheld under s.43- as DIS still use this company is it withheld so that this is not known? If so, this is not s.43 but s.24 and must be stated as such.
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- Volume 3- Miscellaneous Related Studies. Chapter 4, page 1, paragraph 3- is this s.26? It reveals DIS organisation- security.

information gathered?

Paragraph 4- this was s.27, but should it be s.25? How was the

gathered?

Paragraph 9- also s.27 but should it be s.25? How was it

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- Volume 3-Miscellaneous Related Studies, Chapter 4, page 3, paragraph 12, while information regarding DIS, the CIA desk officer and DI51 must remain redacted- the information regarding the statement made in mid 1998 by the society of scientific exploration is already in the public domain:  
<http://www.scientificexploration.org/jse/abstracts/v12n2a1.php>- *"The panel nevertheless concluded that it would be valuable to carefully evaluate UFO reports since, whenever there are unexplained observations, there is the possibility that scientists will learn something new by studying these observations"*.
- Volume 3-Miscellaneous Related Studies, Chapter 4, Page 3, paragraph 14, the final sentence of which has been redacted under s.27, this also is in the public domain: the following report was carried out by the University of Colorado under contract from the US Air Force. <http://www.ncas.org/condon/text/s6chap07.htm> It states: *Basic plasma research is vital in many technological areas. In the field of communication, problems arise in connection with radio and radar transmission through plasma regions such as the ionosphere and the ionized sheath surrounding re-entering spacecraft. Laboratory efforts are under way to control the reactions of nuclear fusion for power generation. If successful, present experiments may lead to efficient sources of power which do not require fossil fuel or fissionable materials. In the field of space technology, engineers are developing low thrust ion rocket engines to propel the next generation of interplanetary spaceships.*

18/08/2006

Finally:

- Annex A- Introduction Paragraph- this was redacted under s.27, but should this have been either s.23 or s.26 as we do not know how the information was gathered.

If this is ok, once we have checked all of these details, I will email you the full list of redactions that it has now been agreed to release.

I didn't want to email the full list at once and have it get too confusing. If you want the list earlier please let me know and I can send it in another email.

I hope this all makes sense, any problems please contact me.

Thanks for all your help.

**Section 40**  
Info-AccessPol2

Main Building, Level 6, Zone E, Desk 09

Phone (Mil) **Section 40**  
(Civ)

Email **Section 40** @mod.uk



From: Section 40

Directorate of Air Staff - Freedom of Information  
**MINISTRY OF DEFENCE**

5<sup>th</sup> 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

Dr David Clarke

Section 40

Our Reference  
23-05-2006-100609-001

Date  
16<sup>th</sup> June 2006

Dear Dr Clarke,

I am writing to provide a response to your Freedom of Information request contained in your letter of 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2006. The rest of this letter has been addressed in my previous letter of 16<sup>th</sup> June 2006. You requested copies of correspondence from the MoD Branches that commented on the Unidentified Aerial Phenomena (UAP) report, copies of correspondence 'arising from subsidiary recommendations' and a list of files or records held by the Defence Intelligence Staff (DIS) which contain the acronym 'UAP' in the title. I can confirm that the Ministry of Defence does hold some information on this subject.

With regard to your request for "copies of correspondence arising from DIST's request to a number of MoD branches (covering letter of UAP report, dated 4 December 2000) for "comments you may wish to make on the [UAP] report...please direct such comment to AD/DI55". All accessible files for the period in question have been scrutinised, but no correspondence from the MoD Branches who were invited to comment on the report has been found.

Concerning your request for "copies of any correspondence arising from the "subsidiary recommendations" made on pg 11 of the UAP Report Executive Summary (February 2000) namely that "The flight safety aspects of the findings should be made available to the appropriate RAF Air Defence and other military and civil authorities which operate aircraft, particularly those operating fast and at low altitude". Could you confirm these findings were passed to the DAO and CAA and if so what specific recommendations have been made to aircrew as a result". The report was distributed to the addressees as outlined in the covering letter (D/DIST/11/10 dated 4 December 2000). No further correspondence regarding the 'subsidiary recommendations' has been found on the accessible files for the period in question. I can, however, confirm that the findings of the report were sent to DAO (Directorate of Air Operations) as UKADGE (UK Air Defence Ground Environment) was a post within DAO. DIS did not send the report directly to the CAA. Any further dissemination of the report would have been the decision of the addressees concerned and consultation with the DIS would not have been required.

You also requested a list of files or records which are held by the DIS which have the acronym 'UAP' in the title. The following files have been identified as relevant to this request:

DI51/272/15/1 Part 1 – New Techniques Non-Conventional Phenomena UAP – date opened – unknown, date closed April 1997. Location: Archives.

D/DIST/108/15 Part 6 – UAP Policy – dates covered June 2000 to December 2000. Location:  
Old War Office Building.

D/DIST/108/15 Part 7 – UAP Policy – dates covered December 2000 to March 2004. Location:  
Old War Office Building.

D/DIST/108/15 Part 8 – UAP Policy – dates covered March 2004 – still open. Location:  
Old War Office Building.

No other files or records have been identified with the acronym 'UAP' in their title.

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>

Yours sincerely,

Section 40





From: Section 40

Directorate of Air Staff - Freedom of Information

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

5<sup>th</sup> Floor, Zone H, Main Building, Whitehall, London SW1A 2HB



Telephone

(Direct dial)

020 7218 2140

(Switchboard)

020 7218 9000

(Fax)

das-ufo-office@mod.uk

e-mail

Section 40

Dr David Clarke

Section 40

Our Reference  
D/DAS/64/3/11

Date

16th June 2006

Dear Dr Clarke

Further to my email of 24<sup>th</sup> May, I am now in a position to provide you with an substantive response to your request for the three outstanding documents originally requested in your letter of 26<sup>th</sup> September 2005 and the results of our review of the decision to withhold paragraph 3 from DIST's letter of 4<sup>th</sup> December 2000. I will also address your questions in your email of 13<sup>th</sup> June. A response to your new FOI request (23-05-2006-100609-001) will be provided separately. Your request for an internal review of our decision to withhold information from the UAP report in accordance with Sections 26 and 27 of the FOIA has been passed to the Directorate of Information Exploitation and they will respond to you separately when the review is complete.

With regard to the three outstanding documents requested in your letter of 26<sup>th</sup> September 2005, I can advise you that DI55/108/15 dated 22nd January 1997 has already been sent to you with my letter of 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2005. This document was one of "three associated papers" detailed in paragraph (2) of that letter. You also asked for copies of two other documents from 1993 and 1996 which relate to the UAP study. Following a detailed search of the accessible files, it has been determined that the two documents which are referred to as references B and C in the letter DI55/108/15 dated 22nd January 1997, are actually incorrectly referenced. The documents referred to are in fact D/DI55/162/40 dated 11<sup>th</sup> December 1996 and D/Sec(AS)12/1 dated 16<sup>th</sup> November 1993. It is considered that this was an error by the author of the 22<sup>nd</sup> January 1997 letter and was made as the two documents referred to were found on file D/DI55/108/15 and the author referred to them without checking the references. Although you were informed in my letter of 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2005 that the first two documents had been found, the second document was in fact the DI55/162/40 letter of 11<sup>th</sup> December 1996. The third document had, at that time, not been found as it was not then known that the document of 16<sup>th</sup> November 1993 was incorrectly referenced.

A copy of D/Sec(AS)12/1 dated 16<sup>th</sup> November 1993 was also sent to you with my letter of 23 August 2005 and is referred to at paragraph (1) of that letter as enclosure 85 from file D/Sec(AS)12/1 Part A. The remaining document (DI55/162/40) has been examined and we have determined that this can now be released. Please find a copy enclosed with this letter. Some details have been withheld in accordance with FOIA Absolute exemption S.40 (Personal Information) and Qualified exemption S.43 (Commercial Interests). Under the terms of the FOIA, in the case of Qualified exemption S.43, we are required to conduct a Public Interest Test on the information that is being withheld. This is to determine whether there is a greater public interest in releasing the requested information or in withholding the information under the

relevant exemption. This test has been applied and it has been decided that the balance of public interest lies in maintaining the exemption and therefore withholding disclosure. Although we appreciate that disclosure of this information would have provided more background information on the UAP report, disclosure would reveal details of a particular company who has had contracts with the DIS which, if disclosed, would be likely to prejudice current and future commercial relations between the company concerned and the Ministry of Defence. You will also notice that some minor details have been removed, these consist of office addresses, telephone numbers and unique job titles. This information is not considered relevant to the contents of the report and we believe its removal does not prejudice the understanding of the report.

If you are unhappy with our decision to withhold this 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, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB (e-mail: [Info-XD@mod.uk](mailto:Info-XD@mod.uk)).

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As requested, we have also reviewed the letter D/DIST/11/10 dated 4<sup>th</sup> December 2000 to see whether previously withheld information can now be released. As you will be aware, this document was released in response to your earlier FOI request concerning the DIS decision to no longer receive UFO reports. Paragraph 3 and a few words in paragraph 4 were removed because they were not relevant to that request. Given your subsequent FOI request for a copy of the UAP report and its release, we have reviewed this decision and decided that this information can now be released. The classification previously removed at the top and bottom of the letter can also now be revealed, but have been over-stamped to reflect the fact that the document has been downgraded. Please find enclosed a fresh copy of this document with this information revealed. The details of the author of the letter are still covered by FOIA Absolute exemption S.40 and therefore remain redacted.

Finally, with regard to your email of 13 June 2006 in which you asked about UFO file releases at The National Archives, I should inform you that once files are transferred from the MOD it is for the TNA to manage their release. The last two collections TNA made of MOD records in March and May 2006 did not include any pieces which obviously contain UFO information, nor any for DEFE 24 where future such releases are anticipated. I understand that TNA will be holding a press event at the end of June when they will highlight some of the new releases. All newly released records should also appear in their catalogue around this time.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

**UNCLASSIFIED**  
**SECRET UK EYES B**

196/847  
CP'

S.40



From: XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX  
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE DI55X Room XXX  
Old War Office Building Whitehall  
LONDON SW1A 2EU



Telephone(Direct Dialling) 0171-218-XXXX  
(Switchboard) 0171-218-9000  
(Fax) 0171-218-XXXX

S.40 XXXXXXXXXXX

Our reference D/DI55/162/40

Date 11 December 1996

S.40 Dear XXXXXXX

CONTRACT NNR2/366



1. I have decided to use spare funds under this contract to begin to database our UFO (UAP) reports. As discussed please design a suitable ACCESS based system that should at least record:

- a. A discrete event number for each incident.
- b. Details of location(s), including any potential military or economic targets.
- c. Times and dates.
- d. Details of person(s) reporting the event and witnesses.
- e. Details of the event to include size, shape, colour, speed(s), noise, other effects such as effects on electronic equipment or ignition systems
- g. A categorisation of the event as follows:
  - 1 - Probable NATO/civilian aircraft.
  - 2. - Probable space-associated event such as meteor, re-entry vehicle or planet.

**UNCLASSIFIED**  
**SECRET UK EYES B**

UNCLASSIFIED  
SECRET UK EYES B

- 3. - Probable hoax or publicity stunt.
- 4. - Unidentified.

f. Any possible explanation, such as military exercises etc.

2. Because of the sensitivity of this activity it must be conducted on a strict need-to-know basis at SECRET UK EYES B level. The activity will be known as PROJECT CONDINE.

*CONDIGN*

S.43 3. You have complete access to the UFO/UAP file series and may remove them on a temporary basis to XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

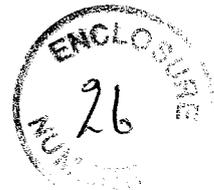
*Regards*

S.40

XXXXXXXXXX

2  
UNCLASSIFIED  
SECRET UK EYES B

UNCLASSIFIED  
SECRET UK EYES ONLY



LOOSE MINUTE

D/DIST/11/10 196/473

4 December 2000

DCDI



DG(R&T)

ADGE

IFS(RAF) (FS ATC)

HQ MATO (OPS (LF) 1)

AD/DI51

Copy to: AD/DI55

UNIDENTIFIED AERIAL PHENOMENA (UAP) – DI55 REPORT

1. The DIS has received copies of UAP sighting reports from Sec(AS) for about 30 years. Until recently these have been filed with only a cursory look at the contents by DI55 to discover whether anything of intelligence value could be determined. However, it was obvious that any value from the sighting data could only be derived by carrying out a Study of a significant sample of the reports. Consequently, over the past 2 years DI55, under low priority tasking, has compiled a database of information taken from reports received between 1987 and 1997, and has carried out an analysis based on data statistics. A report is now available. With the exception of DG(R&T), who receives the full report, other addressees are being provided with the Executive Summary only, which details the main findings of the Study. Should you require the full report, or parts of it, contact details are given on page 3 of the Summary.

2. The main conclusion of the Study is that the sighting reports provide nothing of value to the DIS in our assessment of threat weapon systems. Taken together with other evidence, we believe that many of the sightings can be explained as: mis-reporting of man-made vehicles; natural but not unusual phenomena, and natural but relatively rare and not completely understood phenomena. It is for these reasons that we have taken the decision to do no further work on the subject and will no longer receive copies of sighting reports.

3. In addition to this major conclusion, however, the study produced subsidiary findings which will be of interest to addressees. The potential explanations of UAP sightings, the characteristics of natural atmospheric phenomena and the consequences of sightings from aircraft will be of interest to those responsible for flight safety. Similarly the characteristics of some of the phenomena with respect to their detection on UKADR systems will be of interest to both the ADGE and flight safety staff. Finally, DG(R&T) will be interested in those phenomena associated with plasma formations, which have potential applications to novel weapon technology.

4. Although we intend to carry out no further work on the subject, we would value any comments you may wish to make on the report. Please direct such comments to AD/DI55. Finally, while most of the report is classified at only RESTRICTED UKEO, we hardly need remind addressees of the media interest in this subject and consequently the sensitivity of the report. Please protect this subject

UNCLASSIFIED  
SECRET UK EYES ONLY

accordingly, and discuss the report only with those who have a need to know.

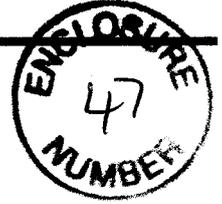
S.40

XXXXXXXXXX  
XXXXXX  
DIST  
XXXXXXXXXX

Enclosure:

- DCDI, IFS(RAF), HQ MATO, - Executive Summary
- UKADGE - Executive Summary and Volume 3
- DGR&T, ADI/55, ADI/51 - Executive Summary and Volumes 1,2 and 3

Section 40



From: Section 40  
Sent: 13 June 2006 13:02  
To: Section 40  
Subject: RE: FOIA request

Section 40

It's a pity Dr Clarke feels that he is unable to wait until the press event at the end of June!

Looking at the pick-up details from the last two collections - March and May 06 - I see no UFO files.

Section 40

-----Original Message-----  
From: Section 40  
Sent: 13 June 2006 10:29  
To: Section 40  
Subject: FW: FOIA request

Section 40

Please see below the latest email from Dr Clarke.

Section 40 How are you doing with Dr Clarke's request and the papers outstanding from his earlier request?. I am happy to continue to correspond with him and send the final reply to his request unless you would rather answer this request yourself. Please let me know which it is to be.

Section 40 would appreciate your advice regarding the files transferred to TNA as mentioned by Dr Clarke.

Regards

Section 40

DAS-FOI  
5-H-13

Section 40

-----Original Message-----  
From: david clarke [mailto:Section 40]  
Sent: 13 June 2006 10:11  
To: Section 40  
Subject: Re: FOIA request

13 June 2006

Dear Section 40

Thanks for your email dated 24 May and the update on my most recent letter and FOI request.

I note that the fresh request has been passed to DIS for action. Does this mean that DIS will reply/respond to me directly, or will you continue to deal with correspondence?

I look forward to an update on the outstanding DIS papers from my earlier FOI request.

Finally, I wondered if you have any information on any imminent releases of UFO-related files at TNA. You will be aware that the last substantial release was back in Jan 2005.

I spoke to the TNA Press Office last week and was told that a number of MoD files in the DEFE and AIR categories are due to be opened on 29 June. Do you know if any of

these are likely to include UFO related records?

Yours,

David Clarke

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

From: Section 40 [redacted]@mod.uk>  
To: "david clarke" <Section 40 [redacted]>  
Sent: Wednesday, May 24, 2006 4:02 PM  
Subject: FOIA request

Dear Dr Clarke

Thank you for your message and the attachment. I have also received the copy of your letter which you put in the post.

A copy of your letter has been sent to the Director General of Information, Access section who deal with MOD Internal reviews and they will contact you separately regarding the first part of your letter.

With regard to your new FOI request, I have recorded this and as you have requested information held by DIS rather than DAS, I have passed it to DIS for action. For your information this request has been allocated the FOI case number of 23-05-2006-100609-001.

You also mentioned some documents from previous FOI requests which you have still not received. I was informed that DIS were examining these in November 2005 and I am afraid they seemed to have got forgotten while we were working on many requests, including the UAP report. I apologise for this. I have asked DIS to look at these papers again and advise me on their release. I will write to you again as soon as I have some news.

Finally, with regard to your comments about the information the MOD holds regarding the UFO sighting in 1990, I should explain that RAF Fylingdales do track space debris and would have been aware of the brake up of the satellite. Indeed, I made some enquiries with RAF Fylingdales in November 2005 in response to an FOI request from Section 40 [redacted] and they confirmed that they had records of "one satellite which decayed on 5 November 1990. The object was SCC number 20925, International Designator 90094 C, Gorizont 21 platform. The object had a radar cross section of about 5.0 square metres and its destruction by burning in the Earth's atmosphere would have been visible from the ground. The actual decay time is unknown, but has been calculated to be between 1700 and 2100." While RAF Fylingdales are always helpful in providing us with information should we request it, they are not required to inform DAS or DAO every time they track such debris which they do on a daily basis. As you will be aware, our only interest in UFO sighting reports is to establish whether there is evidence of a threat to UK airspace, not to provide an aerial identification service. We do not therefore contact RAF Fylingdales every time we receive a sighting report.

I hope this is helpful.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40 [redacted]  
Directorate of Air Staff - Freedom of Information

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

From: david clarke [mailto:Section 40 [redacted]]  
Sent: 22 May 2006 17:32  
To: Section 40 [redacted]  
Subject: FOIA request

Importance: High

2 May 2006

Dear **Section 40**

Please find attached response following up your letter of 28 April and including a fresh FOI request.

I have also posted a copy of this request today which you should receive shortly.

Further to our telecon last week I mentioned that a group in the Netherlands had completed a thorough investigation of the 1990 sighting made by RAF Tornado aircrew.

The results of their findings can be seen at the following link:

<http://www.ufonet.nl/nieuws/tornado/index2.html>  
(you may have to click on the UK flag to obtain a translation to English).

As I explained the UFO sighted by the Tornado crews is clearly explained here as a misinterpretation of the burning debris from the Soviet Proton-Gorizont rocket body.

It is a pity that MoD records on this case do not appear to contain any information upon this explanation. I'm sure that either DAO or RAF Fylingdales would have been aware of the presence of the space debris at the relevant time.

I notice with amusement that Mr P has again cited the Tornado sighting in the context of "unidentified" UFOs in his article in the Daily Express on 15 May, again under the byline of "Ministry of Defence UFO Project."

Yours sincerely,

David Clarke



Section 40

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To: Section 40
Subject: Re: FOIA request

13 June 2006

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**Section 40**

Directorate of Air Staff - Freedom of Information

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From: david clarke [mailto:**Section 40**]

Sent: 22 May 2006 17:32

To: **Section 40**

Subject: FOIA request

Importance: High

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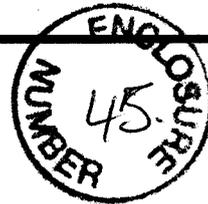
Yours sincerely,

David Clarke



Section 40

From: Section 40  
Sent: 24 May 2006 16:02  
To: 'david clarke'  
Subject: Internet-authorized: FOIA request



Dear Dr Clarke

Thank you for your message and the attachment. I have also received the copy of your letter which you put in the post.

A copy of your letter has been sent to the Director General of Information, Access section who deal with MOD Internal reviews and they will contact you separately regarding the first part of your letter.

With regard to your new FOI request, I have recorded this and as you have requested information held by DIS rather than DAS, I have passed it to DIS for action. For your information this request has been allocated the FOI case number of 23-05-2006-100609-001.

You also mentioned some documents from previous FOI requests which you have still not received. I was informed that DIS were examining these in November 2005 and I am afraid they seemed to have got forgotten while we were working on many requests, including the UAP report. I apologise for this. I have asked DIS to look at these papers again and advise me on their release. I will write to you again as soon as I have some news.

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I hope this is helpful.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40  
Directorate of Air Staff - Freedom of Information

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From: david clarke [mailto:Section 40]  
Sent: 22 May 2006 17:32  
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Importance: High

22 May 2006

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I notice with amusement that Mr P has again cited the Tornado sighting in the context of "unidentified" UFOs in his article in the Daily Express on 15 May, again under the byline of "Ministry of Defence UFO Project."

Yours sincerely,

David Clarke



Dr David Clarke

Section 40

Section 40

Directorate of Air Staff - FOI  
Ministry of Defence  
5<sup>th</sup> Floor, Zone H  
Main Building  
Whitehall  
London SW1A 2HB

22 May 2006

**FOI Request – UAP Report** -26-09-2005-091240-001

Dear Section 40

Thank you for your letter of 28 April and for the copy of the DI55 report “Unidentified Aerial Phenomena in the UK Air Defence Region.”

I do appreciate the amount of scrutiny this document has received and indeed I am pleased with the final result.

I have now had the opportunity to scrutinise the document carefully, especially in relation to information removed under the various qualified exemptions to the FOIA. I have noted the reasoning you have employed using the public interest test, but feel there are grounds to test this decision under the FOI legislation, particularly with regards to Section 27.

As a result, I wish to request an internal review of the decision to redact information under a) Sections 26 and b) Section 27. Please take these specific points into account when carrying out this review:

\*The distribution list and number of copies [Executive Summary] has been redacted and marked “not relevant.” However, in the DIS letter dated 4 December 2000 released under a previous FOI in 2005 the distribution list has not been removed. This anomaly suggests the reviewer has either been over-zealous or was unaware the distribution list had already been released. In my opinion the distribution list is hardly “not relevant” as it shows who received the report and who didn’t, which is most certainly in the public interest.

\*In Vol 1, pg 1, par 2 [Main Report] ‘Historical Background’ a line has been removed under Section 27 relating to the US Robertson Panel study of UFOs carried out in 1953. The context in which the material removed appears makes it obvious that the redaction relates to the CIA sponsorship of the study, a fact

which has been publicly acknowledged by the US authorities since 1966. For this reason I fail to understand how it can be argued this information could prejudice relations with the USA. This example suggests to me that other material redacted under Section 27 elsewhere in the document is also likely to be in the public domain.

Further to my original FOI request of 1 September 2005 could I also draw your attention to Request No 3 which asked for "a copy of DI55/108/15/22 January 1997" and two other DI55 documents dated 1993 and 1996 relating to the UAP study. In your letter of 23 November 2005 you say that "DIS staff have located the first two documents and are currently considering release. They have been unable to locate a copy of the third document on their files." Could you provide an update a) on progress with regards the release of these outstanding documents and b) progress on my request for you to reconsider your decision to delete paragraph 3 from DIST's letter of 4 December 2000 (referred to in your letter 23 November 2005, paragraph 4).

In addition, I wish to make a further FOI request, directed at the Defence Intelligence Staff (DIS), as follows:

23-05-2006-100609-001

Expiry: 21 June 2006

1. Please provide me with copies of correspondence arising from DIST's request to a number of MoD branches (covering letter of UAP report, dated 4 December 2000) for "comments you may wish to make on the [UAP] report...please direct such comments to AD/DI55." This request was directed at six branches who received copies of sections of the report and/or the summary, namely DGR&T, DCDI, IFS(RAF), DI51, UKADGE and HQ MATO. It would appear that correspondence received may be filed with DIS, possibly in DI/DI55/108/15 Pt 6-7 (UFO Policy 2000-present).

Air Defence  
Ground Env.

2. Further to request (1) could you supply copies of any correspondence arising from the "subsidiary recommendations" made on pg 11 of the UAP Report Executive Summary (February 2000) namely that: "The flight safety aspects of the findings should be made available to the appropriate RAF Air Defence and other military and civil authorities which operate aircraft, particularly those operating fast and at low altitude." Could you confirm these findings were passed to the DAO and CAA and if so what specific recommendations have been made to aircrew as a result.

3. Could you supply a list of files, records or any other material relating to the subject of Unidentified Aerial Phenomena (UAP) held by the DIS. Please include the titles and dates covered and current location of files. *This request relates only to files or records containing the acronym UAP in their title as opposed to UFO.*

I am aware that some of the documents covered in request (1) may be classified and will need to be downgraded before they can be released to me. I would be grateful therefore if you could provide me with an estimate of the likely timescale involved in this process. I look forward to hearing from you,

Yours sincerely,



**Dr David Clarke**

Section 40

Section 40

**Directorate of Air Staff - FOI  
Ministry of Defence  
5<sup>th</sup> Floor, Zone H  
Main Building  
Whitehall  
London SW1A 2HB**

22 May 2006

**FOI Request – UAP Report**

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I have now had the opportunity to scrutinise the document carefully, especially in relation to information removed under the various qualified exemptions to the FOIA. I have noted the reasoning you have employed using the public interest test, but feel there are grounds to test this decision under the FOI legislation, particularly with regards to Section 27.

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1. Please provide me with copies of correspondence arising from DIST's request to a number of MoD branches (covering letter of UAP report, dated 4 December 2000) for "comments you may wish to make on the [UAP] report...please direct such comments to AD/DI55." This request was directed at six branches who received copies of sections of the report and/or the summary, namely DGR&T, DCDI, IFS(RAF), DI51, UKADGE and HQ MATO. It would appear that correspondence received may be filed with DIS, possibly in DI/DI55/108/15 Pt 6-7 (UFO Policy 2000-present).
2. Further to request (1) could you supply copies of any correspondence arising from the "subsidiary recommendations" made on pg 11 of the UAP Report Executive Summary (February 2000) namely that: "The flight safety aspects of the findings should be made available to the appropriate RAF Air Defence and other military and civil authorities which operate aircraft, particularly those operating fast and at low altitude." Could you confirm these findings were passed to the DAO and CAA and if so what specific recommendations have been made to aircrew as a result.
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I am aware that some of the documents covered in request (1) may be classified and will need to be downgraded before they can be released to me. I would be grateful therefore if you could provide me with an estimate of the likely timescale involved in this process. I look forward to hearing from you,

Yours sincerely,

Section 40



Unwin, Linda Mrs



From: Section 40  
Sent: 24 May 2006 16:02  
To: 'david clarke'  
Subject: Internet-authorized: FOIA request

Dear Dr Clarke

Thank you for your message and the attachment. I have also received the copy of your letter which you put in the post.

A copy of your letter has been sent to the Director General of Information, Access section who deal with MOD Internal reviews and they will contact you separately regarding the first part of your letter.

With regard to your new FOI request, I have recorded this and as you have requested information held by DIS rather than DAS, I have passed it to DIS for action. For your information this request has been allocated the FOI case number of 23-05-2006-100609-001.

You also mentioned some documents from previous FOI requests which you have still not received. I was informed that DIS were examining these in November 2005 and I am afraid they seemed to have got forgotten while we were working on many requests, including the UAP report. I apologise for this. I have asked DIS to look at these papers again and advise me on their release. I will write to you again as soon as I have some news.

Finally, with regard to your comments about the information the MOD holds regarding the UFO sighting in 1990, I should explain that RAF Fylingdales do track space debris and would have been aware of the brake up of the satellite. Indeed, I made some enquiries with RAF Fylingdales in November 2005 in response to an FOI request from Section 40 and they confirmed that they had records of "one satellite which decayed on 5 November 1990. The object was SCC number 20925, International Designator 90094 C, Gorizont 21 platform. The object had a radar cross section of about 5.0 square metres and its destruction by burning in the Earth's atmosphere would have been visible from the ground. The actual decay time is unknown, but has been calculated to be between 1700 and 2100." While RAF Fylingdales are always helpful in providing us with information should we request it, they are not required to inform DAS or DAO every time they track such debris which they do on a daily basis. As you will be aware, our only interest in UFO sighting reports is to establish whether there is evidence of a threat to UK airspace, not to provide an aerial identification service. We do not therefore contact RAF Fylingdales every time we receive a sighting report.

I hope this is helpful.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40  
Directorate of Air Staff - Freedom of Information

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

From: david clarke [mailto:Section 40]  
Sent: 22 May 2006 17:32  
To: Section 40  
Subject: FOIA request  
Importance: High

22 May 2006

Dear Section 40

Please find attached response following up your letter of 28 April and including a fresh FOI request.

I have also posted a copy of this request today which you should receive shortly.

Further to our telecon last week I mentioned that a group in the Netherlands had completed a thorough investigation of the 1990 sighting made by RAF Tornado aircrew.

The results of their findings can be seen at the following link:

<http://www.ufonet.nl/nieuws/tornado/index2.html>

(you may have to click on the UK flag to obtain a translation to English).

As I explained the UFO sighted by the Tornado crews is clearly explained here as a misinterpretation of the burning debris from the Soviet Proton-Gorizont rocket body.

It is a pity that MoD records on this case do not appear to contain any information upon this explanation. I'm sure that either DAO or RAF Fylingdales would have been aware of the presence of the space debris at the relevant time.

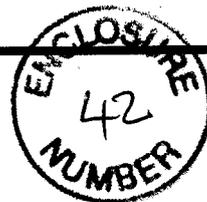
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Yours sincerely,

David Clarke

Section 40

From: david clarke [Section 40]  
Sent: 22 May 2006 17:32  
To: Unwin, Linda Mrs  
Subject: FOIA request



Importance: High



MoDFOIMay06.doc  
(38 KB)

22 May 2006

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**Dr David Clarke**

Section 40

Section 40

**Directorate of Air Staff - FOI  
Ministry of Defence  
5<sup>th</sup> Floor, Zone H  
Main Building  
Whitehall  
London SW1A 2HB**

22 May 2006

**FOI Request – UAP Report**

Dear Section 40

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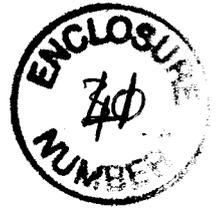
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I am aware that some of the documents covered in request (1) may be classified and will need to be downgraded before they can be released to me. I would be grateful therefore if you could provide me with an estimate of the likely timescale involved in this process. I look forward to hearing from you,

Yours sincerely,



From: **Section 40**  
Directorate of Air Staff - Freedom of Information  
**MINISTRY OF DEFENCE**  
5<sup>th</sup> 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

---

Dr David Clarke

**Section 40**  
[Redacted]

Our Reference

26-09-2005-091240-001

Date

28 April 2006

---

Dear Dr Clarke

Please find enclosed a copy of the report entitled *Unidentified Aerial Phenomena in the UK Air Defence Region* written in December 2000 as you requested on 1 September 2005, in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000. I apologise for the length of time this request has taken, but the meticulous scrutiny this document has received has enabled us to release the vast majority of the report and I hope you will be pleased with the final result.

The report consists of 465 pages divided into four parts, three Volumes and an Executive Summary. While we have endeavoured to release as much information as possible, it has been necessary to remove some information and where this is the case the appropriate Section of the Freedom of Information Act has been indicated beside the redaction. The Sections and the reasons for their use are given below. Sections 26, and 27 are qualified exemptions and in accordance with the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act we have looked at the balance of public interest for and against disclosure for each Section. Details of the public interest test and our conclusions are also detailed below.

**Section 26 (Defence)** – This information consists of details of the operation and performance of UK Air Defence radar. In favour of disclosing this information is the public interest in promoting understanding of the RAF's ability to detect and effectively respond to potential threats in UK airspace. It is important to recognise public anxiety with regard to possible attacks on the UK, particularly from acts of terrorism and the need to reassure the public that everything possible is being done to protect them. However, this public interest has already been served to a considerable extent by the publication of the Sixth Report of the House of Commons Defence Committee in 2002. In the report the Committee outline the measures the Government takes to protect the public from terrorist activity including threats from the air.

Against the limited public interest in disclosure, is a countervailing public interest which favours withholding the information in order to preserve the effectiveness of the UK's air defences. The release of this information could be of significant value to the planning of an attack on the UK, including from terrorism. There is therefore a strong public interest in preserving the RAF's ability to defend the British mainland through the effectiveness of its air defences. and we therefore conclude that the balance of the public interest is firmly in favour of withholding the information in accordance with Section 26(1)(a) & (b).

**Section 27 (International Relations)** – This information consists of information about or supplied by another nation. In favour of disclosing this information is the public interest in understanding the exchange of information between the UK and other nations.

Against the public interest is the need to maintain the UK's ability to effectively share and receive information from our allies, concerning issues of mutual benefit, with a degree of confidentiality. The release of this information is, likely to prejudice the future exchange of such information and may also damage the UK's relationship with that nation. We therefore conclude that the balance of public interest is in favour of withholding this information in accordance with Section 27(1)(a) & (3).

**Section 40 (Personal Information)** – This information contains personal data about the author of the report and members of the public who have reported UFO sightings. This information is exempt under Section 40 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and is covered by the Data Protection Act 1998. Section 40 is an absolute exemption and therefore requires no public interest test.

You will also notice that some minor details have been removed because they are not relevant to your request. These consists of office addresses, telephone numbers and unique job titles. This information is not relevant to the contents of the report and we believe its removal does not prejudice the understanding of the report. The titles of significant branches such as DI55 and Sec(AS)2a have not been removed.

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

I should also inform you that the information supplied to you continues to be protected by the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988. You are free to use it for your own purposes, including any non-commercial research you are doing and for the purposes of news reporting. Any other reuse, for example commercial publication, would require the permission of the copyright holder. Most documents supplied by the Ministry of Defence will have been produced by government officials and will be Crown Copyright. You can find details on the arrangements for re-using Crown Copyright from the Office of Public Sector Information at: <http://www.opsi.gov.uk/click-use/index.htm>. Information you receive which is not subject to Crown Copyright continues to be protected by the copyright of the person, or organisations, from which the information originated. You must ensure that you gain their permission before reproducing any third party (non Crown Copyright) information. If you intend to use this information for commercial publication or are unsure whether permission is required, please write to the following address for advice:

Section 40

Intellectual Property Rights Group – Policy  
MOD Abbey Wood  
Stoke Gifford  
Bristol  
BS34 8JH

We appreciate that this document is likely to be of interest to a wider public audience and it is our intention to place an electronic version in the Freedom of Information Publication Scheme on the MOD website ([www.mod.uk](http://www.mod.uk)). We have taken into account your request to have time to read and digest the report before it is made available in the Publication Scheme and have agreed to allow you and Section 40 a short period of exclusive sight of the report. The report will be available for viewing in the Publication Scheme from Monday 15<sup>th</sup> May 2006.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

D/DAS/63/3/11

26 April 2006

**PS/US of S**

Copy to : **DAS-XO**

**DI BCR CG AD**

**DCT&UKOps – SOI Airspace Integrity**

**DGMC-D News- Armed Forces 4**

**Info-AccessOpsAD**



**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT – RELEASE OF DIS REPORT ON UNIDENTIFIED AERIAL PHENOMENA (UAP) IN THE UK AIR DEFENCE REGION**

**ISSUE**

1. The release of a DIS-commissioned study into Unidentified Aerial Phenomena in the UK Air Defence Region in response to a request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

**RECOMMENDATION**

2. Minister to note the release of a document that is likely to attract media and public attention.

**TIMING**

3. Urgent. The report is to be released into the public domain on 28 April 2006 and will be revealed in the MOD Freedom of Information Publication Scheme on 15<sup>th</sup> May 2006.

**BACKGROUND**

4. Since the introduction of the FOIA on 1 January 2005, the Directorate of Air Staff, as the lead branch, has received a large number of requests for information on reported 'UFO' sightings in UK air space. Several documents have been released in response to these requests, one of which referred to a DIS study entitled 'Unidentified Aerial Phenomena in the UK Air Defence Region'. DAS have now received requests from two members of the public (one of which is an academic researcher) requesting copies of this study report.

5. The study was commissioned by DIST to ascertain whether there was any evidence of a threat to UK air space from Unidentified Aerial Phenomena. DI55 regularly received copies of UAP sighting reports and had formed the view that none of them presented any threat to UK airspace. Neither had any of the reports indicated any potential new technologies which may have been of defence interest. DI55 therefore were of the view that they had no need to receive these reports, but in order to establish whether UFO reports had any value to Defence Intelligence and whether there was a requirement for Defence Intelligence Staff to see them in the future, they decided to

commission a study into the reports that had been received. The study was carried out during the period December 1996 to March 2000 by a contractor, **Section 40** who was employed in DIST and the report was completed in December 2000. Although this was only one of several tasks in which the contractor was engaged, he produced a very comprehensive report (three volumes and an Executive Summary). The conclusion was that there was no evidence of threats to UK airspace and no new technologies which may have been of defence interest. Most aerial phenomena could be easily explained. It was then decided that DI55 would cease to receive UAP sighting reports. Since December 2000, these reports have not been forwarded to DIS.

6. It is understood that this is the most detailed study that has been undertaken by the Ministry of Defence into unidentified aerial phenomena in UK air space. As it is a unique report and in view of the continuing high profile of the 'UFO' phenomenon, it is expected that the release of the report into the public domain will create media and public interest.

7. The contractor wrote the first two volumes of the report with a view to their release, but the third volume was classified SECRET UK Eyes Only because it contained sensitive information concerning the UK Air Defence Region. The report has been scrutinised by the subject matter experts in DIST, DI BCR, CT&UK Ops and DAS and it is considered that the report can be downgraded to UNCLASSIFIED. However, several sections of the report have been withheld in accordance with Sections of the FOIA. These are as follows;

S.26 - Defence – Information which may be likely to compromise the defence of the British Isles.

S.27 - International Relations – Information which would prejudice relations with other States.

S.40 – Personal Information – Personal data were living individuals can be identified from the information. Also covered by the Data Protection Act 1998.

8. The information withheld relates to UK air defence radar performance, UAP studies in other countries, potential military use of UAPs and personal details of the report's author and contributors and members of the public who have submitted 'sighting' reports. It should also be noted that the report contains reference to unexplained RAF aircraft accidents and although some information has been withheld, it has been determined that under the FOIA, there are no justifiable grounds to withhold the information in total. This section is also likely to attract media and public interest.

### **PRESENTATIONAL ISSUES**

9. In anticipation of the expected reaction of the release of the report, suitable press lines have been prepared and these are attached for attention of the MOD Press Office.

10. The report is to be released to the requesters in hard copy but, in view of the anticipated level of interest and number of new requests for copies, the

report has been scanned and will be posted on the MOD Freedom of Information website on the 15<sup>th</sup> May, where it can be viewed and downloaded by the general public.

Section 40 [REDACTED]

DAS-FOI

Section 40 [REDACTED]

Authorised by:

Section 40 [REDACTED]

DAS-Sec AD

5-H-15

Section 40 [REDACTED]

## **Release of Unidentified Aerial Phenomena in the UK Air Defence Region Report - Possible Press / Public Questions**

### **What is the MOD's role in relation to reported UFO (UAP) sightings?**

The MOD examines any UFO sighting reports it receives solely to establish whether there is any evidence to suggest that UK airspace has been compromised by hostile or unauthorised air activity. Unless there is such evidence the MOD does not attempt to positively identify what was seen.

### **What is the Defence Intelligence Staff's role in relation to UFOs (UAP).**

Until December 2000, the DIS examined UFO sighting reports received by MOD to see if they contained any information of value in DIS's task of analysing the performance and threat of foreign weapons systems, nuclear, chemical and biological warfare programmes and technologies and emerging technologies.

### **If the MOD has no particular interest in UFOs (UAP), why did the DIS undertake such an extensive study? Was it to investigate if aliens were visiting us?**

The study was not conducted to establish the possibility of extraterrestrial visitors. Prior to 2000 UFO reports were copied to the DIS in case they were useful to the work of the DIS. During a policy review in 2000, the DIS wished to establish once and for all the potential value, if any, of UFO (UAP) sighting reports to Defence Intelligence.

### **When was the study done and why was it kept secret?**

The study was conducted between December 1996 and March 2000. The report contains sensitive information concerning the UK Air Defence Region and was therefore classified Secret and given a limited distribution. Until the introduction of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, all government records were closed from public viewing for a period of 30 years after the last action was taken in accordance with the Public Records Act 1958 and 1967.

### **What is the aim of this study?**

To ascertain whether there is any evidence of a threat to the UK and to identify any potential military technologies of interest.

### **How much did it cost the taxpayer?**

It is not possible to provide details of the cost of producing the report. The author was initially employed as a contractor and commenced work on the report in December 1996. The author was employed on a part-time basis and divided his time between working for the DIS and working on his company's business. The author left his company on early retirement in **Section 40** following which he was employed as a consultant for the DIS until completion of the report in March 2000. During the period December 1996 to March 2000,

producing the report was only one of several tasks in which the author was engaged, it is, therefore, not possible to determine how much of his time was divided between producing the report and his other tasks.

**Why was the MOD secretly studying UFOs when you have said on many occasions you are not interested in the subject / is not taken seriously, etc.**

As we have advised on many occasions, the MOD has no role or expertise regarding the existence or otherwise of extraterrestrial life-forms and does not study such alleged phenomena. This study was conducted only to establish whether UFO reports had any value to Defence Intelligence and whether there was a requirement for the Defence Intelligence Staff to see them in the future. Given the conclusion it was decided that there was no such requirement and since December 2000, UFO reports have not been forwarded to the DIS.

**What are the conclusions of the Study / does it say we are being visited by ET and if not how can you be sure?**

Based on all the available evidence remaining in the Department (reported over a 30 year period) the MOD concluded that the UFO sighting reports did not have any significant Defence Intelligence value. The study was not conducted for the purpose of establishing the existence of extraterrestrial life-forms. The MOD remains open-minded but to date we know of no evidence that substantiates the existence of these alleged phenomena.

**Why has the MOD decided to release this information now – what led to the decision?**

The MOD received a Freedom of Information request for a copy of this report. The MOD has embraced the spirit of open government and despite the size and original classification, staff have taken great care to ensure that the majority of this large report is made available. Sections have been withheld only where the information is covered by FOIA exemptions, and it is considered that it is not in the public interest to release it.

**Has the database of UFO reports on which this report is based still available and if so, will the MOD be publishing it?**

When it was decided that there was no intention to add further data to the database and the study report was completed, the database was destroyed. The report does however give details of the construction of the database and provides some screen shots of the fields used.

**Does this mean the MOD is no longer interested in UFOs? Who do people ring now if they want to report seeing something in the sky?**

This study led to the decision that the DIS no longer had a requirement to see

reported UFO sightings, but during the policy review in 2000 it was decided that the Directorate of Air Staff would continue to receive reports and forward those to air defence experts when it was felt that they may be of some interest. Anyone wishing to report their sighting to the MOD can do so by any of the following means;

Write to: Ministry of Defence  
Directorate of Air Staff – Freedom of Information  
5<sup>th</sup> Floor, Zone H  
Main Building  
Whitehall  
London  
SW1A 2HB

Telephone: 020 7218 2140 (24 hour answerphone, please leave your name and a contact address).

Fax: **Section 40**

E-mail: [das-ufo-office@mod.uk](mailto:das-ufo-office@mod.uk)

**What about 9/11? Shouldn't the MOD be taking all reports of unidentified objects seriously given the ongoing terrorist threat? Isn't this the wrong time to take your eye off the ball?**

The MOD takes its duties to defend UK airspace extremely seriously. The integrity of the UK's airspace in peacetime is maintained through continuous surveillance of the UK Air Policing Area by the Royal Air Force. This is achieved by using a combination of civil and military radar installations, which provide a continuous real-time "picture" of the UK airspace. Any threat to the UK Air Policing Area would be handled in the light of the particular circumstances at the time (it might, if deemed appropriate, involve the scrambling or diversion of air defence aircraft). These measures are not connected to, or dependent on, the MOD receiving UFO reports from the public.

**Is Nick Pope aware of this report, and if so did he have any input into it?**

No, Nick Pope would not have had any input into this report and would not have been aware of it. He left the department which deals with UFO matters in 1994 and this study was part of a policy review between 1996 and 2000.

**The report suggests that there is a possibility that unexplained RAF aircraft accidents or near miss incidents may have been caused by the sudden appearance of UFOs (UAP). Why was this not considered when these were first investigated? [Volume 1, Chapter 4, Paragraphs 19-21]**

During investigations into aircraft accidents and near miss events, all available evidence is examined. The possibility that the aircrew could have been surprised or startled by the sudden appearance of an object (identified or

unidentified) in their vicinity is taken into consideration. In the course of this study RAF Aircraft Accidents over a 30 year period were examined to identify those where aircraft had impacted the surface, due to what appeared to be sudden and inappropriate control inputs by the crew. It was concluded that for various reasons as detailed in the report none of these could be directly correlated with evidence of UFO sightings.



DI BCR/10/4/3/13/59

24 April 2006

PS/CDI   
MA/DCDI  
MA/DGIC  
DI P&R

Copy:  
DI SA  
DI ST  
DI OPS  
DTIO  
DI CAC  
DIST-GM OMS AD

**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT - RELEASE OF DIS REPORT ON UNIDENTIFIED AERIAL PHENOMENA (UAP) IN THE UK AIR DEFENCE REGION**

**ISSUE**

1. The release of a DIS-commissioned study into Unidentified Aerial Phenomena in the UK Air Defence Region in response to a request under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).

**RECOMMENDATION**

2. DIS Management Board members to note.

**TIMING**

3. The report is to be released into the public domain by 28 April 2006.

**BACKGROUND**

4. Since the introduction of the FOIA on 1 January 2005, the Directorate of Air Staff (DAS), as the lead branch, has received a large number of requests for information on reported 'UFO' sightings in UK air space. Several DAS documents have been released in response to these requests, one of which referred to a DIS study entitled 'Unidentified Aerial Phenomena in the UK Air Defence Region'. A request has been received for a copy of the study.

5. The study was commissioned by DIST to ascertain whether there was any evidence of a threat to UK air space from Unidentified Aerial Phenomena. DI55 regularly received copies of UAP sighting reports and had formed the view that none of them presented any threat to UK airspace. Neither had any of the reports indicated any potential new technologies which may have been of defence interest. DI55 therefore were of the view that they had no need to receive these reports, but in order to establish whether UFO reports had any value to Defence Intelligence and whether there was a requirement for

Defence Intelligence Staff to see them in the future, they decided to commission a study into the reports that had been received. The study was carried out during the period December 1996 to March 2000 by a contractor, **Section 40** who was employed in DIST and the report was completed in December 2000. Although this was only one of several tasks in which the contractor was engaged, he produced a very comprehensive report (three volumes and an Executive Summary). The conclusion was that there was no evidence of threats to UK airspace and no new technologies which may have been of defence interest. Most aerial phenomena could be easily explained. It was then decided that DI55 would cease to receive UAP sighting reports. Since December 2000, these reports have not been forwarded to DIS.

6. It is understood that this is the most detailed study that has been undertaken by the Ministry of Defence into unidentified aerial phenomena in UK air space. As it is a unique report and in view of the continuing high profile of the 'UFO' phenomenon, it is expected that the release of the report into the public domain will create media and public interest.

7. The contractor wrote the first two volumes of the report with a view to their release, but the third volume was classified SECRET UK Eyes Only because it contained sensitive information concerning the UK Air Defence Region. The report has been scrutinised by the subject matter experts in DIST, DI BCR, DAS and CT&UK Ops and it is considered that the report can be downgraded to 'Unclassified'. However, several sections of the report have been withheld.

8. Under the FOIA, 23 exemptions may be used to withhold information. The following exemptions have been cited:

- a. S.26 - Defence – information which would be likely to compromise the defence of the British Isles.
- b. S.27 - International Relations – information which would prejudice relations with other States.
- c. S.40 – Personal Information – personal information such as names and addresses.

9. The information withheld relates to UK air defence radar performance, UAP studies in other countries, potential military use of UAPs and personal details of the report's author and contributors and members of the public who have submitted 'sighting' reports. It should also be noted that the report contains reference to unexplained RAF aircraft accidents and although some information has been withheld, it has been determined that under the FOIA, there are no justifiable grounds to withhold the information in total. This section is also likely to attract media and public interest.

10. Under the FOIA, for exemptions 26 and 27, we are required to conduct a Public Interest Test (PIT). A PIT is required to balance the factors for and against disclosure of the exempt information and to determine whether

disclosure of the information is in the public interest. The PIT has been completed and it has been determined that disclosure of the exempt information is not in the public interest and should be withheld. The basis for this decision was that to disclose the exempt information would reveal information on the performance and limitations of UK air defence radar and thereby could prejudice the defence of the UK and could harm international relations with other countries by disclosing their work on UAPs and related programmes.

11. In anticipation of the expected reaction to the release of the report, suitable press lines are being prepared and the MoD Press Office will be informed. A copy of the first draft of the press lines is attached. An updated version is being prepared by DAS and will be completed by 28 April.

12. The report is to be released to the requester in hard copy but, in view of the anticipated level of interest and number of new requests for copies of the report, the report will be scanned and posted onto the MoD Freedom of Information website where it can be viewed and downloaded by the general public.

13. The report is very large, but if any addressees would like to see a copy, it can be viewed by contacting [Section 40](#) DI BCR CG3, [Section 40](#)

#### **Way Ahead**

14. We intend to release the report by 28 April 2006 and have a copy of the report available on the MoD Freedom of Information website by 5 May 2006.

[Section 40](#)

DI BCR CG AD

[Section 40](#)



**Release of Unidentified Aerial Phenomena in the UK Air Defence Region  
Report - Possible Press / Public Questions** 

**What is the MOD's role in relation to reported UFO (UAP) sightings?**

The MOD examines any UFO sighting reports it receives solely to establish whether there is any evidence to suggest that UK airspace has been compromised by hostile or unauthorised air activity. Unless there is such evidence the MOD does not attempt to positively identify what was seen.

**What is Defence Intelligence staff role in relation to UFOs (UAP).**

Until December 2000, DIS examined UFO sighting reports received by MOD to see if they contained any information of value in DIS's task of analysing the performance and threat of foreign weapons systems, nuclear, chemical and biological warfare programmes and technologies and emerging technologies.

**If the MOD has no particular interest in UFOs (UAP), why did DIS undertake such an extensive study? Was it to investigate if aliens were visiting us?**

The study was not conducted to establish the possibility of extraterrestrial visitors. Prior to 2000 UFO reports were copied to DIS in case they were useful to the work of the Defence Intelligence Staff. During a policy review in 2000, DIS wished to establish once and for all the potential value, if any, of UFO (UAP) sighting reports to Defence Intelligence.

**When was the study done and why was it kept secret?**

The study was conducted between December 1996 and March 2000. The report contains sensitive information concerning the UK Air Defence Region and was therefore classified Secret and given a limited distribution. Until the introduction of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, all government records were closed from public viewing for a period of 30 years after the last action was taken in accordance with the Public Records Act 1958 and 1967.

**What is the aim of this study?**

To ascertain whether there is any evidence of a threat to the UK and to identify any potential military technologies of interest.

**How much did it cost the taxpayer?**

The study was carried out between December 1996 and March 2000 by one contractor. Details of the exact cost of the study are unavailable.

**Why was the MOD secretly studying UFOs when you have said on many occasions you are not interested in the subject / is not taken seriously, etc.**

As we have advised on many occasions, the MOD has no role or expertise regarding the existence or otherwise of extraterrestrial life-forms and does not study such alleged phenomena. This study was conducted only to establish whether UFO reports had any value to Defence Intelligence and whether there was a requirement for Defence Intelligence Staff to see them in the future. Given the conclusion it was decided that there was no such requirement and since December 2000, UFO reports have not been forwarded to DIS.

**What are the conclusions of the Study / does it say we are being visited by ET and if not how can you be sure?**

Based on all the available evidence remaining in the Department (reported over a 30 year period) the MOD concluded that the UFO sighting reports did not have any significant Defence Intelligence value. The study was not conducted for the purpose of establishing the existence of extraterrestrial life-forms. The MOD remains open-minded but to date we know of no evidence that substantiates the existence of these alleged phenomena.

**Why has the MOD decided to release this information now – what led to the decision?**

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**Does this mean the MOD is no longer interested in UFOs? Who do people ring now if they want to report seeing something in the sky?**

This study led to the decision that DIS no longer had a requirement to see reported UFO sightings, but during the policy review in 2000 it was decided that the Directorate of Air Staff would continue to receive reports and forward those to air defence experts when it was felt that they may be of some interest. Anyone wishing to report their sighting to the MOD can do so by any of the following means;

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Telephone: 020 7218 2140 (24 hour answerphone, please leave your name and a contact address).

Fax: **Section 40**

E-mail: [das-ufo-office@mod.uk](mailto:das-ufo-office@mod.uk)

**What about 9/11? Shouldn't the MOD be taking all reports of unidentified objects seriously given the ongoing terrorist threat? Isn't this the wrong time to take your eye off the ball?**

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**Is Nick Pope aware of this report, and if so did he have any input into it?**

No, Nick Pope would not have had any input into this report and would not have been aware of it. He left the department which deals with UFO matters in 1994 and this study was part of a policy review between 1996 and 2000.

**The report suggests that there is a possibility that unexplained RAF aircraft accidents or near miss incidents may have been caused by the sudden appearance of UFOs (UAP). Why was this not considered when these were first investigated? [Volume 1, Chapter 4, Paragraphs 19-21]**  
During investigations into aircraft accidents and near miss events, all available evidence is examined. The possibility that the aircrew could have been surprised or startled by the sudden appearance of an object (identified or unidentified) in their vicinity it taken into consideration. In the course of this study RAF Aircraft Accidents over a 30 year period were examined to identify those where aircraft had impacted the surface, due to what appeared to be sudden and inappropriate control inputs by the crew. It was concluded that for various reasons as detailed in the report none of these could be directly correlated with evidence of UFO sightings.



**Host Details :**

Host Name : Section 40  
Department : DAS  
Building : MAIN BUILDING  
Contact No. 1 : Section 40  
Contact No. 2 :  
Location : 5-H-13

**Visit Details :**

Booking Ref. : 18456  
Location :  
Entrance : NORTH DOOR  
Date : 28/04/2006  
Time : 09:00  
Length of Visit : 1 day  
Reason : MEETING WITH DAS-FOI

**Visitor Details :**

Name : DAVID CLARKE  
Company : PRIVATE RESEARCHER  
Nationality : BRITISH  
Telephone :  
Email :  
Visitor Badge : ESCORTED 1 DAY  
Classification : UNCLASSIFIED ESCORTED  
Status : Expected

Section 40

From: david clarke [Section 40]  
Sent: 21 April 2006 14:32  
To: [Section 40]  
Subject: Re: Freedom of Information Request

Importance: High



21 April 2006

Dear [Section 40]

Just to follow-up our telecon on Wednesday re the imminent release of the DIS UFO report.

As I believe I mentioned to you, I will be travelling to London early next Friday, 28 April, to spend two days working at the British Library.

Assuming the report is cleared for release on Tuesday, or Wednesday, would it not be more convenient - and save postal charges - if I was to collect my copy from you directly, at the MoD main building on Friday morning?

If you could let me know if this would be acceptable, I will make the necessary arrangements and would expect to be at Trafalgar Square for around 10.30-11am.

A further point arising from our conversation: with regards to the covering letter to me you plan to upload to the Publication Scheme. If you recall I requested that, in order to make clear who it was who made the FOI request which led to the release of this report, my name (but not my address) should be left on the covering letter. Under the DPA I presume written consent is required for this to happen, so I hereby give that consent.

As we discussed, given the fact that [Section 40] and I requested this report in September 2005 I hope that MoD will allow us some time to read and digest its contents etc before you add the document to the online Publication Scheme.

Thankyou for your continued assistance with this matter,

David Clarke

Check with [Section 40]

[Section 40]

Section 40

**From:** Section 40  
**Sent:** 10 April 2006 14:27  
**To:** Section 40  
**Subject:** Internet-authorized:Freedom of Information Request  
**Importance:** High



Dear Dr Clarke

Further to my e-mail of 31 March, I am writing to inform you that there will be a slight delay to the release of the UAP report. In my earlier e-mail I said it would be released before Easter, but I have now been informed by DIS staff that due to staff absences and some reproduction difficulties this will not now be possible. I have been assured that we will be in a position to send the documents to you during the week beginning the 24<sup>th</sup> April. I apologise for this delay. I will inform you by e-mail when the documents have been placed in the post. In the meantime, if you have any questions, please give me a call.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

Ministry of Defence  
Directorate of Air Staff - Freedom of Information

10<sup>th</sup> April 2006

Section 40



From: Section 40

Sent: 31 March 2006 09:54

To: Section 40

Subject: Internet-authorized:Freedom of Information Request

Dear Dr Clarke

I writing to provide you with an update on the release of the DIS UAP report.

The whole report including Volumes 1, 2, 3 and the Executive Summary, (a final total of 465 pages) has now been examined and where applicable sensitive information has been removed. DIS staff and myself are currently making one final read through the documents to make sure that we have not missed any sensitive information and then we should be able to release the documents to you. We are aiming to send this information very soon and certainly before Easter. I apologise for the length of time this is taking, but I am sure you will be glad to hear that the careful consideration of this material is going to result in the release of the vast majority of the report, with a comparatively small amount of redaction. Where information is to be withheld, this will be explained in my covering letter.

I hope this is helpful.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

Directorate of Air Staff - Freedom of Information

31 March 2006

Unwin, Linda Mrs

---

From: david clarke [Section 40]  
Sent: 21 March 2006 18:31  
To: [Section 40]  
Subject: Re: FOI Request



Dear [Section 40]

Thank you for your email of 20 March and for answering my various comments in detail.

I apologise if I have misinterpreted the information regarding the author of the UAP report. The information relating to him being RAF aircrew relates to a paragraph in the 3-page letter which I presumed was written by the author of the report to Sec(AS) and dated 22 January 1997, which you released last year in response to my last FOI request. This contains a paragraph (no 8) which reads:

"...this leads to another important point, that of the current public UFO questionnaire format - which was 'invented' in the 1950s (I know because I filled one in myself after a sortie when flying in the RAF at the time)."

However, it's possible that he was flying in the RAF in some other capacity than aircrew. But as I'm sure you can see, that is the implication when read at face value.

Thanks also for sending me a copy of the article in Focus and for the definitive statement concerning the non-existent "UFO Project."

I look forward to hearing from you when work on the document is completed (hopefully soon). Please could you convey my thanks and appreciation to all concerned.

Yours sincerely

Dr David Clarke

**Section 40**

**From:** **Section 40**  
**Sent:** 20 March 2006 16:09  
**To:** **Section 40**  
**Subject:** Internet-authorized:FOI Request  
**Importance:** High



Dear Dr Clarke

Thank you for your e-mail of 13 March containing comments about the contents of my e-mail of 8 March. I will address these in the same order as your message.

First, with regard to your remarks about the whereabouts of the author of the report, I can confirm he was not an MOD employee or RAF Aircrew. He was a contractor working for a private company, who was temporarily employed by the MOD as a consultant. In order to answer your questions, DIS did take the trouble to contact his employer who advised that he had retired and they had no forwarding address. As he was neither an employee of the MOD or in the RAF, the MOD does not hold any pension details for him.

As for your comments regarding information from the report that is to be redacted / withheld, I can assure you that all of those involved in considering the report for release are keen to ensure that as much information as possible is released and information is only redacted where absolutely necessary. A great deal of time and effort has (and still is) being expended, particularly by DIS staff, in order to check the contents with the Departments subject matter experts and others where necessary, where the report contains information that is still potentially sensitive. Any information that is redacted will be withheld in accordance with appropriate sections of the Freedom of Information Act and the reason for this will be explained in the covering letter which will be sent with the report. Your right of appeal against any of these decisions will also be explained in this letter. With regard to your remarks about the interpretation members of the public may put on any information withheld, we are fully aware of the public interest in UFO information and the fact that the public may make assumptions and allegations about the MOD's motives. However, we believe it is far more important in the general interest of the public that the MOD does not release information that could cause harm to the defence of the UK.

Finally, you mentioned our article in Focus magazine and the remark about the "UFO Project". I can confirm that to our knowledge, there is and never has been any such "Project". Nick Pope also wrote an article for Focus, which appeared in the same addition, below ours. However, this is not the same as the one shown on the Virtually Strange website. As requested, I have sent you a copy of the March issue in the post today.

I hope this is helpful.

Yours sincerely,

**Section 40**

Ministry of Defence  
Directorate of Air Staff - Freedom of Information  
5th Floor, Zone H, Desk 13  
Main Building  
Whitehall  
LONDON  
SW1A 2HB

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

20<sup>th</sup> March 2006

31/05/2006



Section 40

From: Section 40

Sent: 16 March 2006 09:54

To: Section 40

Subject: FW: FOI Request

Section 40

Here is the latest e-mail from Dr Clarke. In answer to his remarks in paragraphs 2 and 3 I propose to say the following.

Para 2

With regard to your remarks about the whereabouts of the author of the report, I can confirm he was not an MOD employee or RAF Aircrew. He was a contractor working for a private company, who was temporary employed by the MOD as a consultant.

In order to answer your questions, DIS did take the trouble to contact his employer who advised that he had retired and they had no forwarding address. As he was neither an employee of the MOD or in the RAF, the MOD does not hold any pension details for him.

Para 3

As for your comments regarding information that is to be redacted / withheld from the report, I can assure you that all of those involved in considering the report for release are keen to ensure that as much information as possible is released and information is only redacted where absolutely necessary. A great deal of time and effort has (and still is) being expended, particularly by DIS staff, in order to check the contents with the Departments subject matter experts and others where necessary where the report contains information that is still potentially sensitive. Any information that is redacted will be withheld in accordance with appropriate sections of the Freedom of Information Act and the reason for this will be explained in the covering letter which will be sent with the report. Your right of appeal against any of these decisions will also be explained in this letter. With regard to your remarks about the interpretation members of the public may put on any information withheld, we are fully aware of the public interest in UFO information and the fact that the public may make assumptions and allegations about the MOD's motives. However, we believe it is far more important in the general interest of the public that the MOD does not release information that could cause harm to the defence of the UK.

Please let me know what you think. I will not send a response to him, until I hear from you.

Regards

Section 40

DAS-FOI

5-H-13

Section 40

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

From: david clarke [mailto:Section 40]

Sent: 13 March 2006 16:51

To: Section 40

Subject: Re: FOI Request

Dear Section 40

Thank you for your email and attachment dated March 8, in reply to my request for an update on progress with my FOI request.

The answers provided were indeed very useful and I'm conscious of not asking anything else that might cause any further delays in the

20/03/2006

processing of my request. However, I must say I find the reply to q1 concerning MoD being unable to trace the whereabouts of the author of the UAP report a little difficult to believe. As a former MoD employee/RAF aircrew he must have a forwarding address for pensions and even if that's not the case the private company he worked for must be known and contactable.

Other than that point, I do hope that DIS and your experts are aware that any material that is redacted or with-held from this report - for whatever good reason - will be interpreted as more evidence of a "cover up" or whitewash by the believer brigade. For that reason, I will have to challenge those deletions so I'm hoping that everything they redact is absolutely necessary, rather than a case of being over-cautious.

On a lighter note, I was interested to read the article "The Truth is Out there" from Focus magazine, which has been posted on the MoD website, containing an interview with yourself and **Section 40**. It's good to see your office playing a proactive role in this way and I hope we'll see more of it in future.

I couldn't help but notice your remark about there being no "UFO Project."

When **Section 40** notified members of the UFO Updates news group about his article in the same issue, he neglected to mention the article which interviews members of your office. He also posted a version of his article which opens with the line

"...the Ministry of Defence's UFO Project...", see:

<http://www.virtuallystrange.net/ufo/updates/2006/mar/m11-003.shtml>

Could you confirm that this line did not appear in the published article in Focus.

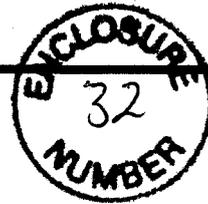
This might seem a little niggly, but there seems to be quite a contradiction going on, with one person saying there was and is a "UFO Project" and the official line being that there isn't and never was such a thing.

Could you send me an original copy of the March issue of the magazine for my files?

yours sincerely

Dr David Clarke

Section 40



From: david clarke [Section 40]  
Sent: 13 March 2006 16:51  
To: [Section 40]  
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yours sincerely

Dr David Clarke

[Section 40] [Section 40] Assistant Editor of focus confirmed it is fine to send Dr Clarke a copy of Focus. 20/3/2006 [Section 40]

Section 40



From: Section 40  
Sent: 09 March 2006 12:42  
To: Section 40  
Subject: UAP Report

Section 40

Please find attached details of the results of my consultation with Wing Commander Section 40 (DCT&UKOps-SOI Airspace Integrity) regarding the radar information we identified at the meeting. I have only included those where he has indicated information that should be removed. I hope this helps with your redaction of the report. If you spot anything else while you are going through it, please let me know and I will check it with Section 40

Regards

Section 40  
DAS-FOI  
5-H-13



## UAP REPORT – REDACTION

### Volume 1

**Page ii – Paragraph 2, Line 2** – Redact from “only being necessary .....” to the end of the paragraph.

**Chapter 4, Page 8 – Paragraph 26, Line 5** – Redact from “Rarely is a radar contact.....” to the end of the paragraph.

**Chapter 5, Page 2 –Paragraph 6, Line 2** –Redact from “when using .....” to the end of the paragraph.

**Chapter 5, Page 2 – Paragraph 7, Line 1** – Redact from “There are some.....” to the end of the sentence.

**Annex B, Page B-2-** Redact “**Section 40**” signature block.

**Annex B, Page B-3, Paragraph M** – Redact “**Section 40**”  
redact “**Section 40**”

**Annex B, Page B-5, Paragraph 12** – Redact “**Section 40**”  
**Section 40**”. Redact “**Section 40**”

### Volume 2

**Working Paper No.5, Page 5-1, Paragraph 1** – Redact from “The incidence of visual.....” to the end of the sentence.

**Working Paper No.5, Page 5-1, Paragraph 3d.** – Redact from “and secondly, may exceed the .....” to the end of the paragraph.

**Working Paper No.5, Page 5-1, Paragraph 3f.** – Redact the whole paragraph.

**Working Paper No.5, Page 5-1, Paragraph 3h.** –Redact the whole paragraph.

**Working Paper No.5, Page 5-2, Paragraph 4.** – Redact the whole paragraph including 4a, b & c.

**Working Paper No.5, Page 5-3, Paragraph 9.** – Redact the whole paragraph including 9a & b.

**Working Paper No.5, Page 5-4, Paragraph 19.** – Redact from “Further rejection would come .....” to end of the paragraph.

### Volume 3

**Page ii, Paragraph 1, Line 4** - Redact from “In particular, the text.....” to end of the paragraph.

**Executive Summary, Page 1, Paragraph 1,** – Redact the whole of the second bullet point.

**Executive Summary, Page 1, Paragraph 4,** – Redact the whole paragraph.

**Executive Summary, Page 2, Paragraph 5,** – Redact the first line “UKADR.....targets”.

**Executive Summary, Page 2, Paragraphs 6, 7 & 8** – Redact each whole paragraph.

**Volume 3 – Miscellaneous Related Studies, Chapter 1, Page 1, Paragraph 1** - Redact whole paragraph entitled Smoke reflections.

**Volume 3 – Miscellaneous Related Studies, Chapter 1, Page 2, Paragraph 3** – Redact the whole paragraph.

**Volume 3 – Miscellaneous Related Studies, Chapter 1, Page 2 & 3, Paragraph 7-** Redact from “As an example, for a radar.....” to the end of the paragraph.

**Volume 3 – Miscellaneous Related Studies, Chapter 1, Page 3, Paragraph 11–** Redact the whole paragraph.

**Volume 3 – Miscellaneous Related Studies, Chapter 1, Page 4, Paragraph 13(d).** Redact the whole paragraph.

**Volume 3 – Miscellaneous Related Studies, Chapter 1, Page 5, Paragraph 17-** Redact the whole paragraph.

**Volume 3 – Miscellaneous Related Studies, Chapter 1, Page 5, Paragraph 21-** Redact the whole paragraph.

**Volume 3 – Miscellaneous Related Studies, Chapter 1, Page 6, Paragraph 22, Line 4-** Redact from “The following paragraphs .....” to the end of the paragraph.

**Volume 3- Miscellaneous Related Studies, Chapter 1, Page 6, Paragraph 24-** Redact the whole paragraph.

**Volume 3- Miscellaneous Related Studies, Chapter 1, Page 7, First bullet –** Redact the whole paragraph.

**Volume 3- Miscellaneous Related Studies, Chapter 1, Page 7, Second bullet, Line 3** – Redact from “Further, it should be noted.....” to line 14 “pulse to pulse”.  
**Line 20** – Redact from “The increase in signal.....” to “of about33%”.

**Volume 3- Miscellaneous Related Studies, Chapter 1, Page 7, Third bullet-** Redact the whole paragraph.

**Volume 3- Miscellaneous Related Studies, Chapter 1, Page 8, Paragraph 25, Lines 12 - 21**– Redact from “Having made this point,.....” to “coverage for a short period”.

**Volume 3 – Miscellaneous Related Studies, Chapter 1, Page 8, Paragraph 26** – Redact the whole paragraph.

**Volume 3 – Miscellaneous Related Studies, Chapter 1, Page 8, Paragraph 27, First bullet** - Redact the whole paragraph entitled Horizon Geometry.

**Volume 3 – Miscellaneous Related Studies, Chapter 1, Page 8, Paragraph 27, Second bullet** – Redact the first line from “Occasions when both.....” to “are very rare”.

**Volume 3 – Miscellaneous Related Studies, Chapter 1, Summary, Page 8, Paragraph 28** – Redact from the beginning of the paragraph to line 9 “ special tasks”.

**Volume 3 – Miscellaneous Related Studies, Chapter 1, Page 10**  
Remove the whole page.

**Volume 3 – Miscellaneous Related Studies, Chapter 1, Page 11**  
Remove the whole page.

**Volume 3 – Miscellaneous Related Studies, Chapter 1, Page 13**  
Remove the whole page.

**Volume 3 – Miscellaneous Related Studies, Chapter 1, Page 14**  
Remove the whole page.

**Volume 3 – Miscellaneous Related Studies, Chapter 1, Pages 15, 16 & 17**  
Remove all of these pages.

**Volume 3 – Miscellaneous Related Studies, Chapter 2, Page 2, Paragraph 8**  
Redact the whole paragraph.

**Volume 3 – Miscellaneous Related Studies, Chapter 3, Page 1, Paragraph 1**  
Redact from Line 2 – “First, it was .....” to end of paragraph “ UK RFW programme”.

**Volume 3 – Miscellaneous Related Studies, Chapter 3, Page 3, Paragraph 8**  
Redact from “Radar Decoys.....” to end of paragraph entitled Plasma Cloaking.

**Volume 3 – Miscellaneous Related Studies, Chapter 3, Page 4**  
Remove the whole page.

**Executive Summary**

**Page 3, Paragraph 4** – Redact from “considers why some.....” to “and hence”.

**Page 7, Paragraph 13, First bullet** – Redact the whole paragraph.

**Section 40****From:** **Section 40****Sent:** 08 March 2006 13:23**To:** **Section 40****Subject:** Internet-authorised:FOI Request

Dear Dr Clarke

I am writing concerning your message requesting an update on progress with your FOI request.

As discussed, I meet with DIS last week to discuss any remaining areas of concern regarding the contents of the UAP report and its preparation for release. During the meeting a few issues arose where there is still some concern about sensitive information and we are currently seeking the advice of the Department's experts in the areas affected. We hope this will not take too long to complete and I will let you know when we can be more certain about a date for release. In the meantime DIS staff are preparing the remaining documents for release.

Please see attached the answers to the questions you asked in your email of 23 February. I hope you find these useful. The time taken to research and provide answers to these questions has diverted DIS from the task of preparing the the UAP report, so if you have any further questions, it would be helpful if you could wait until you have seen the released documents. This would allow staff to concentrate on preparing the report and you may find that the answers to your questions could be amongst the released material.

I hope this is helpful. I will contact you again when I have any news about a date for release.

Yours sincerely,

**Section 40**

Ministry of Defence  
Directorate of Air Staff - Freedom of Information  
5th Floor, Zone H, Desk 13  
Main Building  
Whitehall  
LONDON  
SW1A 2HB

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

31/05/2006

**DR CLARKE – SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTIONS:**



1. Would it be possible to correspond with and/or interview the author of the report? The report is an important and historically important document and from my point of view as a historian it is important to record aspects of its production for posterity. While I am aware of the sensitivity of the work of the DIS, I would point out that I have traced and interviewed a number of other former DIS employees who have been involved in UFO work on the understanding that my questions do not touch upon areas related to national security. I have undertaken to protect their identity and my work is for research purposes only, and will not be published without permission. The author of the UAP report is clearly someone with a long-standing knowledge of this subject dating back to the 1950s, who has an RAF background and has acted as an advisor on aspects of the topic for MoD for some time. When the report is in the public domain, there is little doubt that he will be traced by the media. Therefore would it not be better to have him speak to a sympathetic academic rather than door-stepped by a journalist? As I understand he may no longer work for MoD would it be possible to forward a letter to him on my behalf?

**The author of the report was employed by the Ministry of Defence as a contractor and consultant until his departure in 2000. The author is now in retirement and, despite making enquiries, we have been unable to trace his whereabouts. It is therefore not possible to forward any correspondence to him.**

2. Could we clear up the ambiguity surrounding the status of the 21 DI55 UFO files (see Attachment A). It is my understanding that a large proportion of these files (Pts 36-51, covering years 1987-1997) were utilised by the author of the report as a statistic sample in the UAP database. Your letter of 23 November 2005 suggests it is like these files "are amongst the DIS files which are now subject to asbestos contamination." However, as some of these files (those relating to policy) were later found to have escaped contamination, could DIS make another check so we can be certain as to the status of these outstanding files.

**We have checked the files listed in attachment A to your email of 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2006 and it is confirmed that all the files in the list (the files which were used in the compilation of the UAP report) are in the contaminated archives. However, the sighting reports would only have been copies of reports which DAS receive. The DAS sighting files have not been contaminated, but you should be aware that there are 20 paper files covering this period and we have no way of knowing which particular reports were used for the database.**

3. Could we also establish the status of the UAP database. In what form did it exist (i.e. as a computer programme?) and has it definitely been destroyed? If so, why? Was it destroyed for any particular reason?

**The UAP database was in the form of an 'Access' database. It is confirmed that the database has been destroyed, this was in accordance with the commercial and security procedures in place at the time. All hard copy extracts of the database have also been destroyed.**

4. A question I feel the Press will certainly ask (see Attachment B) is how much in the way of public funds were spent on the production of this report. If precise figures have not been kept (as the report was part of a larger contract) is it possible to estimate how has been spent, based upon similar projects undertaken by MoD?

**It is not possible to provide details of the cost of producing the report. The author was initially employed as a contractor and commenced work on the report in December 1996. However, producing the report was only one of several tasks in which he was engaged and it is not possible to determine how much of his time was divided between producing the report and his other tasks. In addition, the author only spent 50-60% of his working week on these tasks (this time was split between working in London and working at his company's offices). The remaining percentage of his time was spent working on his company's business. The author left his company on early retirement in **Section 40** **Section 40** following which he was employed as a consultant for the DIS until completion of the report in March 2000.**

5. Who has had sight of this report in terms of senior officials and/or ministers at the Ministry of Defence?

**The report was not passed to any MoD Ministers. The report was distributed to only three senior officials within the MoD and Royal Air Force at Director level or above.**

6. Further to my email dated 23 February, I should have mentioned one Additional question for DIS relating to the UAP report. I noted that in the three page paper dated 22 January 1997 produced by the author of the report (which you released in August last year), he refers to the UAP project as "Project Condign."

Could DIS confirm that "Condign" was the word used to describe the project during the period 1997-2000. If so, is there any significance in the choice of the word? The similarity to "Condon" (the name of the USAF study, completed in 1969) is striking and I wondered if that was why this name was chosen.

**It is confirmed that 'Condign' was the word used to describe the report. The word 'Condign' was randomly generated and any similarity with the word 'Condon' is purely coincidental.**

Section 40



From: david clarke Section 40  
Sent: 07 March 2006 17:15  
To: Section 40  
Subject: Re: FOI Request

Importance: High

7 March 2006

Dear Section 40

I'm writing to ask for an update following the meeting you had concerning my FOI request for the UAP report last week. I hope that progress was made and that you might soon be in a position to release the redacted report.

Thanks for your help with this request and I look forward to hearing from you,

Yours sincerely

Dr David Clarke

Section 40



From: david clarke Section 40  
Sent: 24 February 2006 13:14  
To: Section 40  
Subject: Re: FOI Request

Importance: High



TNAUFO.doc (68 KB)

24 February 2006

Dear Section 40

Further to my email dated 23 February, I should have mentioned one additional question for DIS relating to the UAP report. I noted that in the three page paper dated 22 January 1997 produced by the author of the report (which you released in August last year), he refers to the UAP project as "Project Condign."

Could DIS confirm that "Condign" was the word used to describe the project during the period 1997-2000. If so, is there any significance in the choice of the word? The similarity to "Condon" (the name of the USAF study, completed in 1969) is striking and I wondered if that was why this name was chosen.

Finally, if you do get around to visiting TNA and get the opportunity to check out any of the UFO files available there, you may find the attached list of use. I put this together when I was preparing the Research Guide to the UFO records at Kew last year and I have kept it under revision so that it is as comprehensive in coverage as possible.

Yours sincerely

Dr David Clarke

## UFO RECORDS HELD BY THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES (TNA)

**Key:** 

### **Name of department/branch/creator**

**NA Class reference - File title/description of file [approx date of opening] - Date**  
[Former MoD reference in parenthesis: where known]

mf = microfilm

AIR 1/2455	Passage of a Zeppelin over Sheerness, 1912
AIR 1/2456	Unidentified aircraft over Sheerness, 1912
ADM 131/119	Spies: Floating Lights on Dartmoor, 1915
AIR 1/561/16/15/62	Reports of false alarms or rumoured air raids, 1914-16
AIR 1/562/16/15/66	Reports on alleged enemy signalling in Britain, 1915
WO 158/989	Intelligence Circular No 6: Alleged enemy signalling, 1916

### **World War 2 aerial phenomena ('foo-fighters'): 1940-1944**

AIR 2/5070	Phenomena: Enemy defences: Bomber Command, 1940-42
AIR 20/4725	Phenomena: Enemy defences 1940-42
AIR 20/2076	Phenomena: Enemy defences 1942-44
AIR 14/288	No 115 Squadron News Sheet 'Bang On' – Phenomena 1943 m/f
AVIA 7/1070	Unusual responses observed near Cherbourg, 1941
AVIA 7/1300	Abnormal echoes observed on South Coast, 1941-45

### **Rocket Projectiles: 'Ghost Rocket' phenomena: 1946**

FO 371/56988	Alleged projectiles seen over Sweden
FO 188/537	Aerial projectiles
FO 371/56951	Rocket projectiles and flying missiles observed over Sweden
FO 188/572	Projectiles V1 and V2 bombs (2 parts)
DEFE 40/493	Directorate of Scientific Intelligence minutes, 1946-7
AIR 40/2843	2 <sup>nd</sup> report on missile activity over Scandinavia 1946 (with map)

### **Flying Saucers/Unidentified Flying Objects**

DEFE 41/117	Unorthodox aircraft	1949-50
DEFE 41/118	Unorthodox aircraft	1950-52

### ***Flying Saucer Working Party – minutes, memos and final report***

DEFE 19/9	Scientific Intelligence [retained file] [CSA/ALPH/51]	1948-60
DEFE 41/152	DSI/JTIC Minutes [copy]	1950
DEFE 41/153	DSI/JTIC Minutes [copy]	1951-52
DEFE 41/74-76	DSI/JTIC Minutes (originals)	1950-54
DEFE 44/119	DSI/JTIC Report No 7: Unidentified Flying Objects	1951

DEFE 31/118	UFO policy: [DI/55/40/9/1 Pt 1]	1953-1963
DEFE 31/119	UFO policy: [DI/55/40/9/1 Pt 2]	1967
DEFE 31/163	UFO Reports: DI 55 [DI/DI55/108/15/1 Pt 21]	1979
DEFE 31/164	UFO Reports: DI 55 [DI/DI55/108/15/1 Pt 22]	1979
DEFE 31/165	UFO Reports: DI 55 [DI/DI55/108/15/1 Pt 23]	1979
DEFE 31/166	UFO Reports: DI 55 [DI/DI55/108/15/1 Pt 24]	1979
DEFE 31/167	UFO Reports: DI 55 [DI/DI55/108/15/1 Pt 25]	1979

**Air Ministry: S6 (Air) and D.D.I. (Tech): 1950-64**

AIR 20/7390	Unidentified Aircraft/Objects: prepared for Air Ministry 1950-53: includes reports by Wing Commander R. Cartmel, signal from RAF Topcliffe to Air Ministry, 1952, briefings on unidentified aircraft tracked by radar over English Channel, 7 October 1953. [II/127/3/48 DD OPS (AD) 58] m/f
AIR 16/1199	Flying Saucers: occurrence reports by service personnel and civilians at RAF Topcliffe, 1952 [IIIHI/118/1/17/Top/CI6/Air] m/f
AIR 22/93	Air Ministry Secret Intelligence Summary, March 1955: "Flying Saucers...An Object was Reported." [Draft copy in DEFE 31/117] m/f
AIR 20/9320	PQ 17 April 1957 (Stan Awbery); Notes provided for Ministers use: UFO reports in 1956/57 including Lakenheath, West Freugh, Church Lawford, Bempton, Lakenheath. Newscuttings, 1957 [MR 008614/193] m/f
AIR 20/9321	PQs 15 May 1957 (Patrick Wall/Frank Beswick), briefings by S6 and D.D.I. (Tech), notes on radar trackings of UFO and scramble of aircraft from RAF Odiham, 29 April, 1957. [MR 008614/213] m/f
AIR 20/9322	PQs (Frank Beswick), object reported over Dover Straits leading to scramble of fighters from RAF Odiham; briefings by S6 to US of S, 29 April 1957 [MR 008614/220] m/f
AIR 20/9994	Reports on Aerial Phenomena: HQ Southern Sector, reports on aerial phenomena, reports and radar track tracing sheets from RAF Ventnor, 29 April and 29 July 1957. Miscellaneous RAF orders relating to reporting of aerial phenomena, 1953, 1954 and 1956. [II H/273/10/4] m/f

AIR 2/18564 RAF West Freugh: UFO report. Request to release information on UFO report, 1971; D.D.I. (Tech) and S6 minutes relating to 'flying saucers' 1957-60.  
[AF/CX 1295/72]

**Miscellaneous**

FO 371/74712 Riots in Quito following broadcast of HG Well's story 'War of the Worlds' 1949

FO 371/81093 Flying Saucers over Asmara airport, Ethiopia 1950

PREM 11/855 Winston Churchill: question to SOS for Air on flying saucers, reply from Lord Cherwell; correspondence between Sir Anthony Montague Browne and Duncan Sandys MP, Defence Minister, 1952 m/f

AVIA 65/33 Canadian Project Y: Vertical take-off aircraft (with photos)

CAB 157/27 & 31 Joint Intelligence Committee (JIC) Minutes, 'aerial phenomena,' 1957, 1959

AVIA 7/3738 Angels: Investigation of effects on ground radars, 1955-69  
[RGR/390/01 Pt A]

AIR 16/1485 'Angels' on Type 80 radar: angels and bird migrations on Western Europe 1958 [RAF Fighter Command report]

WO 195/14802 Radar & Signals Advisory Board: Spurious echoes on radar: a survey, 1959

BJ 5/311 UFOs: Meteorological Aspects 1968-70  
[AF/M396/68]

**Air Ministry: S6 (Air) 1961-64 & MoD: S4 (Air): 1964-79**

AIR 2/16918 UFOs: correspondence and news cuttings 1961-63  
[AF/X59/64 pt 5 (ID/47/272 pt 5)] m/f

AIR 2/17318 UFOs: correspondence and news cuttings 1963  
[AF/X59/64 pt 6] m/f

AIR 2/17526 UFOs: correspondence and news cuttings 1964  
[AF/X59/64 pt 7] m/f

AIR 2/17527 UFOs: correspondence and news cuttings 1964-65  
[AF/X59/64 pt 8] m/f

AIR 2/17982 UFOs: correspondence and news cuttings 1965-66  
[AF/X59/64 pt 9] m/f

AIR 2/17983 UFOs: correspondence and news cuttings 1966  
[AF/X59/64 pt 10] m/f

AIR 2/17984 UFOs: correspondence and news cuttings 1966-67  
[AF/X59/64 pt 11] m/f

AIR 2/18117 UFOs: memos & correspondence 1967  
[AF/CX38/67 Pt 3]

AIR 2/18183 UFOs: correspondence and news cuttings 1968-69  
[AF/7463/72 Pt 2] m/f

AIR 2/18565 UFOs: correspondence 1970-71  
[AF/7463/72 Pt 3]

AIR 2/18871 UFOs: correspondence 1972

AIR 2/18872	[AF/7463/72 Pt V] UFOs: correspondence	1972-73
AIR 2/18873	[AF/7464/72 Pt 1] UFOs: correspondence	1973-74
AIR 2/18874	[AF/7464/72 Pt II] UFOs: correspondence	1974-75
AIR 2/18920	[AF/7464/72 Pt III] UFOs: correspondence	1975
AIR 2/18921	[AF/7464/72 Pt IV] UFOs: correspondence	1976
AIR 20/11612	[AF/7464/72 Pt 5] UFOs: memos & correspondence	1967-68
AIR 2/19086	[MR073414] UFO policy:	1970-75
AIR 2/19117	[AF/3459/75] UFOs: BBC Radio Oxford programme	1972-73
AIR 2/19119	[AF/S4f(Air)422] UFOs: Man Alive programme: BBC 2 TV	1971-72
AIR 2/19125	[AF/419] Reported sightings of UFOs, RAF Pattrington	1967-1973
AIR 2/19126	[PAT(Ops)/3/11/Air Part 1] Statistical Analysis of UFOs	1967-1973
AIR 2/19173	[S4f(Air)U/506] Aircraft Accident Report: Lightning F6 XS894 5 Squadron: Capt William Schaffner	1970-72

**Ministry of Defence: S4 (Air) (UFO sighting reports) 1967-79**

AIR 2/18115	UFO reports	January-May	1967
	[AF/CX38/68 Pt 1]		
AIR 2/18116	UFO reports	May-July	1967
	[AF/CX38/67 Pt 2]		
AIR 20/11887	UFO reports	August	1967
	[ID/48/44/AF/S4f(Air)507]		
AIR 20/11888	UFO reports	September	1967
	[ID/48/44/AF/S4f(Air)508]		
AIR 20/11889	UFO reports	October	1967
	[ID/48/46/Pt 1AF/S4f(Air)509]		
AIR 20/11890	UFO reports	October	1967
	[ID/48/67/Pt 2AF/S4f(Air)509]		
AIR 20/11891	UFO reports	November	1967
	[ID/48/67/Pt 2AF/S4f(Air)510]		
AIR 20/11892	UFO reports	December	1967
	[ID/48/67/Pt 2AF/S4f(Air)510]		
AIR 20/11694	UFO reports	January	1968
	[ID/48/69 AF/S4f(Air)512]		
AIR 20/11695	UFO reports	February	1968
	[ID/48/70 AF/S4f(Air)513]		
AIR 20/11894	UFO reports	March	1968
	[ID/48/71 AF/S4f(Air)514]		

AIR 20/11895	UFO reports [ID/48/72 AF/S4f(Air)515]	April	1968
AIR 20/11896	UFO reports [ID/48/73 AF/S4f(Air)516]	May	1968
AIR 20/11897	UFO reports [ID/48/74 AF/S4f(Air)517]	June	1968
AIR 20/11898	UFO reports [ID/48/75 AF/S4f(Air)518]	July	1968
AIR 20/11899	UFO reports [ID/48/76 AF/S4f(Air)519]	August	1968
AIR 20/11900	UFO reports [ID/48/77 AF/S4f(Air)520]	September	1968
AIR 20/11901	UFO reports [ID/48/78 AF/S4f(Air)521]	October	1968
AIR 20/11902	UFO reports [ID/48/79 AF/S4f(Air)522]	November	1968
AIR 20/11696	UFO reports [ID/48/80 AF/S4f(Air)523]	December	1968
AIR 20/12055	UFO reports [AF/S4f(Air)524 ID/48/81]	January	1969
AIR 20/12056	UFO reports [AF/S4f(Air)525 ID/48/82]	February	1969
AIR 20/12057	UFO reports [AF/S4f(Air)526 ID/48/83]	March	1969
AIR 20/12058	UFO reports [AF/S4f(Air)527 ID/48/84]	April	1969
AIR 20/12059	UFO reports [AF/S4f(Air)528 ID/48/85]	May	1969
AIR 20/12060	UFO reports [AF/S4f(Air)529 ID/48/86]	June	1969
AIR 20/12061	UFO reports [AF/S4f(Air)530 ID/48/87]	July	1969
AIR 20/12062	UFO reports [AF/S4f(Air)531 ID/48/88]	August	1969
AIR 20/12063	UFO reports [AF/S4f(Air)532 ID/48/89]	September	1969
AIR 20/12064	UFO reports [AF/S4f(Air)533 ID/48/90]	October	1969
AIR 20/12065	UFO reports [AF/S4f(Air)534 ID/48/91]	November	1969
AIR 20/12066	UFO reports [AF/S4f(Air)535 ID/48/92]	December	1969
AIR 20/12067	UFO reports [AF/S4f(Air)536 ID/48/93]	January	1970
AIR 20/12297	UFO reports [AF/S4f(Air)537 ID/48/94]	February	1970
AIR 20/12298	UFO reports [AF/S4f(Air)538 ID/48/94]	March	1970

AIR 20/12299	UFO reports [AF/S4f(Air)539ID/48/95]	April	1970
AIR 20/12300	UFO reports [AF/S4f(Air)540 ID/48/96]	May	1970
AIR 20/12301	UFO reports [AF/S4f(Air)541 ID/48/97]	June	1970
AIR 20/12302	UFO reports [AF/S4f(Air)542 ID/48/98]	July	1970
AIR 20/12303	UFO reports [AF/S4f(Air)543 ID/48/99]	August	1970
AIR 20/12304	UFO reports [AF/S4f(Air)544 ID/48/100]	September	1970
AIR 20/12305	UFO reports [AF/S4f(Air)545 ID/48/101]	October	1970
AIR 20/12306	UFO reports [AF/S4f(Air)546 ID/48/102]	November	1970
AIR 20/12376	UFO reports [AF/5206/10 Pt 2 MR 116171]	December	1970
AIR 20/12377	UFO reports [ID/48/105]	January	1971
AIR 20/12378	UFO reports [ID/48/106]	February	1971
AIR 20/12379	UFO reports [ID/48/107]	March	1971
AIR 20/12380	UFO reports [ID/48/108]	April	1971
AIR 20/12381	UFO reports [ID/48/109]	May	1971
AIR 20/12382	UFO reports [ID/48/110]	June	1971
AIR 20/12383	UFO reports [ID/48/111]	July	1971
AIR 20/12384	UFO reports [ID/48/112]	August	1971
AIR 20/12385	UFO reports [ID/48/113]	September	1971
AIR 20/12386	UFO reports [ID/48/114]	October	1971
AIR 20/12387	UFO reports [ID/48/115]	November	1971
AIR 20/12388	UFO reports [ID/48/116]	December	1971
AIR 20/12399	UFO reports [ID/47/274 Pt 4]		1971-72
AIR 20/12400	UFO reports [ID/48/117]	January	1972
AIR 20/12401	UFO reports [ID/48/118]	February	1972
AIR 20/12402	UFO reports [ID/48/119]	March	1972

AIR 20/12403	UFO reports [ID/48/120]	April	1972
AIR 20/12404	UFO reports [ID/48/121]	May	1972
AIR 20/12405	UFO reports [ID/48/122]	June	1972
AIR 20/12406	UFO reports [ID/48/123]	July	1972
AIR 20/12407	UFO reports [ID/48/124]	August	1972
AIR 20/12408	UFO reports [ID/48/125]	September	1972
AIR 20/12409	UFO reports [ID/48/126]	October	1972
AIR 20/12410	UFO reports [ID/48/127]	November	1972
AIR 20/12411	UFO reports [ID/48/128]	December	1972
AIR 20/12544	UFO reports [ID/48/129]	January	1973
AIR 20/12545	UFO reports [ID/48/130]	February	1973
AIR 20/12546	UFO reports [ID/48/131]	March	1973
AIR 20/12547	UFO reports [ID/48/132]	April	1973
AIR 20/12548	UFO reports [ID/48/133]	May	1973
AIR 20/12549	UFO reports [ID/48/134]	June	1973
AIR 20/12550	UFO reports [ID/48/135]	July	1973
AIR 20/12551	UFO reports [ID/48/136]	August	1973
AIR 20/12552	UFO reports [ID/48/137]	September	1973
AIR 20/12553	UFO reports [ID/48/138]	October	1973
AIR 20/12554	UFO reports [ID/48/139]	November	1973
AIR 20/12555	UFO reports [ID/48/140]	December	1973
AIR 2/19083	UFO reports [AF/584]	January	1974
AIR 2/18950	UFO reports [AF/585]	February	1974
AIR 2/18951	UFO reports	March	1974

AIR 2/18952	[AF/586] UFO reports	April	1974
AIR 2/18953	[AF/587] UFO reports	May	1974
AIR 2/18954	[AF/588] UFO reports	June	1974
AIR 2/18955	[AF/589] UFO reports	July	1974
AIR 2/18956	[AF/590] UFO reports	August	1974
AIR 2/18957	[AF/591] UFO reports	September	1974
AIR 2/18958	[AF/592] UFO reports	October	1974
AIR 2/18959	[AF/593] UFO reports	November	1974
AIR 2/18960	[AF/594] UFO reports	December	1974
	[AF/595]		
AIR 2/18961	UFO reports	January	1975
	[AF/596]		
AIR 2/18962	UFO reports	February	1975
	[AF/597]		
AIR 2/18963	UFO reports	March	1975
	[AF/598]		
AIR 2/18964	UFO reports	April	1975
	[AF/599]		
AIR 2/18965	UFO reports	May	1975
	[AF/600]		
AIR 2/18966	UFO reports	June	1975
	[AF/601]		
AIR 2/18967	UFO reports	July	1975
	[AF/602]		
AIR 2/18968	UFO reports	December	1975
	[AF/607]		
AIR 2/18969	UFO reports	January	1976
	[AF/608]		
AIR 2/18970	UFO reports	February	1976
	[AF/609]		
AIR 2/18971	UFO reports	March	1976
	[AF/610]		
AIR 2/18972	UFO reports	April	1976
	[AF/611]		
AIR 2/18973	UFO reports	May	1976
	[AF/612]		
AIR 2/18974	UFO reports	June	1976
	[AF/613]		
AIR 2/18975	UFO reports	September	1976
	[AF/616]		
AIR 2/18976	UFO reports	October	1976

AIR 2/18977	[AF/617] UFO reports	November 1976
AIR 2/18978	[AF/618] UFO reports	December 1976
DEFE 24/1206	[AF/619] UFOs: Reports and correspondence	1977
DEFE 71/34	[D/DS8/75/2/1 Pt B] UFO reports	January-May 1977
DEFE 71/35	[D/S4(Air)8/2/3 Pt A] UFO reports	June-September 1977
DEFE 24/1205	[D/S4(Air)8/2/3 Pt B] UFO reports	October-December 1977
DEFE 24/1207	[D/DS8/2/3 Pt C] UFO reports and correspondence	October 1977-March 1978
DEFE 24/1290	[D/DS8/2/3 Pt D] UFO Reports	January-March 1978
DEFE 24/1209	[D/DS8/75/2/2 Pt D] UFO Reports	April-May 1978
DEFE 24/1210	[D/DS8/75/2/3 Pt E] UFO reports	June-August 1978
DEFE 24/1291	[D/DS8/75/2/3 Pt F] UFO reports	September-October 1978
DEFE 24/1211	[D/DS8/75/2/2 Pt G] UFO reports	November 1978
DEFE 24/1212	[D/DS8/75/2/3 Pt H] UFO reports	December 1978
AIR 20/12966	[D/DS8/75/2/3 Pt J] UFOs: Parliamentary interest	Sept 1978-January 1979
	[HdS4(Air)/BF82]	

*[sequence of files containing 'edited copies' of UFO reports begins 1975, ends 1980]*

AIR 2/18949 .	UFO reports: edited copies	August 1975-June 1976
DEFE 24/977	[AF/447] UFO reports: edited copies	July 1976-April 1977
DEFE 24/978	[D/DS 8/75/2/2A] UFO reports: edited copies	April-September 1977
DEFE 24/979	[D/DS 8/75/2/2B] UFO reports: edited copies	September-December 1977
DEFE 24/1208	[D/DS 8/75/2/2C] UFO Reports: edited copies	January-March 1978
DEFE 24/1288	[D/DS8/75/2/2 Pt D] UFO Reports: edited copies	March-August 1978
DEFE 24/1289	[D/DS8/75/2/2 Pt E] UFO Reports: edited copies	August-October 1978
	[D/DS8/75/2/2 Pt F]	

**Air Defence DD Ops (RAF)**

DEFE 71/3	UFOs: Reports	1975-77
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DEFE 71/4

[AF/CX1528/72 Pt 2]

UFOs: Reports

1977

DEFE 71/33

[AF/CX1528/72 Pt 3]

Flying and Operations: Air Traffic Control and UFOs 1977-78

[D/IPS(RAF)/42/10/3]

**Database copyright Dr David Clarke 2006**

Section 40

From: Section 40  
Sent: 31 May 2006 15:18  
To: Section 40  
Subject: FW: FOI Request



Importance: High



Attachment A.doc  
(25 KB)



Attachment B.doc  
(25 KB)

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

From: Section 40  
Sent: 24 February 2006 08:48  
To: Section 40  
Subject: FW: FOI Request

Section 40

As discussed, here is Dr Clarke's e-mail following my conversation with him yesterday. I can not answer his questions, but maybe Section 40. With regard to questions he has suggested that might be asked by the press, I have already started to draft some press lines, so I will continue to draft these incorporating those he has suggested.

During my conversation with Dr Clarke he mentioned the likely media interest when the report is released and I said that we anticipated that one of the questions might be "why are you releasing the report now". I said that we would say that it was in response to an FOI request but not give his name. He said he was happy for us to give his name and say it was part of his ongoing academic research. This morning I have also received an e-mail from Section 40 who is the other person waiting for these documents (and in touch with Dr Clarke) and he also has no objection to us giving his name.

Please give me a call if you want to talk about any of this.

Regards

Section 40  
DAS-FOI

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

From: david clarke [mailto:Section 40]  
Sent: 23 February 2006 20:07  
To: Section 40  
Subject: Re: FOI Request

Dear Section 40

Further to our telecon earlier today regarding the release of the UAP report, here is a short list of questions for the attention of the DIS people at your forthcoming meeting. I mentioned some of these during our conversation.

I've also attached a list of questions (attachment B) that may be helpful both for yourself and DPO when drawing up a Press briefing for future use when the report becomes public knowledge. I have had some experience dealing with the media on the subject of UFOs and these are just some of the questions I believe they will ask.

Questions for DIS on behalf of Dr David Clarke:

1. Would it be possible to correspond with and/or interview the author of the report? The report is an important and historically important document and from

my point of view as a historian it is important to record aspects of its production for posterity. While I am aware of the sensitivity of the work of the DIS, I would point out that I have traced and interviewed a number of other former DIS employees who have been involved in UFO work on the understanding that my questions do not touch upon areas related to national security. I have undertaken to protect their identity and my work is for research purposes only, and will not be published without permission. The author of the UAP report is clearly someone with a long-standing knowledge of this subject dating back to the 1950s, who has an RAF background and has acted as an advisor on aspects of the topic for MoD for some time. When the report is in the public domain, there is little doubt that he will be traced by the media. Therefore would it not be better to have him speak to a sympathetic academic rather than door-stepped by a journalist? As I understand he may no longer work for MoD would it be possible to forward a letter to him on my behalf?

2. Could we clear up the ambiguity surrounding the status of the 21 DI55 UFO files (see Attachment A). It is my understanding that a large proportion of these files (Pts 36-51, covering years 1987-1997) were utilised by the author of the report as a statistic sample in the UAP database. Your letter of 23 November 2005 suggests it is like these files "are amongst the DIS files which are now subject to asbestos contamination." However, as some of these files (those relating to policy) were later found to have escaped contamination, could DIS make another check so we can be certain as to the status of these outstanding files.

3. Could we also establish the status of the UAP database. In what form did it exist (i.e. as a computer programme?) and has it definitely been destroyed? If so, why? Was it destroyed for any particular reason?

4. A question I feel the Press will certainly ask (see Attachment B) is how much in the way of public funds were spent on the production of this report. If precise figures have not been kept (as the report was part of a larger contract) is it possible to estimate how has been spent, based upon similar projects undertaken by MoD?

5. Who has had sight of this report in terms of senior officials and/or ministers at the Ministry of Defence?

That's all and thanks for fielding these questions on my behalf. I hope the meeting goes well and there are no major obstacles remaining in the process of release. I look forward to hearing from you in due course.

Yours sincerely,

Dr David Clarke

**Attachment A:**

DI55 UFO files

DI/DI55/108/15/1 Pt 9	UFO Incident Reports	period not known
DI/DI55/108/15/1 Pt 32	UFO Incident Reports	Feb 1978-Jan 1983
DI/DI55/108/15/1 Pt 34	UFO Incident Reports	June 1983-Mar 1985
DI/DI55/108/15/1 Pt 35	UFO Incident Reports	April 1985-Dec 1986
DI/DI55/108/15/1 Pt 36A	UFO Incident Reports	Dec 1986-Nov 1987
DI/DI55/108/15/1 Pt 36B	UFO Incident Reports	Nov 1987-July 1988
DI/DI55/108/15/1 Pt 37	UFO Incident Reports	Aug 1988-July 1989
DI/DI55/108/15/1 Pt 38	UFO Incident Reports	July-Dec 1989
DI/DI55/108/15/1 Pt 39	UFO Incident Reports	Jan 1990-June 1991
DI/DI55/108/15/1 Pt 40	UFO Incident Reports	June 1991-Jan 1992
DI/DI55/108/15/1 Pt 41	UFO Incident Reports	Feb 1992-April 1993
DI/DI55/108/15/1 Pt 42	UFO Incident Reports	April-Oct 1993
DI/DI55/108/15/1 Pt 43	UFO Incident Reports	Oct 1993-Jan 1994
DI/DI55/108/15/1 Pt 44	UFO Incident Reports	Jan-May 1994
DI/DI55/108/15/1 Pt 45	UFO Incident Reports	June-Nov 1994
DI/DI55/108/15/1 Pt 46	UFO Incident Reports	Nov 1994-May 1995
DI/DI55/108/15/1 Pt 47	UFO Incident Reports	June 1995-Jan 1996
DI/DI55/108/15/1 Pt 48	UFO Incident Reports	Feb-July 1996
DI/DI55/108/15/1 Pt 49	UFO Incident Reports	Aug-Oct 1996
DI/DI55/108/15/1 Pt 50	UFO Incident Reports	Nov 1996-Dec 1997
DI/DI55/108/15/1 Pt 51	UFO Incident Reports	Jan 1997-2002

Attachment B

UAP Report: Possible questions from the media

- 1) How much did it cost the taxpayer?
- 2) What are the conclusions/does it say we are being visited by ET and if not how can you be sure?
- 3) Why was this report written - was it to investigate if aliens were visiting us?
- 4) When was this study done and why was it kept secret?
- 5) Why are the MoD secretly studying UFOs when you have said on many occasions you are not interested in the subject/it is not taken seriously, etc
- 6) Why is the MoD releasing this report now – what’s led to the decision?
- 7) Who wrote this report and what is his/her background? Can we interview him/her?
- 8) Is the person who wrote this report the MoD's “UFO expert”? Why was he/her chosen to write it?
- 9) Does this mean the MoD is no longer interested in UFOs? Who do people ring now if they want to report seeing something in the sky? (this requires an explanation of differing responsibilities of DIS and DAS)
- 10) What does this tell us about the Rendlesham incident?
- 11) Does the report contain information about (famous UFO incident)?
- 12) What about 9/11? Shouldn't the MoD be taking all reports of unidentified objects seriously given the ongoing terrorist threat? Isn't this the wrong time to take your eye off the ball?
- 13) Which high ranking MoD or Government ministers have read this report, and/or to whom was the report circulated?
- 14) Was it sent to any foreign Governments (i.e. the Americans) for advice? Have you discussed the conclusions with the Americans?
- 15) Is Section 40 aware of this report, and if so did he have any input into it?

Section 40

From: Section 40  
Sent: 21 February 2006 16:38  
To: Section 40  
Subject: FW: FOI Request



Section 40

As discussed.

Section 40

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

From: david clarke [mailto:Section 40]  
Sent: 21 February 2006 16:10  
To: Section 40  
Subject: Re: FOI Request

Dear Section 40

Thanks for your email dated 20 February and for providing an update on progress with my Freedom of Information request. I'm pleased to hear substantial progress is now expected and I hope it will be possible to obtain a copy of the full report by the middle of March as you predict.

I have a number of questions related to the release which you might usefully be able to answer seeing as you are due to meet representatives from the DIS next Tuesday. For instance, I wondered if it is possible for DIS to confirm that the UFO files used to draw the database are indeed among those contaminated by asbestos. If it's convenient to speak on the phone before then could you suggest a time I could call you.

In the meantime, thanks again for all the work you have put into processing this substantial response to my request.

Yours,

David Clarke

Section 40

From: Section 40  
Sent: 31 May 2006 15:24  
To: Section 40  
Subject: FW: UAP Report



From: Section 40  
Sent: 20 February 2006 14:42  
To: Section 40  
Subject: UAP Report

Section 40

As discussed Wg Cdr Section 40 (DCT&UKOps-Airspace Integrity) has asked for the following to be redacted from Volume 3 of the UAP report.

- Page 2 Para 5 Remove the first line.
- Para 6 Remove the whole paragraph.
- Para 7 Remove the whole paragraph
- Para 8 Remove the whole paragraph
- Page 3 Para 7 Remove the last sentence
- Page 6 Para 24 Remove the whole paragraph
- Page 8 Para 27 *Horizon Geometry* Remove the whole paragraph
- Page 9 Para 28 Remove paragraph to line nine *special tasks*.
- Pages 10 - 11 Remove the whole page.
- Pages 13 - 17 Remove the whole page
- Page 14 Remove the whole page.

With regard to Volume 2 - Working Paper 9 (low flying charts) my colleagues in Low Flying have confirmed that these are ok to release, all this information is already in the public domain.

With regard to Volume 2 - Page F-4 the reference to the Rendlesham Forest incident, I think that ufologists might get a bit excited because it has been alleged that there were above average levels of radiation in the Forest, but I see no good reason to redact this.

I hope this helps.

Section 40  
DAS-FOI  
5-H-13

Section 40



Dear Dr Clarke

Further to my message of 27 January, I am writing to provide an update on progress with your Freedom of Information request. Most of the sensitivity issues have now been resolved and I have a meeting scheduled with DIS staff for the 28<sup>th</sup> February to finalise the records for release. The records will then be redacted to remove any withheld information, photocopied and sent to you. Given the number of individual documents to be processed we estimate that you should have this information by mid March. Should there be any problems or further delays I will let you know. In the meantime, your patience is greatly appreciated.

With regard to the question you raised in your e-mail of 26 January regarding the cost of producing this report, I can inform you that DIS have searched all their available records and have been unable to locate any such details.

I hope this is helpful.

**Section 40**

Ministry of Defence  
Directorate of Air Staff - Freedom of Information  
5th Floor, Zone H, Desk 13  
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SW1A 2HB

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

20<sup>th</sup> February 2006

Section 40

From: Section 40  
Sent: 27 January 2006 15:31  
To: Section 40  
Subject: Internet-authorised: FOI Request



Importance: High

Dear Dr Clarke

Consideration of the UAP Report papers is currently ongoing and it appears that our initial estimate of the end of January release might have been a little optimistic. However, we are keen to release as much of the report as possible and there are now just a few issues concerning the sensitivity of certain sections of the Report still to be determined. Once this is complete and any withheld information is removed, copies will be made and sent to yourself and Section 40. I am unable to be certain as to exactly when this will be, but as soon as I have any firm news, I will let you know.

With regard to your request for information about the costs involved in the production of the Report, this information is not held on DAS files, so I have passed your enquiry to the DIS staff. I will write to you again regarding this matter.

Yours sincerely,

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

27 January 2006

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

From: david clarke [mailto:Section 40]  
Sent: 26 January 2006 12:59  
To: Section 40  
Subject: Re: FOI Request  
Importance: High

Dear Section 40

A belated happy New Year to you.

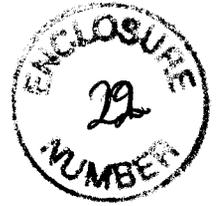
I am writing to follow up our pre-holiday conversation with regards to my FOI request for the UAP Report. In your last email dated 20 December you mentioned that "we should be in a position to release the information by the end of January."

I wonder if that remains the position and if you could provide an update on progress.

Also, would it be possible for you to provide me with an estimate of cost involved in the production of this report during the period 1998-2000 as it clearly involved a considerable amount of work. I gather from the documents already released that it was paid for via an ongoing, unrelated contract within DIS. However, I'm sure one of the questions that will inevitably be asked is "how much did it cost?" Is it possible to provide an estimate?

Yours sincerely,

David Clarke



Dear Dr Clarke

Thank you for the Christmas card.

As promised I am writing before the Christmas break to provide you with an update on progress with your FOI request for the UAP Report.

DIS staff have now examined Volumes 1, 2 and 3, and the Executive Summary, from a Security / technical perspective and the DIS FOI focal point is now checking the information from an FOI perspective. We hope this task will be completed in early to mid January 2006 and we should be in a position to release the information by the end of January. Although it was first thought that it may be possible to release the Executive Summary ahead of the full report, it has now been decided to look at all the papers together and have just one release. Early indications are that most of these documents are likely to be released.

I apologise for the length of time this is taking, but we are keen to release as much of the report as possible and great care needs to be taken to consider each document. I will, of course, contact you as soon as I know anything more definite about when and how this information will be released. In the meantime, if you have any questions, please e-mail me or give me a call.

With best wishes for a happy Christmas.

Section 40

Ministry of Defence  
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SW1A 2HB

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

20 December 2005



Section 40

**From:** Section 40  
**Sent:** 16 December 2005 11:50  
**To:** Section 40  
**Cc:**  
**Subject:** RE: FOI Request - Dr David Clarke

Dear Section 40

Thank you for your email. I believe Section 40 has been in touch with you about the first point.

I am very happy for you to continue to correspond with Dr Clarke as DAS are the policy lead and you have established a relationship already. It's best that he has one POC in MOD!

On the redaction points, Section 40 has already checked the first two volumes from a security/technical perspective, and has agreed to redact Vol 3 which does need some technical data redacted. Section 40 will be checking them from an FOI perspective. For example, we have seen some references to other nations, which might need redacting. We hope to have completed this task by early January.

As it will be a one-off publication, creating a new class under the publication scheme may be unnecessary. Instead of placing the reports on the MOD's publication scheme, we could place them in the MOD's FOI Reading Room which is available at the [www.mod.uk](http://www.mod.uk) website. Info-Access views would be welcome.

I am happy to host a meeting here in early January once we have done the work. Section 40 is also welcome to come of course. Please ring me if you have any other points.

Have a good (UFO-free) Christmas!

Section 40

Section 40

DI BCR CG AD

Section 40

---

**From:** Section 40  
**Sent:** 15 December 2005 12:09  
**To:** Section 40  
**Cc:**  
**Subject:** RE: FOI Request - Dr David Clarke

Dear Section 40

Thank you for this. I thought Section 40 was your FOI focal point and have copied my e-mails to her, so I apologise for sending them to the wrong place. I will deal with Section 40 in the future.

All of the information Dr Clarke has asked for in this request is DIS material and not held by DAS. However, Dr Clarke has been corresponding with me about UFOs almost continuously for over 5 years and we have released a lot of information to him. In order to stop him starting a similar long chain of correspondence with yourselves and so I can keep track of what information he has been given I thought it best that your response comes through me rather than directly to him. If you would prefer to correspond directly with him, please let me know. Otherwise I believe that you are best placed to decide on what can be released from these documents (with the input of any other parties as you see fit) and the use of any exemptions. You would then need to redact any information which is to be withheld. As the FOIA is an entitlement to information not documents it would be acceptable to provide a digest of releasable information but given the number of documents involved it may be more practical to provide copies (redacted where necessary). I would then be

20/12/2005

appy to draft a response to Dr Clarke (and the other applicant who is interested in these papers) which of course I will clear with you. I will give some thought to press lines, although until we know exactly what will be released (or withheld) I will not know what to cover. Maybe we can discuss this immediately prior to the release of the information. I think at the very least we should inform both our heads of branch and DG Info-Access/AD about the release. We do not get many PQs on UFOs these days, but it may be worth informing US of S just in case. I will discuss this with my AD, [Section 40]. In the meantime, I will send the two applicants a holding letter.

[Section 40] brought over to me the Executive Summary (the original) to the UAP report, plus a copy about two weeks ago. I will arrange to get the original back to [Section 40]. I see you plan for [Section 40] to redact the report and decide on any use of exemptions. I spoke to [Section 40] yesterday (before I got your e-mail) and he said it had all been handed over to you and [Section 40] for action as he did not have time to deal with it. I got the impression he did not think this was anything to do with him now, but maybe I misunderstood this.

With regard to publishing this information after release, the best place for this is the MOD FOI Publication Scheme. As you probably know, all new classes of information require the permission of the Information Commissioner so we will have to speak to Info-Access about this. When I released the Rendlesham Forest papers into the PS there were a few technical problems because of its size (175 pages). I understand your report is over 300 pages so depending on how much is released there could be some difficulties. Scanned information also has to be in a certain form (PDF I believe). I have a contact in Info-Access who deals with the Publication Scheme so I will have a chat with them.

I think a meeting in the new year when you have a clearer idea of what is (and is not) to be released, would be a good idea. I am back in office on 3 January and could book a meeting room in MB if that suits you.

Please give me a call if you need to chat about any of this.

Regards

[Section 40]  
DAS-FOI

---

**From:** [Section 40]  
**Sent:** 14 December 2005 16:21  
**To:** [Section 40]  
**Cc:** [Section 40]  
**Subject:** FW: FOI Request - Dr David Clarke

Dear [Section 40]

[Section 40] and I have now had an opportunity to discuss this request. May I suggest that future requests for information under the FOI Act would probably be best directed through the DIS FOI Focal Point which at the moment is [Section 40], DI BCR CG3, rather than directly to [Section 40].

I think we will probably be able to release most of the material in the reports to the respondent. However, redacting them and preparing them for publication will take time and will not be possible within 20 working days or within the £600 limit. We therefore plan to do this over the Christmas period and hope to have something ready by the end of January.

In addition, as you acknowledge in your minute, this report is likely to receive substantial press coverage, and we need to plan more carefully how it will be handled. We (all) need to be thinking of press lines. Should we consider advising Ministers and senior staff?

The plan at the moment is for [Section 40] to redact the reports and let me have his views on exemptions. The redacted versions will then need to be scanned in so that they are readily available in soft copy if we are to put them on the MOD website.

I would be grateful for your views on the division of labour as DAS lead on UFOs but we are the experts with the information. Perhaps a meeting in the New Year to discuss the way ahead would be useful.

[Section 40]  
DI BCR CG AD  
[Section 40]

20/12/2005



Dear Dr Clarke

Further to my e-mail yesterday, I have now received advice from **Section 40** regarding the transfer of UFO related files to The National Archives.

AIR 20/12966 was transferred to TNA in October and this was the only UFO file transferred. At present there are no further scheduled collections, and the MOD is not expecting any further transfers before Christmas.

With regard to the traditional big new year releases at TNA, I understand that following the implementation of the FOI Act records are now released throughout the year, following transfer from Government departments and TNA preparation. There may, however, be some new year releases because some government departments such as the Cabinet Office and No.10, normally only transfer their records to TNA during the last few months of the year.

I hope this is helpful.

Yours sincerely,

**Section 40**

Directorate of Air Staff - Freedom of Information

24<sup>th</sup> November 2005

Section 40

From: Section 40  
Sent: 24 November 2005 08:58  
To: Section 40  
Subject: RE: Freedom of Information requests



AIR20/12966 was the only UFO file transferred in Oct (that I can identify).

It is my understanding that there are no big new releases - although I suspect that some Cabinet Office and No 10 files which are normally only transferred during the last few months of the preceding year might received a splash.

Section 40

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

From: Section 40  
Sent: 24 November 2005 08:25  
To: Section 40  
Subject: RE: Freedom of Information requests

Section 40

Thanks. Was this the only UFO file collected in October?

Does this mean that pieces are now opened throughout the year following transfer and TNA preparation and there is no big new year releases anymore?.

Section 40

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

From: Section 40  
Sent: 24 November 2005 07:41  
To: Section 40  
Subject: RE: Freedom of Information requests

Section 40

AIR 20/12966 was transferred in October.

I'm not anticipating another pick-up before Christmas, therefore no further "UFO" transfers.

In any case with FOI the "new year" release arrangement has effectively lapsed!

Section 40

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

From: Section 40  
Sent: 23 November 2005 15:43  
To: Section 40  
Subject: FW: Freedom of Information requests  
Importance: High

Section 40

Please see the final two paragraphs of Dr Clarke's latest e-mail. I would be grateful for your advice.

Section 40

DAS-FOI

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

From: david clarke [mailto:Section 40]

Sent: 23 November 2005 15:08

To: Section 40  
Subject: Re: Freedom of Information requests  
Importance: High

23 November 2005

Dear Section 40

Thank you for your informative email received today and attached letter. I do indeed appreciate your efforts to take this matter forward since my communication of 29 October.

I understand that it might be awhile before it is possible to release the full 317 pages/3 volumes of the DIS report, but I'm pleased that a decision has been taken to release it in as full as form as possible.

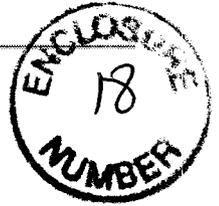
In the meantime I would hope and expect, as you suggest, that the 20-page Executive Summary could be released ahead of the full report. Is it possible to provide some estimate as to when this summary might be available? I would like to discuss this in further detail and wonder if you have a direct line where you could be reached later this week.

Finally, I noticed that a file under the newly-raised ref number AIR 20/12966 has appeared on the TNA catalogue during the last week. On checking the full details it appears this file is the former MOD reference Hd S4(Air)BF82 - UFOs: Parliamentary interest 1978-79 relating to the House of Lords debate that was the subject of one of my requests to you earlier this year.

Are you aware of any other UFO-related files from this period which have been collected by TNA since I last inquired about this matter during the summer? I understand that a period of 50 days elapses before files collected are opened at Kew, but I wondered if you are aware of any groups of UFO-related files that are likely to be opened by TNA to coincide with the traditional 1 January date next year.

Thanks once again,

Dr David Clarke



---

**From:** Section 40  
**Sent:** 24 November 2005 12:52  
**To:** Section 40  
**Subject:** FW: FOI Request - Dr David Clarke  
**Importance:** High

Section 40  
Can we have a chat about this.

Section 40

---

**From:** Section 40  
**Sent:** 22 November 2005 15:29  
**To:** Section 40  
**Cc:**  
**Subject:** FOI Request - Dr David Clarke  
**Importance:** High

Section 40

Please see attached.

Section 40  
DAS-FOI  
5-H-13

Section 40

Section 40

From: Section 40  
Sent: 23 November 2005 16:53  
To: 'david clarke'  
Subject: Internet-authorized: Freedom of Information requests  
Importance: High



Dear Dr Clarke

Thank you for your e-mail.

I hope we will be in a position to release some (if not all) of the Executive Summary within the next two weeks. I am sorry I can not be more precise but this is a DIS document and only they can decide on release. Unlike the Flying Saucer Working Party report which was over 50 years old when released, this document is less than 5 years old and some of the information is still potentially sensitive. It must, therefore, be given very careful consideration before release. I will keep you informed of any progress.

My direct telephone number is Section 40. This is not the UFO line for the public, so I would be grateful if you keep this for your use only. I have a meeting tomorrow between 14.30 -15.30, otherwise I am here between 0800-1630.

Finally, I have forwarded your message concerning files transferred to TNA to Section 40 for advice. I will contact you again regarding these when I have a response.

Regards

Section 40  
Directorate of Air Staff - Freedom of Information  
23 November 2005

23 November 2005

Dear Section 40

Thank you for your informative email received today and attached letter. I do indeed appreciate your efforts to take this matter forward since my communication of 29 October.

I understand that it might be awhile before it is possible to release the full 317 pages/3 volumes of the DIS report, but I'm pleased that a decision has been taken to release it in as full as form as possible.

In the meantime I would hope and expect, as you suggest, that the 20-page Executive Summary could be released ahead of the full report. Is it possible to provide some estimate as to when this summary might be available? I would like to discuss this in further detail and wonder if you have a direct line where you could be reached later this week.

Finally, I noticed that a file under the newly-raised ref number AIR 20/12966 has appeared on the TNA catalogue during the last week. On checking the full details it appears this file is the former MoD reference Hd S4(Air)BF82 - UFOs: Parliamentary interest 1978-79 relating to the House of Lords debate that was the subject of one of my requests to you earlier this year.

Are you aware of any other UFO-related files from this period which have been collected by TNA since I last inquired about this matter during the summer? I understand that a period of 50 days elapses before files collected are opened at Kew, but I wondered if you are aware of any groups of UFO-related files that are likely to be opened by TNA to coincide with the traditional 1 January date next year.

Thanks once again,

Dr David Clarke



LOOSE MINUTE

D/DAS/64/3/11

22 November 2005



DIST-GM OMS AD

Copy to: DI BCR CG2  
DAS- Sec AD



**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST – DR DAVID CLARKE**

- 1) I am writing concerning Dr Clarke's Freedom of Information request for a copy of the report produced by DIS in December 2000 entitled "Unidentified Aerial Phenomena in the UK Air Defence Region", Volumes 1, 2 and 3 and the Executive Summary. I have now read the Executive Summary which you proposed to release ahead of the Volumes and while I do not profess to understand the technical or scientific information, I have the following comments for your consideration.
- 2) The summary contains references to what can and can not be seen on UK Air Defence Radar and discusses the possibility that our airspace could have been penetrated by potentially hostile objects. I think we should therefore show the Summary (and relevant parts of the report) to Wing Commander **Section 40** CT and UK Ops - Airspace Integrity for an opinion on how sensitive this is now. I note UKADGE 1 (predecessor to CT&UK Ops) was on the original distribution of these documents, so it is possible that they also have a copy on their files.
- 3) There are references to flight safety aspects and a suggestion that past unexplained RAF aircraft fatal accidents could have been caused by the pilot being startled by the sudden appearance of an unidentified object immediately ahead of the aircraft. This could be interpreted as the MOD questioning the judgement of Boards of Inquiry convened to investigate these accidents and suggesting there may have been factors not taken into account. The fatal Mull of Kintyre Chinook accident in 1994 in which the pilots were found grossly negligent is still topical and DAS continue to receive FOI requests and correspondence from those campaigning to clear the pilots names. I believe at one time the possibility of a UFO in the area was suggested by some of the campaigners as a possible cause.
- 4) The summary also contains reference to plasma formations / technologies and "exotic technologies". You may recall when releasing the DIS letter dated 4 December 2000 (D/DIST/11/10) in response to Dr Clarke's earlier request we removed paragraph 3 as not relevant to the request. The main concern was that it mentioned that plasma formations have potential applications to novel weapons technology which you thought might still be sensitive and as it did not directly relate to Dr Clarke's request at the time, it was removed. Dr Clarke has asked us to reconsider the withholding of this paragraph and it seems pointless to continue to withhold it if we are going to release this information in the Executive Summary.
- 5) If you intend to release the Executive Summary in advance of the full (or partial) release of the Volumes of the report, care must be taken not to release information in the

Executive Summary which may be withheld on release of the Volumes. This might be difficult to determine before you have read through all of the Volumes, but I suggest if there is a possibility that something might be withheld from the Volumes it should be withheld from the Executive Summary even if only temporarily. This could be made clear to the applicant and the information can always be released later with the Volumes if necessary.

6) The Executive Summary is currently classified SECRET UK EYES ONLY. Can you confirm that there is nothing in the Summary or the Volumes (where referred to in the Summary) which warrants this classification and caveat. If there is, these sections should be withheld for the same reason that the classification was applied.

7) I note that this report was originally distributed to a number of other interested branches. As the originator it is of course your decision whether it is released, but do you think the copy addressees should be consulted about the release of information concerning their areas?.

8) The release of the final report of the DGSTI Flying Saucer Working Report No.7 from 1951 generated a lot of interest with UFO enthusiasts when it was released and I expect that they are likely to get even more excited about this report which is far more detailed and less than 5 years old. Prior to release I think we should have some lines to take / defensive press lines ready.

9) I hope this is helpful. Dr Clarke and the other FOI applicant awaiting these papers, have been waiting for these documents for some time, so if possible I would like to get some news to them by the end of this week. Please give me a call if you need to discuss further.

Section 40

DAS-FOI  
5-H-13

Section 40



From: **Section 40**  
Directorate of Air Staff - Freedom of Information  
**MINISTRY OF DEFENCE**  
5<sup>th</sup> 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

Dr David Clarke

**Section 40**



Your Reference

Our Reference  
D/DAS/64/3/11

Date  
23 November 2005

Dear Dr Clarke

Thank you for your e-mail dated 29<sup>th</sup> October. Please accept my apologies for the delay in replying and sending you the information you are seeking. Most of this information is not held by this branch and I am therefore having to consult others about release, which is taking rather longer than I would wish. While I am not yet in a position to give you a full response, I can provide you with an update.

First with regard to your request for copies of the UAP Report, Volumes 1, 2 and 3, and the Summary, I have been advised that the study is entitled "Unidentified Aerial Phenomena in the UK Air Defence Region" and comprises 4 volumes (including the Executive Summary). These consist of the following approximate number of pages (some single sided, some double sided); Volume 1 (117 pages), Volume 2 (150 pages), Volume 3 (47 pages) and the Executive Summary (20 pages). The report examined UFO sighting reports from 1987 to 1997. The report was written in December 2000 and the database was destroyed on completion of the report. It is likely that the sighting reports which formed the basis of the report are amongst the DIS files which are now subject to asbestos contamination. Defence Intelligence Staff are currently considering the release of the Report and Executive Summary and have indicated that ~~it~~ they believe they will be able to release most of these papers. However, as the report is currently classified SECRET, is less than five years old, and taking into account the number of individual papers for consideration this may take a while to complete. It might be possible to release the Executive Summary ahead of the Volumes and if this is the case, I will write to you again.

You also requested a copy of DI55/108/15/22 dated January 1997, D/DI55/108/15 dated 11 December 1996 and D/DI55/108/15 dated 16 November 1993. DIS staff have located copies of the first two documents and are currently considering release. They have been unable to locate a copy of the third document on their files.

In your letter of 1 September you asked us to reconsider our decision to delete a) previous security classifications and b) paragraph 3 from the DIST's letter of 4 December 2000. I should inform you that when we receive requests for information or copies of documents which were given security classifications when they were created, we first have to consider why the particular classification was applied and if it is still appropriate. If the information remains sensitive it is likely to be withheld under an exemption of the FOI Act. If not, the document can be downgraded to unclassified and the original classification is removed because it is no longer applicable. In this instance I can understand why you would be interested in the original security classification and I

am able to confirm that it was given the classification of SECRET. With regard to the paragraph from DIST's letter of 4 December 2000 this was removed because it contains potentially sensitive information that is not relevant to your request. I have however, asked DIS to revisit this paragraph in light of the possible release of the report and I will write to you again regarding this matter.

With regard to your comments concerning how DAS was informed of the DIS decision, I have searched our UFO Policy file for the period and there is no document specifically concerning this issue. I can therefore only assume that we were informed by telephone.

You also asked if the DI55 Policy file D/DI55/105/15 Pt 4 contained any documents dated between 1981 and 1984 relating to the report received from the USAF at RAF Woodbridge concerning the Rendlesham Forest incident. The file runs from 1971 to December 1995 and the only relevant document it contains is a poor quality copy of Lt Col Halt's memo which has already been released into the public domain.

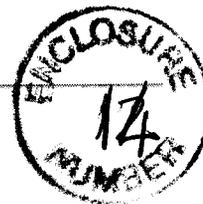
With regard to your question concerning the exchange of correspondence between Section 40 and Section 40 in August 1983 and Section 40 comment that she had checked to see whether, a file had been retained. I can confirm that I have checked D/DS8/10/209 Part F again, but it contains no further notes or correspondence about this matter. I should add that it is quite possible that Section 40 did not formally write to Defence Records but simply telephoned them to check whether the file had been retained. Indeed today, I often speak to Section 40 to check the status of UFO files and these conversations are not always documented.

Finally, as requested in your e-mail message of 29 October, we asked the former office of Air Chief Marshall Sir Anthony Bagnall to forward your letter to him at his home address. We have recently received a message that the Air Chief Marshall is grateful for your letter but he has nothing further to add to the debate. I do not know whether he will choose to reply to you separately.

I hope this is helpful. I will write to you again as soon as I have anything further to add.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40



Section 40

**From:** Section 40  
**Sent:** 17 November 2005 13:44  
**To:** Section 40  
**Subject:** RE: FOI Policy - Security Classifications

Section 40

Thanks. The only problem is this was Secret UK Eyes Only. The document was originated and held by DIS (DAS were not on the original distribution) who downgraded it and authorised its release to Dr Clarke. I have sent your e-mail to DIS for advice.

Section 40

DAS-FOI

**From:** Section 40  
**Sent:** 17 November 2005 11:32  
**To:** Section 40  
**Subject:** RE: FOI Policy - Security Classifications

Section 40

We see no problem with telling the applicant unless there were sensitivities with the original classification (i.e. it is UK Eyes only or something similar) If this is not the case then I don't see that being a problem.

Regards,

Section 40

Section 40  
 Info-AccessPol1

Section 40  
 MB 6/E/11

Section 40

**From:** Section 40  
**Sent:** 17 November 2005 11:26  
**To:** Section 40  
**Subject:** FOI Policy - Security Classifications  
**Importance:** High

Section 40

Do you know if there is any particular policy regarding the removal of security classifications from released documents?. We have released some documents which were originally classified SECRET but following a FOI request were downgraded by the originating branch to unclassified. On release the original security classification was redacted because it no longer applied and was not therefore relevant. The applicant is a social historian and has asked if he can be told what the original classification was.

Section 40

DAS-FOI  
 5-H-13

Section 40

Section 40

---

**From:** Section 40  
**Sent:** 17 November 2005 13:39  
**To:** Section 40  
**Subject:** FW: FOI Policy - Security Classifications

Section 40

Re para 4 of my draft reply to Dr Clarke, please see my e-mail below and Info-Access advice about telling him what the original security classification was on the DI letter dated 4 December 2000. The only problem seems to be that it was UK Eyes Only. Is the UAP Report and Executive Summary also UK Eyes Only?

Section 40

---

**From:** Section 40  
**Sent:** 17 November 2005 11:32  
**To:** Section 40  
**Subject:** RE: FOI Policy - Security Classifications

Section 40

We see no problem with telling the applicant unless there were sensitivities with the original classification (i.e. it is UK Eyes only or something similar) If this is not the case then I don't see that being a problem.

Regards,

Section 40

Section 40  
 Info-AccessPol1

Section 40  
 MB 6/E/11

Section 40

---

**From:** Section 40  
**Sent:** 17 November 2005 11:26  
**To:** Section 40  
**Subject:** FOI Policy - Security Classifications  
**Importance:** High

Section 40

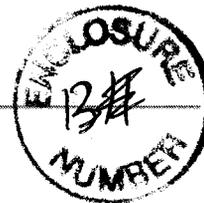
Do you know if there is any particular policy regarding the removal of security classifications from released documents?. We have released some documents which were originally classified SECRET but following a FOI request were downgraded by the originating branch to unclassified. On release the original security classification was redacted because it no longer applied and was not therefore relevant. The applicant is a social historian and has asked if he can be told what the original classification was.

Section 40

DAS-FOI  
 5-H-13

Section 40

17/11/2005



Section 40

**From:** Section 40  
**Sent:** 14 November 2005 15:01  
**To:** Section 40  
**Subject:** FW: FOI & UFOs

Section 40

Oops! It must of scrambled my brains typing this. Here it is.

Section 40

---

**From:** Section 40  
**Sent:** 14 November 2005 14:58  
**To:** Section 40  
**Subject:** RE: FOI & UFOs

Section 40

Nothing attached unless the aliens ate it.

Section 40

---

**From:** Section 40  
**Sent:** 14 November 2005 14:50  
**To:** Section 40  
**Subject:** FOI & UFOs

Section 40

Please see attached an interim reply to Dr Clarke's FOI requests. I would be grateful for any comments you may have before I send it to him.

Regards

Section 40

DAS-FOI  
5-H-13

Section 40

DRAFT

Dear Dr Clarke

Thank you for your e-mail dated 29<sup>th</sup> October. Please accept my apologies for the delay in sending you the information you are seeking. Most of this information is not held by this branch and I am therefore having to consult others about release, which is taking rather longer than I would wish. While I am not yet in a position to give you a full response, I can provide you with an update.

First with regard to your request for copies of the UAP Report, Volumes 1, 2 and 3, and the Summary. I have been advised that the study comprises 4 volumes (including the Executive Summary). These consist of the following approximate number of pages (some single sided, some double sided); Volume 1 (117 pages), Volume 2 (150 pages), Volume 3 (47 pages) and the Executive Summary (20 pages). The report examined UFO sighting reports from 1987 to 1997. The database was destroyed after the report was written, so it is not possible to say what fields it contained for UAP entries. It is likely that the sighting reports which formed the basis of the report are amongst the DIS files which are now subject to asbestos contamination. Defence Intelligence Staff are currently considering the release of the Report and Executive Summary and have indicated that it is likely that they will be able to release most of these papers. Given the number of individual papers for consideration this may take a while to complete, but we are hopeful that it might be possible to release the Executive Summary ahead of the Volumes, maybe as early as this week. I will, of course, keep you informed of any progress.

You also requested a copy of DI55/108/15/22 dated January 1997, D/DI55/108/15 dated 11 December 1996 and D/DI55/108/15 dated 16 November 1993. DIS staff have located copies of the first two documents and are currently considering release. They have been unable to locate a copy of the third document on their files.

In your letter of 1 September you asked us to reconsider our decision to delete a) previous security classifications and b) paragraph 3 from the DIST's letter of 4 December 2000. I should inform you that when we receive requests for information or copies of documents which were given security classifications when they were created, we first have to consider why the particular classification was applied and if it is still appropriate. If the information remains sensitive it is likely to be withheld under an exemption of the FOI Act. If not, the document can be downgraded to unclassified and the original classification is removed because it is no longer applicable. In this instance I can understand why you would be interested in the original security classification and I am able to confirm that it was given the classification of SECRET UK EYES ONLY. With regard to the paragraph 3 from DIST's letter of 4 December 2000 this was removed because it contains potentially sensitive information that is not relevant to your request. I have however,

asked DIS to revisit this paragraph and will write to you again regarding this matter.

With regard to your comments concerning how DAS was informed of the DIS decision, I have searched our UFO Policy file of the period and there is no document specifically concerning this issue. I can therefore only assume that we were informed by telephone.

You also asked if the DI55 Policy file D/DI55/105/15 Pt 4 contained any documents dated between 1981 and 1984 relating to the report received from the USAF at RAF Woodbridge concerning the Rendlesham Forest incident. The file runs from 1971 to December 1995 and the only relevant document it contains is a poor quality copy of Lt Col Halt's memo which has already been released into the public domain.

With regard to your question concerning the exchange of correspondence between **Section 40** and **Section 40** in August 1983 and **Section 40** **Section 40** comment that she had checked to see whether, a file had been retained. I can confirm that I have checked D/DS8/10/209 Part F again, but it contains no further notes or correspondence about this matter. I should add that it is quite possible that **Section 40** did not formally write to Defence Records but simply telephoned them to check whether the file had been retained. Indeed today, I often speak to **Section 40** to check the status of UFO files and these conversations are not always documented.

Finally, as requested in your e-mail message of 29 October, we asked the former office of Air Chief Marshall Sir Anthony Bagnall to forward your letter to him at his home address. We have recently received a message that the Air Chief Marshall is grateful for your letter but he has nothing further to add to the debate.

I hope this is helpful. I will write to you again as soon as I have anything further to add.

Yours sincerely,



Section 40

**From:** Section 40  
**Sent:** 08 November 2005 11:27  
**To:** Section 40  
**Subject:** RE: FOI & Dr Clarke

Section 40  
 Page Count

The 4 volume report has the following approx page count (numbers refer to physical sheets of paper some are double sided some are single sided)

Exec Summary 20 pages

Vol 1 117

Vol 2 150

Vol 47

Total 334

These were written with release in mind are restricted. apart from Vol 3 which is secret because it contains performance values of UK ADR radars. It is my intention to put this report into the release scheme, so I think we can promise release of most it. The report examined sighting reports from 1987 to 1997; these were input into a relational database. Before you ask the database was destroyed after the report was written and the sighting reports which formed the basis have probably been released via the PRO, but you need to check.

The result from the examination of the sighting reports was that there was no longer a requirement for DI55 to monitor UAP reports as they do not demonstrably provide information useful to defence Intelligence. I understand Hd Sec (AS) was advised and we stopped getting the reports.

Section 40

**From:** Section 40  
**Sent:** 03 November 2005 12:09  
**To:** Section 40  
**Subject:** FOI & Dr Clarke  
**Importance:** High

Section 40

Sorry, its time to tackle Dr Clarke's FOI request ( I now have a further hastening e-mail from him).

I have got a bit lost as to where we are with his requests / questions so to recap I have written the attached notes. I would be grateful if you could address asap the areas where I have indicated something for your action.

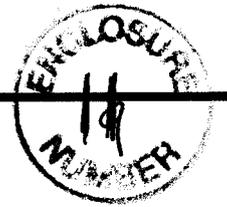
If you wish to discuss any issues regarding the potential release of any of this information, please give me a call. I am happy to arrange a meeting room if you would rather come over and go through anything with me.

Regards

Section 40  
 DAS-FOI  
 5-H-13  
 Section 40

08/11/2005

Section 40



From: Section 40  
Sent: 07 November 2005 10:34  
To: Section 40  
Subject: FW: Freedom of Information request

Section 40

We'll need to say in response to Clarke that we have passed the letter ACM Bagnall. He is grateful for the letter but he has nothing further to say on the subject ...or something along those lines.

Section 40

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

From: Section 40 Sqn Ldr  
Sent: 07 November 2005 10:19  
To: Section 40  
Subject: FW: Freedom of Information request

Section 40

To close the loop on this one

Many thanks

Section 40

Squadron Leader  
DCRS PA4  
MB F12 Z K D 37

Section 40

tel: Section 40  
fax: Section 40

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

From: ajc b [mailto:Section 40]  
Sent: 07 November 2005 09:48  
To: Section 40 Sqn Ldr  
Subject: RE: Freedom of Information request

Section 40 thanks. I do not intend to get involved in the Clarke correspondence. The line should be that I am aware that he has written but I have nothing to add to the debate. Thanks again ajcb

>From: Section 40 Sqn Ldr "Section 40"  
>To: "ajc b" Section 40  
>Subject: Freedom of Information request Date: Mon, 7 Nov 2005 09:32:16  
>-0000  
>

>Sir,

>  
>I believe the email below gives the definitive wrt David Clarke's  
>request, it is up to you whether you wish to respond with a personal  
>perspective, you are under no obligation to do so. Please let me know  
>if there is anything else you wish me to do for you on this.

>  
>Dates as requested: Chile: 4-9 Apr, Turkey 19-22 Apr

>  
>Hope this helps

Section 40

>Squadron Leader

>DCRS PA4  
>MB F12 Z K D 37

Section 40  
>tel: Section 40  
>fax: [redacted]

---

>From: Section 40  
>Sent: 07 November 2005 09:13  
>To: Section 40 Sqn Ldr  
>Cc: Section 40  
>Subject: RE: Freedom of Information request

Section 40

>I spoke to Section 40 1 Nov about this. I do not believe this should be  
>treated as an FOI request, and I see no need to involve the current  
>ACAS. David Clarke has had all the papers from the MoD that relate to  
>the matter, and he is now seeking to get a personal perspective from  
>the then ACAS. David Clarke often uses this technique as part of his  
>research. Given that ACM Bagnall has retired, I left it with Section 40  
>that all we were obliged to do was pass the letter on to Sir Anthony.  
>It is entirely for him if he chooses to reply. If he wants to we would  
>be happy to assist in preparing some background material for him. All  
>I want to be able to do is advise David Clarke that we have passed the  
>letter on.

>I hope this clarifies our approach.

>Regards,

Section 40  
[redacted]

>DAS - AD(Secretariat)

---

>From: Section 40 Sqn Ldr  
>Sent: 07 November 2005 08:51  
>To: Section 40 Sqn Ldr  
>Subject: FW: Freedom of Information request

Section 40

>I would be grateful for some advice on the attached email trail wrt  
>this FOI, as stated below I believe from my understanding of the rules  
>that this should be answered by the present incumbent of the post?

>I have spoken to Sir Anthony who has not previously seen anything on  
>this matter

>Many thanks for your help

Section 40  
[redacted]

>Squadron Leader  
>DCRS PA4  
>MB F12 Z K D 37

Section 40  
>tel: Section 40  
>fax: [redacted]

---

>From: Section 40  
>Sent: 01 November 2005 14:24  
>To: Section 40

>Cc: Section 40 Sqn Ldr  
>Subject: FW: Freedom of Information request

Section 40

>I have passed your request and advice to Sqn Ldr Section 40 who was MA2 to  
>the former and VCDS and holds his current contact details. Please  
>could you provide advice on the question which she has posed below?

>Many thanks

Section 40

>APS2 VCDS/2nd PUS  
>MB05-F-21 Section 40  
>Assistant Private Secretary  
>Vice Chief of Defence Staff &  
>2nd Permanent under Secretary

>Ministry of Defence

>Tel: Section 40

---

>From: Section 40 Sqn Ldr  
>Sent: 01 November 2005 14:11  
>To: Section 40  
>Subject: RE: Freedom of Information request

Section 40

>Thank you for sight of the information below. Sir Anthony is currently  
>in the US and I have left an email message and also a message for him  
>to contact me on his return.

>I have looked at the attached letter and spoken to our FOI rep, I  
>thought that it was the current incumbent of a post who should answer  
>any request not someone who was in post a considerable number of years  
>ago, but this may well be my ignorance of the rules. I cannot gauge  
>Sir Anthony's response but I wonder whether it is normal practice to  
>pass on such requests to our senior men when they have departed? Can I  
>ask if you have sought a response from ACAS' office as I know that is  
>something he will ask.

>I will let you know as soon as I have managed to speak to Sir Anthony

Section 40

>Squadron Leader  
>DCRS PA4  
>MB F12 Z K D 37

>tel: Section 40  
>fax: Section 40

---

>From: Section 40  
>Sent: 31 October 2005 16:20  
>To: Section 40 Sqn Ldr  
>Subject: FW: Freedom of Information request  
>Importance: High

Section 40

>This is the letter which I mentioned to you earlier - you were going to  
>check whether Sir Anthony had received the original note. I don't have  
>forwarding details, so could I ask you to pass it on?

>Sir Anthony is under no obligation to answer the request and many of

>the factual questions raised will have been answered through Dr  
>Clarke's other numerous requests of the Department. The relevant team  
>he can provide any background on the issue if this is required.  
>  
>Thanks

Section 40

>  
>APS2 VCDS/2nd PUS  
>MB05-F-21 Section 40  
>  
>Assistant Private Secretary  
>Vice Chief of Defence Staff &  
>2nd Permanent under Secretary  
>  
>Ministry of Defence  
>Tel: Section 40

>  
>  
>  
>  
>From: Section 40  
>Sent: 31 October 2005 12:39  
>To: CDS-Registry  
>Subject: FW: Freedom of Information request  
>Importance: High

>  
>FOR MA/VCDS

>  
>  
>A member of my team has received an e-mail from a regular  
>correspondent, Dr Clarke - an academic who has taken an interest in the UFO  
>phenomenon.  
>Much of the e-mail concerns an FOI request that we are dealing with,  
>but within the e-mail (highlighted), Dr Clarke asks if we can forward  
>the enclosed letter from him to the former VCDS, ACM Bagnall. There is  
>a suggestion that he wrote earlier but did not receive a reply. I  
>forward the letter to you to decide if you wish to forward on to ACM Bagnall.  
>  
>Happy to discuss if you wish.

>  
>  
>Regards,

Section 40

>  
>DAS-AD(Secretariat)  
>MB 05-H-15 87065MB

> -----Original Message-----

>From: david clarke [mailto:Section 40]  
>Sent: 29 October 2005 11:47  
>To: Section 40  
>Subject: Re: Freedom of Information request  
>Importance: High

>  
>29 October 2005

>  
>Dear Section 40

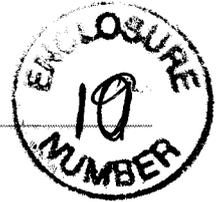
>  
>This is a belated reply following up your email of 26 September. Since  
>our last communication I have moved to a new academic post at Sheffield  
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>In addition I wondered if you could assist me by forwarding the  
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>letter to Air Chief Marshal Sir Anthony Bagnall who I understand  
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>Bagnall on my behalf. You will be aware that he was ACAS at the time of  
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>have been the subject of my recent FOI's and I would like to obtain his  
>considered opinion on this subject in hindsight.  
>  
>I hope you are well and look forward to hearing from you,  
>  
>Yours sincerely  
>  
>Dr David Clarke  
>  
>  
>  
> << File: Bagnall.doc >>

---

MSN Messenger 7.5 is now out. Download it for FREE here.  
<http://messenger.msn.co.uk>



Section 40

From: Section 40  
Sent: 07 November 2005 16:27  
To: Section 40  
Subject: RE: FOI & Dr Clarke

Section 40

I've made start on your questions  
Q1

- a) Do you hold the Executive Summary? **YES**
- b) Is this a large document? **20 pages**
- c) Is it classified? **YES secret but could declassified.**

**Q2**

All could be declassified for release except part of Vol 3 which gives the performance of UK radars

**Q3**

**DI55/108/15/22 January 1997 Got and can be declassified**  
**D/DI55/108/15 dated 11 December 1996 Got and can be declassified**  
**D/DI55/108/15 dated 16 November 1993 No copy on my files**

**And Q5**

**The database was destroyed once the project ended, only the report remains.**

**Had to stop to do some real work.**

Section 40

From: Section 40  
Sent: 03 November 2005 12:09  
To: Section 40  
Subject: FOI & Dr Clarke  
Importance: High

Section 40

Sorry, its time to tackle Dr Clarke's FOI request ( I now have a further hastening e-mail from him).

I have got a bit lost as to where we are with his requests / questions so to recap I have written the attached notes. I would be grateful if you could address asap the areas where I have indicated something for your action.

If you wish to discuss any issues regarding the potential release of any of this information, please give me a call. I am happy to arrange a meeting room if you would rather come over and go through anything with me.

Regards

Section 40

DAS-FOI  
5-H-13

Section 40



Section 40

**From:** Section 40  
**Sent:** 03 November 2005 12:09  
**To:** Section 40  
**Subject:** FOI & Dr Clarke  
**Importance:** High

Section 40

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I have got a bit lost as to where we are with his requests / questions so to recap I have written the attached notes. I would be grateful if you could address asap the areas where I have indicated something for your action.

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Regards

Section 40

DAS-FOI  
5-H-13

Section 40

## Dr Clarke's outstanding requests and questions

### FOI request letter dated 26 September 2005



**1. A copy of the Executive Summary, Unidentified Aerial Phenomena (UAP) – DI55 Report, referred to in DIST letter, D/DIST/11/10 dated 4 December 2000.**

**Section 40** Do you hold the Executive Summary? Is this a large document? Is it classified?

Whether this is released may depend on whether you are willing to release Volumes 1-3 of the report.

**2. A copy of Volumes 1, 2 and 3 of the UAP Report referenced in the above letter.**

**Section 40** Have you looked at these to see if they can be released? Have you any initial thoughts on release?

**3. A copy of the terms of reference for the UAP Report, referenced in DI55/108/15/22 January 1997 as follows: D/DI55/108/15 dated 11 December 1996 and D/DI55/108/15 dated 16 November 1993.**

**Section 40** Do you hold these documents? If so, have you looked at them to see if they can be released?

**4. With reference to request (2) please could you provide an advance summary of the title and table of contents of the three individual volumes. This will enable me to narrow my request should it exceed the £600 limit allowed under the FOIA.**

**Section 40** I note from your e-mail of 29 September that you do have the contents pages and could provide this in advance as Dr Clarke requested. However, I think these should not be released until you know whether you are going to release the three volumes of the Report. It would not be wise to tell him what is in the volumes if there is a chance the information will be withheld. If you choose to withhold only certain sections, reference to these should also be removed from the contents pages (something which would be impossible if he had these in advance).

**5. Please could you provide a list of all data fields possible for a UAP entry in the project database?**

**Section 40** Again this may depend on whether the report, volumes etc are going to be released.

Letter dated 1 September 2005

6. I wish to request that MOD conduct an internal review of the decision to delete a) previous security classifications and b) paragraph 3 from the DIST's letter of 4 December 2000.

**Section 40**

a) Before release this document was downgraded so the security classification was removed as it was no longer applicable, but I can see why Dr Clarke may be interested in what it originally was. Again whether there is any harm in releasing this may depend on (1) whether the Report is going to be released and (2) Do you see any problems with the fact that the letter (and maybe the Report ) was classified SECRET UK EYES ONLY. Interestingly I have found on my UFO policy file a draft PQ answer which was sent to us by DIS on 17 January 2001 it reads:

POSSIBLE ANSWER TO PQ03511

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

I have been unable to find this particular PQ on the Parliamentary website and there is no further reference to it on our files. I therefore do not know whether this was given as the final answer, but if so it seems the existence of the Report and it's classification is already in the public domain.

b) Paragraph 3 was removed after a discussion between ourselves as it did not seem relevant to the request and contained potentially sensitive information about weapons systems. Could you have another look at this and if you still wish this to be withheld we may have to look for an appropriate FOI exemption.

7. I noticed that DAS or it's predecessor Sec(AS)2 were not included in the distribution of the DIST letter of 4 December 2000. Presumably, DAS will have been notified of the decision in a separate document? If that is the case, please may I have a copy of that document?

**Section 40**

I do not have any letters on my Policy file that show DIS wrote to us to inform us of this decision (we were DAS 4A(SEC) at the time). The only reference we have to it is a LM to DAO ADGE1 dated 12 January 2001 that states "Recently we have been informed by DI55 that they no longer wish to see

the very small selection of reports from credible witnesses that we have been sending them". Do you have anything on your policy file that shows we were told in writing? If not, I can only assume we were told over the telephone.

**8. File D/DI55/108/15 Pt 4 – I wish to modify my request to encompass a search of the file enclosures between the years 1980 to 1996 for documents relating to the Rendlesham Forest UFO incident. I would be particularly interested to see any documents dated between 1981 and 1984 relating to the report received from the USAF at Woodbridge. This may contain the description "Unexplained Lights" or UFO report from RAF Woodbridge" as the case is described in the Sec(AS) file released in 2002.**

**Section 140** Note from your e-mail of 29 September that you hold three documents which mention the Rendlesham Forest incident. The Lt Col Halt memo has already been released. The other two papers may not be relevant to the request. Between 1980 and the release of our file in 2002 there has been lots of public, press and ministerial interest in this case and there is therefore bound to be papers dotted throughout our files which mention Rendlesham (I think your two papers could fall into this category). I do not think this is what Dr Clarke is looking for. I think he is seeking contemporary documents (or those produced soon after) which shed further light on the events and might have been missed when our file was released.

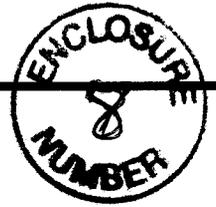
**9. Could DIS confirm a) that the chronological dates of enclosures in the DI55 file cover the years 1971-1996 (these appear on the description of the file you supplied in a list attached to a letter dated 2004) and b) the file was not among those searched by DAS staff in 2001-2 when MOD assembled the contents of the Rendlesham file now available on the Publication Scheme.**

**Section 40** a) I note from your e-mail of 29 September that this file covers 1971 to December 1995. I will inform Dr Clarke of this. b) I do not think that this file was amongst those searched for papers on Rendlesham, but as there appears to be hardly any additional papers, I do not think this matters.

**10. With regard to your letter of 21 July 2005 in response to my requests you enclosed two copies of letters copied from the file D/DS8/10/209 Pt F..... Presumably, prior to 26 August 1983 **Section 40** exchanged memos with Defence Records and received a reply which allowed her to frame her response to **Section 40**. This would presumably be filed between enclosures E40 and E58. Could you please provide a copy of the relevant papers.**

I have checked the file and there is no such correspondence. **Section 40** may well have just telephoned Defence Records. I will inform Dr Clarke.

Section 40



**From:** david clarke Section 40  
**Sent:** 29 October 2005 11:47  
**To:** Section 40  
**Subject:** Re: Freedom of Information request

**Importance:** High



Bagnall.doc (32 KB)

29 October 2005

Dear Section 40

This is a belated reply following up your email of 26 September. Since our last communication I have moved to a new academic post at Sheffield Hallam University which will allow me to specialise and teach in the areas of Open Government and FOI that interest me but have only just begun to catch up on correspondence.

I wondered if it would be possible to provide me with an update on progress with a) the outstanding requests from my 2nd FOI request and also progress with b) the new request I made for the DIS report on UAPs made on 26 September; I understand I was due a response on this specific request on 25 October.

In addition I wondered if you could assist me by forwarding the attached letter to Air Chief Marshal Sir Anthony Bagnall who I understand retired recently from the MoD. As you can see the letter is dated 10 August and this was the dated I posted it to him c/o the MoD Main Building. I have not heard anything since and wondered if it had indeed reached him.

I would be grateful if your department were able to pass this on to ACM Bagnall on my behalf. You will be aware that he was ACAS at the time of the "Cosford incident" and other related UFO incidents in 1993-4 that have been the subject of my recent FOI's and I would like to obtain his considered opinion on this subject in hindsight.

I hope you are well and look forward to hearing from you,

Yours sincerely

Dr David Clarke

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

**From:** Section 40  
**To:** Section 40  
**Sent:** Monday, September 26, 2005 9:00 AM  
**Subject:** Freedom of Information request

Dear Dr Clarke

Thank you for your two emails, the first concerning information already sent to you and the second a new FOI request. I have just returned from leave, so apologise for not replying to your earlier email when it arrived.

I will write to you shortly regarding the points raised in your first letter. I have sent the details of your FOI request to the DIS staff as the branch responsible for this information and I will let you have an update on progress as soon as possible.

Your sincerely,

Section 40

Section 40

Ministry of Defence

Directorate of Air Staff - Freedom of Information

5th Floor, Zone H, Desk 13

Main Building

Whitehall

LONDON

SW1A 2HB

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

26 September 2005



**Dr David Clarke**

Section 40

Tel: Section 40

e-mail: Section 40

10 August 2005

Dear Air Chief Marshal Sir Anthony Bagnall

I have asked the Ministry of Defence to forward this letter to you as I understand that you recently retired as Vice Chief of the Defence Staff.

I am working on a post-doctoral project at the University of Sheffield which is examining the evolution of Ministry of Defence policy towards the subject of unidentified flying objects. In particular, I am researching the relationship between media and public interest in UFOs and how this was reflected in MoD policy.

I should point out am not concerned with the existence, or otherwise, of a “real” phenomenon (as opposed to misidentifications of known objects) and I am fully aware that MoD’s interest was restricted to establishing if UFO reports had defence implications, i.e. as intruder aircraft.

The specific question I wish to ask relates to the period in which you served as Assistant Chief of Air Staff at MoD, which according to your biography was late 1992 – July 1994. This happens to coincide with a time when a number of accounts were published by the media, and questions asked by MPs, concerning stealthy triangular-shaped flying objects that were said to have been seen, both visually and on radar – and on one occasion photographed – near RAF Machrihanish in Scotland. On an earlier occasion a similar object, accompanied by a KC-135 and F-111s, was reportedly sighted from an oil rig in the North Sea by a trained ROC observer and reported widely in the media.

Papers I have obtained under the Freedom of Information Act (FoIA) show these stories were also circulating within the MoD secretariat responsible for UFOs and among the Air Staff late in 1992 and early 1993. They suggest that ACAS and his opposite number in the USA were also concerned by reports in *Janes' Defence Weekly* and *The Scotsman* newspaper which claimed the sightings might relate to the alleged US “black project” aircraft Aurora which some media reports claimed had been operating in UK airspace. On several occasions this matter was raised in the House of Commons and the answer given was that no permission had been given and no aircraft of this type had visited.

However, briefing papers prepared for ministers who answered the PQs, suggest the Air Staff and DIS were equally "in the dark" concerning the existence, or otherwise, of Aurora. One notes that "there is no knowledge in MOD of a black programme of this nature, although it would not surprise the relevant desk officers in the Air Staff and DIS if it did exist."

The FoIA papers suggest that enquiries were made by the MoD at a high level in the US and the answer came back that no such aircraft existed. One memo from the British Air Attache in Washington dated 22 December 1992 addressed to ACAS, London, states "the whole affair is causing considerable irritation with HQ USAF and any helpful comments we can make to defuse the situation would be appreciated."

In addition I gather these rumours led the US authorities to seek advice from our own Air Attache on whether "the earlier alleged sightings in Scotland could be attributed to the [RAF] Vulcan display aircraft" or indeed to a black project of British origin!

I gather that your answer to both questions was "no."

The papers released under FoIA indicate this matter came to your attention once again in April 1993 when a cluster of reports describing a "triangular-shaped" UFO were made to the Air Staff secretariat from a number of places in England and Wales. On this occasion it seems that in hindsight the "UFO" which caused so much concern to the desk officer at the Air Staff Secretariat was actually a piece of space debris re-entering the earth's atmosphere.

There does not appear to be any definitive resolution to this matter that is clear and apparent from the papers that have emerged as the result of my inquiries. Were the sightings made around RAF Machrihanish ever accounted for as aircraft or natural phenomena, to your knowledge? I would also be interested to know what view you take on the subject of Aurora/black projects of US origin being the origin of UFO reports in the British Isles during your tour of duty. Is this theory likely in hindsight?

In addition, I would also be interested to know what your personal viewpoint is on the subject of UFO reports received by the MoD during this period. Were you aware of the policy on this subject or of the quality and quantity of reports received by the Air Staff secretariat? Do you feel the subject should be treated seriously or do you feel this is a subject that is of no interest to the defence authorities?

I look forward to hearing from you and wish you a long and productive retirement.

Yours Faithfully,

DR CLARKE



Section 40

~~I apologise for not getting back to you on this.~~

**From:** Section 40  
**Sent:** 29 September 2005 11:44  
**To:** Section 40  
**Subject:** RE: FOI Request

Section 40

This is quite a big job, but here is some data,  
• File DI55/108/15 Pt 4 runs from 1971 to Dec 1995  
• Rendlesham Forest incident

D/Sec(AS)/12/3-UFO Correspondence

We have brief Sec(AS)2 to PS/Min(DS) 14 May 1986 we have

- o Poor quality photocopy of 13 Jan 81 Report form Lt Col Halt Deputy Base commander 'Unexplained Lights' - *Already released in ps*
- o Briefing Note for Ministerial interview Central TV - This is one of yours - *Not yet released*  
D/Sec(AS)/12/3 2 June 1986
- o D/Sec(AS)/12/3 26 Sep 85 which is a brief for Lord Trefgarne's meeting with Lord Hill-Norton - *Not yet released*  
with mentions the incident.

The 3 vol study into our sighting records comprises 35 mm of paper (it's thick). I can get the contents pages to you but not electronically.

*we have it to Sec(AS) from PS/Min(DS) 14 Oct 85*

Section 40

**From:** Section 40  
**Sent:** 27 September 2005 14:55  
**To:** Section 40  
**Subject:** RE: FOI Request

Section 40

Thanks.

The public have always been more interested in UFO/UAP issues than we in the MOD are. I guess it is human nature to be curious about things that are not explained and many like to believe in government cover ups and conspiracies.

Dr Clarke is a social historian who has a degree in Culture and Tradition and is interested in the beliefs people have and what influences them to believe the things they do (ie media). UFOs is his pet subject and he has been studying the history of the subject and MOD's involvement for about five years now. I think he is fascinated with this database because we have always maintained that we only examine sighting reports to see if they show any evidence of anything of defence significance and beyond this we do not try positively identify what was seen, yet here we were compiling a database and attempting to do just that.

I look forward to seeing what you have in due course.

Regards

Section 40  
DAS-FOI

**From:** Section 40  
**Sent:** 27 September 2005 13:56



Section 40

**From:** Section 40   
**Sent:** 29 September 2005 11:44  
**To:** Section 40  
**Subject:** RE: FOI Request  
**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Red

Section 40

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Regards

Section 40

DAS-FOI

**From:** Section 40  
**Sent:** 27 September 2005 13:56  
**To:** Section 40  
**Subject:** RE: FOI Request

Section 40

Read the enclosures and I'll see what I can get you this week, but I'm only in one day. He is a most

03/11/2005

quisitive; I wonder why a topic such as UAP will so little substance merits the effort.

Section 40

---

**From:** Section 40  
**Sent:** 26 September 2005 11:41  
**To:** Section 40  
**Subject:** FOI Request  
**Importance:** High

Section 40

Please see attached a new Freedom of Information request from Dr David Clarke which I received this morning. As we predicted he is now interested in documents about the UAP database set up by DIST. As all of the documents listed in this request are DIS generated / held, I would be grateful if you would see if DIS still hold these documents and if so, can they be released?. For the sake of consistency and to make sure I keep an eye on what is being released on this subject, if you do hold this information please could I ask that it is released (or refused) through this office rather than direct to Dr Clarke.

While I was on leave, Dr Clarke also sent me another letter concerning information already sent to him (copy attached). Some of this covers information now requested in the above FOI request. However, as you will see from paragraph 4 he is also asking us to reconsider our decision to remove original security classifications and paragraph 3 from the DIST letter dated 4 December 2000. I propose we say that paragraph 3 is about an unrelated DIS issue and not relevant to his request, we will not therefore be releasing it. You may however, wish to consider the sensitivities of that paragraph and what FOI exemption might be used to withhold it, in case he challenges this. I would be grateful for any comments you may have about this. With regard to the original security classifications, these were removed, as they are no longer relevant because the documents have been downgraded. Please let me know if you see any difficulty with informing Dr Clarke what the original security classifications were.

In paragraphs 8 and 9 of Dr Clarke's letter he has also clarified what information he wishes to request from the DI55 Policy File, D/DI55/108/15 Part 4. You will recall that he originally asked for a copy of the whole file. Please could you also let me have your response to this request.

The 20 day response time under the FOIA will expire on 24 October 2005. Dr Clarke has asked for an estimate of the length of time it is likely to take to respond to his requests. I would be grateful if you could let me know when you think we should be able to send a reply, particularly if we are likely to exceed the 20 day limit.

Any questions please give me a call on Section 40

Regards

Section 40  
DAS-FOI  
5-H-13  
MB

03/11/2005



Dear Dr Clarke

Thank you for your two emails, the first concerning information already sent to you and the second a new FOI request. I have just returned from leave, so apologise for not replying to your earlier email when it arrived.

I will write to you shortly regarding the points raised in your first letter. I have sent the details of your FOI request to the DIS staff as the branch responsible for this information and I will let you have an update on progress as soon as possible.

Your sincerely,

Section 40

Section 40

Ministry of Defence  
Directorate of Air Staff - Freedom of Information  
5th Floor, Zone H, Desk 13  
Main Building  
Whitehall  
LONDON  
SW1A 2HB

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

26 September 2005



Dr David Clarke

Section 40

Tel: Section 40

Section 40

Directorate of Air Staff - FOI  
Ministry of Defence  
5<sup>th</sup> Floor, Zone H  
Main Building  
Whitehall  
London SW1A 2HB

26 September 2005

FOI Request - UFOs

Dear Section 40



I wish to make a request under the Freedom of Information Act as follows. Please provide me with paper copies of the following material:

1. A copy of the Executive Summary, Unidentified Aerial Phenomena (UAP) – DI55 Report, referred to in DIST letter, D/DIST/11/10 dated 4 December 2000
2. A copy of Volumes 1, 2 and 3 of the UAP Report, referenced in the DIST letter (1).
3. A copy of the terms of reference for the UAP Report, referenced in DI55/108/15 22 January 1997 as follows: D/DI55/108/15 dated 11 December 1996 and D/DI55/108/15 dated 16 November 1993.
4. With reference to request (2) please could you provide an advance summary of the title and table of contents of the three individual volumes. This will enable me to narrow my request should it exceed the £600 limit allowed under the FOIA.
5. Please could you also provide a list of all data fields possible for a UAP entry in the project database?

I understand these documents may be classified and will need to be downgraded before they can be released to me. I would be grateful therefore if you could provide me with an estimate of the likely timescale involved in this process. I look forward to hearing from you,

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

Section 40

**From:** david clarke Section 40  
**Sent:** 26 September 2005 08:26  
**To:** Section 40  
**Subject:** Freedom of Information request

**Importance:** High



MoDFOISep05.doc  
(32 KB)

26 September 2005

Dear Section 40

Please find attached a fresh FOI request, as referred to in my letter of 1 September.

I look forward to hearing from you in due course.

I have also sent a hard copy version of this request under today's date.

Yours sincerely

David Clarke

26-09-2005-091240-001  
Expiry: 24 October 2005.

Dr David Clarke

Section 40

Tel: Section 40

Section 40

**Directorate of Air Staff - FOI  
Ministry of Defence  
5<sup>th</sup> Floor, Zone H  
Main Building  
Whitehall  
London SW1A 2HB**

26 September 2005

**FOI Request - UFOs**

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Section 40



**From:** david clarke Section 40  
**Sent:** 01 September 2005 09:50  
**To:** Section 40  
**Subject:** Re: Freedom of Information request

**Importance:** High



MoDletterSept05.doc (34 KB)

Dear Section 40

I attach my response to your letter of 23 August 2005 enclosing the outstanding papers from my FOI requests.

Yours sincerely

Dr David Clarke

26-09-2005-125442-007  
Expiry: 24 October 2005



Dr David Clarke  
Section 40

Tel: Section 40

Section 40

**Directorate of Air Staff - FOIA  
Ministry of Defence  
5<sup>th</sup> Floor, Zone H  
Main Building  
Whitehall  
London SW1A 2HB**

1 September 2005  
Your ref: D/DAS/64/3/11

Dear Section 40

Thank you for letter of 23 August 2005 enclosing the outstanding papers from the Freedom of Information request I made on 19 January this year. I found these of great interest and I wish to thank you for your patience and detailed attention to all my questions and requests for information.

As I am sure your department are aware, these documents reveal that DIS, between 1998-2000, sponsored the production of a database of UFO/UAP material drawn from their archive of 22 files dating back to the 70s (presumably being those now subject to asbestos contamination). It also produced a detailed report (consisting of three volumes with an executive summary), the conclusion of which led to the decision in October 2000 to bring DI55 interest in reports of "aerial phenomena" to an end.

The summary and contents of this report are of interest both for the purposes of academic study and to the public in general. I intend to write to you again towards the end of September and make the DIS report the subject of my next application under the Freedom of Information Act. It would be helpful in the construction of my request if you could provide advice and guidance as to the page length of the report and summary. Specifically, I would be grateful if you could advise whether a request for a copy of the full report and summary could be met within the £600 limit imposed by the Act.

6. In the meantime, I wish to request that MoD conduct an internal review of the decision to delete a) "previous security classifications" and b) paragraph 3 from the DIST's letter of 4 December 2000. I believe there is a clear public interest in the disclosure of the security classification of this document as a prerequisite to the release of the full report. You will be aware that MoD has stated consistently that the topic of UFOs was not in

*Partly answered  
23/11/2005*

itself classified. If that is the case, I can see no valid reason to conceal the security classification of this document.

7. I noticed that DAS or it's predecessor Sec(AS)2 were not included in the distribution of the DIST letter of 4 December 2000. Presumably, DAS will have been notified of the decision in a separate document? If that is the case, please may I have a copy of that document?

✓ Answered  
23/11/2005

With regards to the requests made under my second FOI request dated 17 June 2005:

8. Firstly, with reference to my request for a copy of the DI55 Policy file, D/DI55/108/15 Pt 4. I do appreciate the time and costs involved in preparing whole files for release, and the costs already incurred in answering the other requests made on 17 June.

You helpfully suggest that DIST staff would assist if I was looking for something specific from this file. Therefore, I would like to modify that request to encompass a search of the file enclosures between the years 1980 to 1996 for documents relating to the Rendlesham forest UFO incident. I would be particularly interested to see any documents dated between 1981 and 1984 relating to the report received from the USAF at Woodbridge. These may contain the description "Unexplained Lights" or "UFO report from RAF Woodbridge" as the case is described in the Sec(AS) file released in 2002.

✓ Answered  
23/11/2005

9. Could DIS confirm a) that the chronological dates of enclosures in the DI 55 file cover the years 1971-1996 (these appear on the description of the file you supplied in a list attached to a letter dated 2004) and b) the file was not among those searched by DAS staff in 2001-2 when MoD assembled the contents of the Rendlesham file now available on the Publication Scheme.

✓ Answered  
23/11/2005

Secondly, with regards to my 2<sup>nd</sup> FOI requests 1a & b, covered by your letter of 21 July 2005. In response to these requests you enclosed copies of two letters copied from the file D/DS8/10/209 Pt F – General briefs & reports, UFO correspondence 1983-84, namely:

- E39 a letter from Jenny Randles dated 1 August 1983 requesting a copy of the MoD file on the Lakenheath-Bentwaters UFO incident of 1956
- E52 a reply from **Section 40** of DS8 dated 26 August 1983 in which she writes: "...I have checked to see whether, by chance, the file relating to that period had been retained in spite of the general policy in force at that time..."

10. Presumably, prior to 26 August 1983 **Section 40** exchanged memos with Defence Records and received a reply which allowed her to frame her response to **Section 40**. This would presumably be filed between enclosures E40 and E58. Could you please provide a copy of the relevant papers covering this important internal discussion.

✓ Answered  
23/11/2005

12 I trust these two requests can be accommodated within the £600 limit allowed for my 2<sup>nd</sup> FOI request made on 17 June 2005.

13 I am grateful for the time and attention given to these requests and do appreciate your attention to these matters.

Yours sincerely,