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MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

Date opened (Date of first enclosure)

15 MAY 07

Registered file number

Part No.

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

DIVISION/ESTABLISHMENT/UNIT/BRANCH

DJ-FOI

[FULL ADDRESS & TELEPHONE NUMBER]

SUBJECT

F.O.I.

REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION

[BLOCK CAPITALS]

RECORD OF KEYWORDS:[illegible]

FOR DRO USE ONLY

1st Review date

2nd Review date

PA ACTION

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



RCU001792620



~~RESTRICTED~~/UNCLASSIFIED

Registered File Disposal Form

MOD Form 262F
(Revised 9/01)

FILE TITLE: (Main Heading - Secondary Heading - Tertiary Heading etc)

FOI REQUEST FOR
INFORMATION

Reference:
(Prefix and Number):

Part:

PROTECTIVE MARKING (including caveats & descriptors):

UNCLASSIFIED

Date of last enclosure:

11 JULY 07

Date closed:

12 JULY 07

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

Signature: _____

Reviewer's

Signature: _____

PART 2. BRANCH REVIEW

(To be fully completed at time of file closure)

(Delete as appropriate)

a. Of no further administrative value and not worthy of permanent preservation. DESTROY IMMEDIATELY (Remember that TOP SECRET and Codeword material cannot be destroyed locally and must be forwarded to INFO(EXP)-R. ☒

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

LEGAL ☒

CONTRACTUAL ☐

FINANCE/AUDIT ☐

DIRECTORATE POLICY ☐

DEFENCE POLICY + OPERATIONS ☒

ORIGINAL COMMITTEE PAPERS ☐

MAJOR EQUIPMENT PROJECT ☐

OTHER (Specify) ☒

PERMANENT
RETENTION
INFO.

(ii) Key enclosures which support the recommendation are:

CONTAINS UFG INFO ON
21 OF 22 ENCLOSURES

(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.

☒

PA **Section 40**

Signature: _____

Name: _____

(Block Capitals)

Grade/Rank: C1 Date: 12 JUL 07

Branch Title and Full Address:

DAJ
05-14-13
MAIN BUILDING

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: _____

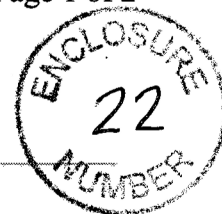
Name: _____

(Block Capitals)

Grade/Rank: _____ Date: _____

*(FOR DR USE ONLY)

Enclosure	Last Name	First Name	AIT Ref	Subject
1	Section 40		15-05-2007-112958-002	UFO
2			16-05-2007-094156-001	UFO
3			15-05-2007-112328-001	UFO
4			24-05-2007-065836-001	UFO
5			21-05-2007-164952-031	UFO
5			21-05-2007-164513-030	UFO
6			31-05-2007-105930-001	UFO
6			30-05-2007-161100-005	UFO
7			16-05-2007-094438-002	UFO
8			25-05-2007-142432-007	UFO
9			09-05-2007-093221-001	UFO
9			09-05-2007-093358-002	UFO
10			06-06-2007-065119-004	UFO
11			25-06-2007-112029-003	Low Flying
12			18-06-2007-113709-002	UFO
13			25-06-2007-161221-003	UFO
14			18-05-2007-105959-001	UFO
15			26-05-2007-143901-008	UFO
16			26-06-2007-142743-006	UFO
17			22-06-2007-092606-001	UFO
18			28-06-2007-151441-005	UFO
19			06-07-2007-062557-001	UFO
20			09-07-2007-115547-002	UFO
21			29-06-2007-095313-002	UFO
22			28-06-2007-152423-008	UFO



Section 40

From: Section 40

Sent: 11 July 2007 10:51

To: Section 40

Subject: Release-Authorised: FOI Request - 28-06-2007-152423-008

Dear Section 40

I am writing concerning your Freedom of Information request asking how many reports have been received and where they had been spotted each month in 2007 and the figures from 2006. Your request has been passed to this Department as we are the focal point within the Ministry of Defence for correspondence relating to UFOs.

First, it may be helpful if I explain that the Ministry of Defence (MOD) examines any reports of 'unidentified flying objects' it receives solely to establish whether what was seen might have some defence significance; namely, whether there is any evidence that the United Kingdom's airspace might have been compromised by hostile or unauthorised air activity. Unless there is evidence of a potential threat to the United Kingdom from an external source, and to date no 'UFO' report has revealed such evidence, we do not attempt to identify the precise nature of each sighting reported to us. We believe that rational explanations, such as aircraft lights or natural phenomena could be found for them if resources were diverted for this purpose, but it is not the function of the MOD to provide this kind of aerial identification service. It would be an inappropriate use of defence resources if we were to do so.

With regard to the number of sighting reports received in 2006, the Ministry of Defence Freedom of Information website has a database that contains this information. This can be accessed via the internet at: <http://www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/FreedomOfInformation/PublicationScheme>, by searching under 'UFO' reports.

For the year 2007, I have prepared a table for each month up to date, showing how many reports were received, and the Towns/Countries in which the sightings occurred. The details are as follows:-

January	3 reports	No area given
		No area given
		Llanpumsaint, Carmarthenshire
February	3 reports	Hull, Humberside
		Swindon, Wiltshire
		Archway/Islington, London
March	7 reports	Highgate, London
		Long Eaton, Nottinghamshire
		Cold Ashby, Northamptonshire
		Idridgehay, Derbyshire
		Wirksworth, Derbyshire
		Braintree, Essex
		Lincoln, Lincolnshire
April	12 reports	Boscombe Down, Wiltshire
		Southampton, Hampshire
		Skegness, Lincolnshire
		Duxford, Cambridgeshire
		Glasgow, Lanarkshire
		Stafford, Staffordshire
		Forress/Moray, Morayshire
		Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk
		In the air near Alderney, Channel Islands
		Bexley, Kent
		Leeds, West Yorkshire
		Liverpool, Merseyside
May	9 reports	Leicester, Leicestershire
		West Derbyshire
		Parley Cross/Bournemouth, East Sussex

11/07/2007

		Clapham, London
		Woodhall Spa, Lincolnshire
		Wandsworth, London
		Hastings, East Sussex
		Ewhurst, Surrey
		Pontrobert/Meiford, Powys
June	9 reports	Paignton, Devon
		Stanwell Village/Staines, Middlesex
		Avonmouth/Bristol, Somerset
		Southampton, Hants
		East Sussex
		Iminster, Somerset
		Swindon, Wiltshire
		Mexborough, South Yorkshire
		Pilton, Devon
July	2 reports	Huddlesfield, West Yorkshire
		Montford Bridge/Shrewsbury, Shropshire

I hope this is helpful. If you are unhappy with this response or you wish to complain about any aspect of the handling of this request, then you should contact me in the first instance. If informal resolution is not possible and you are still dissatisfied then you may apply for an independent internal review by contacting the Director of Information Exploitation, 6th Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall SW1A 2HB (e-mail InfoXD@mod.uk). Please note that any request for an internal review must be made within 40 working days of the date on which the attempt to reach informal resolution has come to an end.

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

Yours sincerely

Section 40

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

E.mail – das-ufo-office@mod.uk

Ex - 26/07/07

[Home](#) [My Cases](#) [Log New Request](#) [Policy Guidance](#) [Help](#)**Request:** Section 40 28-06-2007-152423-008**Group:** DAS**Days Left:** 15**Received:** 28 Jun 07**Expiry Date:** 26 Jul 07**Status:** Open**Workflow Options**[AIT Main](#)**View**[Audit Trail](#)[Comments Log](#)[Saved Search Result](#)[Contact Details](#)[Documents](#)**Actions**[Assign Within My Group](#)[Change Alert Settings](#)[Edit Request Details](#)[Upload Document](#)[Admin Close](#)[Take Ownership](#)

Editing the request details will initiate a new search.

The new search results will be saved and will replace the existing save search

Date request received: 28 June 2007**Applicant Details****Title:**

Section 40

Other:**First Name:****Organisation:****Applicant Type:** Not Specified***Surname:**

Section 40

Other:**Contact Details (Mailing or email address required)****Address Line1:**

Section 40

Address Line2:**Address Line3:**

Hampshire

Town/City:

Portsmouth

Postcode:

Section 40

Country:

United K

Email:**Telephone:****Fax:**[Clear](#)[Back](#)[Next](#)

[Home](#) [My Cases](#) [Log New Request](#) [Policy Guidance](#) [Help](#)**Request:** **Section 40** 28-06-2007-152423-008**Group:** DAS**Days Left:** 15

Received: 28 Jun 07

Expiry Date: 26 Jul 07

Status: Open

Workflow Options[AIT Main](#)**View**[Audit Trail](#)[Comments Log](#)[Saved Search Result](#)[Contact Details](#)[Documents](#)**Actions**[Assign Within My Group](#)[Change Alert Settings](#)[Edit Request Details](#)[Upload Document](#)[Admin Close](#)[Take Ownership](#)

Editing the request details will initiate a new search.

The new search results will be saved and will replace the existing save search.

Request Details**Response Format Requested:** **Raised on behalf of:** ***Enter the request for information:**

lease could you tell me how many reports of UFO's have been received each m
were spotted.

Could you also please provide me with the figures from 2006.

I would like this information via e-mail.

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

To be held by the Helpdesk until allocated.

21

Section 40**From:** **Section 40****Sent:** 09 July 2007 15:32**To:** **Section 40****Subject:** Release-Authorised: FOI Request - 29-06-2007-095313-002Dear **Section 40**

I am writing concerning your Freedom of Information request regarding a copy of the UFO sighting report off the coast of Guernsey on 25 April 2007. Your request has been passed to this Department, as we are the focal point within the Ministry of Defence for correspondence regarding UFOs.

First, it may be helpful if I explain that the Ministry of Defence (MOD) examines any reports of 'unidentified flying objects' it receives solely to establish whether what was seen might have some defence significance; namely, whether there is any evidence that the United Kingdom's airspace might have been compromised by hostile or unauthorised air activity. Unless there is evidence of a potential threat to the United Kingdom from an external source, and to date no 'UFO' report has revealed such evidence, we do not attempt to identify the precise nature of each sighting reported to us. We believe that rational explanations could be found for them if resources were diverted for this purpose, but it is not the function of the MOD to provide this kind of aerial identification service. It would be an inappropriate use of defence resources if we were to do so.

With regards to your request asking for a copy of the UFO sighting off the coast of Guernsey, you will be able to find the information on the Ministry of Defence website, www.mod.uk in the Disclosure Log.

If you are unhappy with this response or you wish to complain about any aspect of the handling of this request, then you should contact me in the first instance. If informal resolution is not possible and you are still dissatisfied, then you may apply for an independent internal review by contacting the Director of Information Exploitation, 6th Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB (e-mail InfoXD@mod.uk). Please note that any request for an internal review must be made within 40 working days of the date on which the attempt to reach informal resolution has come to an end.

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

Yours sincerely

Section 40

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

E.mail – das-ufo-office@mod.uk

09/07/2007

Section 40

From: Section 40
Sent: 29 June 2007 10:00
To: Section 40
Subject: FW: FOI written request 29-06-2007-095313-002 Section 40

Section 40

Can you deal with this? You just need to direct him to the disclosure log where we have answered a similar question.

Section 40

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

From: Section 40
Sent: 29 June 2007 09:55
To: Section 40
Subject: FW: FOI written request 29-06-2007-095313-002 Section 40

Section 40

One for you.

Section 40

Info-AccessOps5

Section 40

Main Building

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

From: feedback@www.mod.uk [mailto:feedback@www.mod.uk]
Sent: 28 June 2007 17:44
To: Info-Access-Office
Subject: FOI written request 29-06-2007-095313-002 Section 40

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted on Thursday, June 28, 2007 at 17:44:15

txttitle: Section 40

txtfirstname: Section 40

txtlastname: Section 40

txtaddress1: Section 40

txtaddress2: Section 40

txttowncity: east kilbride

txtstatecountry: Lanarkshire

txtzipcodepostcode: Section 40

txtcountry: UK

txtemailAddress: Section 40

txttelephone: Section 40 (only before 5 pm)

txt request: I would like to request the full report of a UFO sighting off the coast of Guernsey 25th April 2007 which was sighted by Capt Section 40
Thank you.

Section 40

From: Section 40

Sent: 10 July 2007 09:33

To: Section 40

Subject: Release-Authorised: FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST 29-06-2007-095313-002

Dear Section 40

Thank you for your e-mail of 9 July 2007 to Section 40. It has been passed to me to answer as her line manager.

Firstly, I can confirm that a copy of the sighting report is available on the MoD website at the address given below. Alternatively, you could search the website in the Disclosure Log under the phrase "Channel Islands" where you will find a copy of the report.

<http://www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/FreedomOfInformation/DisclosureLog/SearchDisclosureLog/Uf>

You also asked why the report had been "censored". The MoD is required to comply with both the Freedom of Information Act and the Data Protection Act when it releases information to the public. In this case, personal information has been withheld under exemption s.40 (Personal Information) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. The names of the private companies involved were removed as they were not pertinent to the request.

Section 40 was correct when stating that to date no UFO report made to the MoD has been considered to provide evidence of an external threat to the United Kingdom. You state that unidentified craft have already infiltrated the UK over nuclear bases and missile silos in the UK and switched off the launch capability of our missiles. We are unaware of any such incident.

You are, of course, correct when you state that the MoD works for the protection of its citizens, which is a duty it takes very 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). From that perspective, reports provided to us of 'UFO' sightings are examined, but consultation with air defence staff and others as necessary is considered only where there is sufficient evidence to suggest a breach of UK air space. The vast majority of reports we receive are very sketchy and vague. Only a handful of reports in recent years have warranted further investigation and none revealed any evidence of a threat.

I hope this clarifies our position.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

DAS-FOI

Section 40

MoD Main Building
Whitehall
London

10/07/2007

1A 2HB

Section 40

From: **Section 40**

Sent: 10 July 2007 10:36

To: **Section 40**

Subject: FW: Release-Authorised: FOI Request - 29-06-2007-095313-002

From: **Section 40**

Sent: 09 July 2007 15:32

To: **Section 40**

Subject: Release-Authorised: FOI Request - 29-06-2007-095313-002

Dear **Section 40**

I am writing concerning your Freedom of Information request regarding a copy of the UFO sighting report off the coast of Guernsey on 25 April 2007. Your request has been passed to this Department, as we are the focal point within the Ministry of Defence for correspondence regarding UFOs.

First, it may be helpful if I explain that the Ministry of Defence (MOD) examines any reports of 'unidentified flying objects' it receives solely to establish whether what was seen might have some defence significance; namely, whether there is any evidence that the United Kingdom's airspace might have been compromised by hostile or unauthorised air activity. Unless there is evidence of a potential threat to the United Kingdom from an external source, and to date no 'UFO' report has revealed such evidence, we do not attempt to identify the precise nature of each sighting reported to us. We believe that rational explanations could be found for them if resources were diverted for this purpose, but it is not the function of the MOD to provide this kind of aerial identification service. It would be an inappropriate use of defence resources if we were to do so.

With regards to your request asking for a copy of the UFO sighting off the coast of Guernsey, you will be able to find the information on the Ministry of Defence website, www.mod.uk in the Disclosure Log.

If you are unhappy with this response or you wish to complain about any aspect of the handling of this request, then you should contact me in the first instance. If informal resolution is not possible and you are still dissatisfied, then you may apply for an independent internal review by contacting the Director of Information Exploitation, 6th Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB (e-mail InfoXD@mod.uk). Please note that any request for an internal review must be made within 40 working days of the date on which the attempt to reach informal resolution has come to an end.

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

Yours sincerely

Section 40

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

E.mail – das-ufo-office@mod.uk

10/07/2007

20

AUTHORISATION FOR THE RELEASE OF INFORMATION

Applicant: **Section 40**

Case Number: 09-07-2007-115547-002

Expiry: 30 July 07

The Applicant has made the following request for information:

Copies of FOI requests (and responses) 03-04-2007-094330-002 and 26-02-2007-141448-004.

Documents on time travel.

Copy of file on crop circles.

Case for release of information

There is no reason to withhold the information requested which is redacted to exclude personal information.

The cost of providing information on time travel would exceed £600 and therefore under Section 12 of the FOI Act MoD is not obliged to provide an answer. Requester has been asked to narrow the scope of his request.

We have no record of the existence of a file on crop circles.

Authorisation

I hereby give authorisation not to release the aforementioned information to the Applicant.

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

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

Date: **9/7/07**

09-07-2007-115547-002

EXP TO JULY 07

Section 40

From: Section 40

Sent: 02 July 2007 15:13

To: Section 40

Subject: FOI Requests

Section 40

Please would you send me copies of the responses to the following FOI requests:

1. Case Number: 03-04-2007-094330-002. Date Due: 02/05/2007. Request Summary: UFOs and Time Travel. Please include a copy of the original request and (if not covered in the response) copies of any other documents the MoD possesses on time travel. *← too expensive - not done time scale*

2. Case Number: 26-02-2007-141448-004. Date Due: 26/03/2007. Request Summary: 5Qs about the holder of a specific post in the Directorate of Air Staff FOI cell. Please include a copy of the original request (s) and exclude any documents already sent to me. *PART W. G-4*

3. A copy of the MoD file on crop circles that you located following my intervention earlier this year. *didn't find it*

Best wishes,

Nick Pope

09/07/2007

From: Section 40
To: Section 40
Sent: Monday, June 25, 2007 3:56 PM
Subject: FOI REQUEST 18-06-2007-113709-002

Dear Section 40

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request of 25 May 2007 which asked for copies of any FOI requests that mention Section 40 together with any response. Additionally, you asked for any documents relating to the consideration/staffing/handling of any such requests.

Section 40

Please find enclosed a number of FOI requests that mentioned Section 40 that DAS have lead on or been involved with. You will notice that names, addresses telephone numbers etc have been withheld in accordance with Exemption s.40 (Personal Information) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Any documents relating to the consideration/staffing or handling of these requests is withheld under Exemption s.35 (Formulation of government policy, etc.)

Section 40

If you are unhappy with this response or you wish to complain about any aspect of the handling of your request, then you should contact me in the first instance. If informal resolution is not possible and you are still dissatisfied then you may apply for an independent internal review by contacting the Director of Information Exploitation, 6th Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB (e-mail Info-XD@mod.uk). Please note that any request for an internal review must be made within 40 working days of the date on which the attempt to reach informal resolution has come to an end.

If you remain unhappy following an internal review, you may take your complaint to the Information Commissioner under the provisions of Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act. Please note that the Information Commissioner will not investigate the case until the 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
DAS-FOI
05-H-Section 40
MoD Main Building
Whitehall
London
SW1A 2HB

09/07/2007



From: **Section 40**

Directorate of Air Staff - Freedom of Information

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

5th Floor, Zone H, Main Building, Whitehall, London SW1A 2HB

Telephone

(Direct dial)

020 7218 2140

(Switchboard)

020 7218 9000

(Fax)

e-mail

das-ufo-office@mod.uk

Section 40

Section 40

Our Reference

09-07-2007-115547-002

London

Section 40

Date

9 July 2007

Dear **Section 40**

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request of 2 July 2007 asking for copies of original requests and responses to FOI requests 03-04-2007-094330-002 and 26-02-2007-141448-004. Additionally, you asked for copies of documents the MoD possesses on time travel and a copy of the MoD file on crop circles.

As requested, please find attached copies of the responses and original questions for both FOI requests. You will notice that personal information including names addresses and telephone numbers have been withheld under exemption s.40 (Personal Information) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. Additionally, you will note that the response to 03-04-2007-094330-002 contains a clerical error in the reference number quoted in the title. The reference number starts 02-04-2007 when it should read 03-04-2007.

Request 26-02-2007-141448-004 comprised two unconnected subjects and therefore part 1 was dealt with as a separate FOI request under its own reference number. However, from your request, I assume that you are interested in the recruitment for my post in DAS and the response provided covers this matter.

As you will be aware, the MoD receives a great deal of correspondence from members of the public, some of which may have mentioned the subject of time travel. Any attempt to locate such documents would exceed the £600 limit set for compliance with the Freedom of Information Act and, as provided by Section 12 of the Act, the MoD is not obliged to comply with the request. However, if you would limit your request to a one year period, I may be able to check if we have received any documents on the subject.

Finally, I should point out that despite your advice that **Section 40** created a file on crop circles, the MoD has no record of any file on the subject and, regardless of what you may have been informed, no such file has been located.

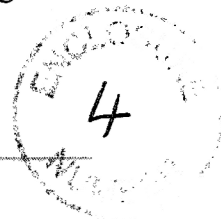
If you are unhappy with this response or you wish to complain about any aspect of the handling of your request, then you should contact me in the first instance. If informal resolution is not possible and you are still dissatisfied then you may apply for an independent internal review by contacting the Director of Information Exploitation, 6th Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB (e-mail Info-XD@mod.uk). Please note that any request for an internal review must be made within 40 working days of the date on which the attempt to reach informal resolution has come to an end.

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

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

REDACTED ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT



From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 26 February 2007 15:43



To: [REDACTED]

Subject: Internet-Authorised: FOI REQUEST 26-02-2007-141448-004 - REPLACEMENT FOR [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your e-mail request of 26 February 2007 asking for copies of Freedom of Information request 21-09-2006-111822-004 together with the response and any subsequent related follow-on requests by the same author. Additionally, you raised a number of questions relating to the recruitment of a replacement for [REDACTED] as DAS-FOI.

The first part of your request will be dealt with by colleagues in DIS, whilst I will address the second part, dealing with the recruitment of a replacement for [REDACTED]

The post was originally advertised in October-November 2006. There were two applicants but they were considered to be unsuitable by a sift panel. The post was then re-advertised in November-December when there were a further four applicants. Interviews were conducted on 11 January following the Christmas break, and I was informed I was the successful candidate on 19th January 2007. I formally took up the post on 5 February 2007, although as I was already undertaking many of [REDACTED] duties whilst her replacement was found, for all practical purposes, I was her replacement from 19th January 2007.

If you are unhappy with this response or you wish to complain about any aspect of the handling of your request, then you should contact me in the first instance. If informal resolution is not possible and you are still dissatisfied then you may apply for an independent internal review by contacting the Director of Information Exploitation, 6th Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB (e-mail Info-XD@mod.uk). Please note that any request for an internal review must be made within two calendar months of the date on which the attempt to reach informal resolution has come to an end.

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

[REDACTED]
DAS-FOI

Section 40

MoD Main Building
Whitehall
London
SW1A 2HB

26/02/2007

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 26 February 2007 09:59
To: DAS-UFO-Office
Subject: FOIA Request

Hello,

there are two parts to this request.

1. Please can I have a copy of the request and response to request 21-09-2006-111822-004 and any related follow-on requests by the same requester.

2. Please can you advise;

- a) If a replacement for [REDACTED] has been appointed yet.
- b) If not, when an appointment is expected to be made.
- c) If so, the name of the person and when they take up the post.
- d) How many applicants there were for the post.
- e) What the cause of the delay in making an appointment is/was.

Regards,

NOTE: PART 1 OF THE
REQUEST WILL
BE ANSWERED
BY DIS UNDER
A SEPARATE FOI
REFERENCE NUMBER.

[REDACTED]
26/2/07

[REDACTED ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 03 April 2007 12:04
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Internet-Authorised: FOI REQUEST 02-04-2007-094330-002
Dear [REDACTED]

Your Freedom of Information request of 2 April 2007 asked for any information the MoD held on the Disclosure Project, UFOs, time travel, the Philadelphia experiment and recent False Flag attacks.

The scope of this request is extremely broad and the cost of answering it would exceed the permitted £600 limit set for compliance with the Freedom of Information Act and as provided by Section 12 of the Act, the Ministry of Defence (MoD) is not obliged to comply with the request. However, if you are able to narrow the request down, perhaps to a specific question on a single topic, we may be able to assist you.

In the meantime, you might like to know that the MoD has already released a considerable amount of information about UFOs on its website at <http://www.mod.uk/>.

If you are unhappy with this response or you wish to complain about any aspect of the handling of your request, then you should contact me in the first instance. If informal resolution is not possible and you are still dissatisfied then you may apply for an independent internal review by contacting the Director of Information Exploitation, 6th Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB (e-mail Info-XD@mod.uk). Please note that any request for an internal review must be made within two calendar months of the date on which the attempt to reach informal resolution has come to an end.

If you remain unhappy following an internal review, you may take your complaint to the Information Commissioner under the provisions of Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act. Please note that the Information Commissioner will not investigate the case until the 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 am sorry I was unable to be of more assistance.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]
DAS-FOI
[Section 40]
MoD Main Building
Whitehall
London
SW1A 2HB

2 MAY 07

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 03 April 2007 09:45
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: FOI written request 03-04-2007-094330-002 [REDACTED]

Categories: FOI Information Request

Dear all,

REDACTED ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT

Can you take?

[REDACTED]
Info-AccessOps5
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Main Building

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

From: feedback@www.mod.uk [mailto:feedback@www.mod.uk]

Sent: 02 April 2007 16:15

To: Info-Access-Office

Subject: FOI written request 03-04-2007-094330-002 [REDACTED]

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted on Monday, April 2, 2007 at 16:15:08

txttitle: [REDACTED]

txtfirstname: [REDACTED]

txtlastname: [REDACTED]

txtoccupation: [REDACTED]

txtaddress1: [REDACTED]

txtaddress2: [REDACTED]

txttowncity: [REDACTED]

txtstatecountry: [REDACTED]

txtzipcodepostcode: [REDACTED]

txtcountry: [REDACTED]

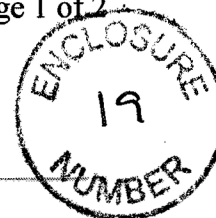
txtemailAddress: [REDACTED]

txtinforequest: Hello Sir/Madam,

I would like to request any information the mod might hold on the Disclosure Project, U.F.O.s, time travel, the Philadelphia experiment and also on recent False Flag attacks...

Any help you can give me to aid my gathering of intelligence i would be extremely grateful, Sincerely, [REDACTED]

disappearing vs ship
1
1943

**Section 40****From:** **Section 40****Sent:** 09 July 2007 15:02**To:** **Section 40****Subject:** Release-Authorised: FOI Request - 06-07-2007-062557-001Dear **Section 40**

I am writing concerning your Freedom of Information request asking for everything on UFOs and UFO activity in and around England or the UK. Your request has been passed to this Department as we are the focal point within the Ministry of Defence for correspondence relating to UFOs.

First, it may be helpful if I explain that the Ministry of Defence (MOD) examines any reports of 'unidentified flying objects' it receives solely to establish whether what was seen might have some defence significance; namely, whether there is any evidence that the United Kingdom's airspace might have been compromised by hostile or unauthorised air activity. Unless there is evidence of a potential threat to the United Kingdom from an external source, and to date no 'UFO' report has revealed such evidence, we do not attempt to identify the precise nature of each sighting reported to us. We believe that rational explanations, such as aircraft lights or natural phenomena could be found for them if resources were diverted for this purpose, but it is not the function of the MOD to provide this kind of aerial identification service. It would be an inappropriate use of defence resources if we were to do so.

I should inform you that this Department holds details of UFO sightings reported to the MOD and public correspondence about UFOs (some of which also contain sighting reports) spanning a 25 year period. These records are not held electronically, but are filed on paper files in the order in which they were received. Before any of this information can be released, personal data has to be removed in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998. Clearly, if we were to process copies of all these records the costs would quickly exceed the permitted £600 limit set for compliance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and as provided by Section 12 of the Act, the Ministry of Defence is not obliged to comply with your request.

In the meantime, you may wish to be aware that the MOD has already released a great deal of information about UFOs which is available for public viewing. MOD files were routinely destroyed after 5 years until 1967 when they were generally preserved for The National Archives. A few have survived before 1967 and these together with records up to 1977 are now available for public viewing. The National Archives can be contacted at Ruskin Avenue, Richmond, Kew, Surrey TW9 4DU or telephone, 020 8876 3444. The National Archives also have a website giving information about the records they hold and how to access them. This can be found on the internet at: <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk>. The Ministry of Defence Freedom of Information website also contains some released information on UFOs. This can be accessed via the internet at: <http://www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/FreedomOfInformation/PublicationScheme>, by searching under 'UFO' reports. If you do not have access to the Internet, most public libraries have internet access for a small fee, and you will be then able to browse for the information that you require.

If you are unhappy with this response or you wish to complain about any aspect of the handling of this request, then you should contact me in the first instance. If informal resolution is not possible and you are still dissatisfied then you may apply for an independent internal review by contacting the Director of Information Exploitation, 6th Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall SW1A 2HB (e-mail InfoXD@mod.uk). Please note that any request for an internal review must be made within 40 working days of the date on which the attempt to reach informal resolution has come to an end.

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

Yours sincerely

Section 40

Ministry of Defence
Directorate of Air Staff – Freedom of Information 1
5th Floor, Zone H

09/07/2007

Min Building
Whitehall
London
SW1A 2HB

E.mail – das-ufo-office@mod.uk

Expiry - 3/08/07.

Section 40

From: Section 40
Sent: 06 July 2007 11:54
To: Section 40
Subject: RE: FOI written request PS 06-07-2007-062557-001 Section 40

Section 40

RFI assigned as requested.

Regards

Section 40

FOI Helpdesk

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

From: Section 40
Sent: 06 July 2007 11:51
To: Section 40
Subject: RE: FOI written request PS 06-07-2007-062557-001 Section 40

Yes, Section 40 I take this one, thanks

Section 40

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

From: Section 40
Sent: 06 July 2007 06:48
To: Section 40
Subject: FW: FOI written request PS 06-07-2007-062557-001 Section 40

Section 40

Please can you deal with this in Section 40 sence. I original sent my reply to the person indicated on Paul's out of office message but he is on leave as well.

Regards

Section 40

FOI Helpdesk

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

From: Section 40
Sent: 06 July 2007 06:27
To: Section 40
Subject: FW: FOI written request PS 06-07-2007-062557-001 Section 40

Section 40

Can I interest you with this FOI request?

Regards

Section 40

FOI Helpdesk

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

From: feedback@www.mod.uk [mailto:feedback@www.mod.uk]
Sent: 05 July 2007 23:56
To: Info-Access-Office
Subject: FOI written request PS 06-07-2007-062557-001 Section 40

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted on Thursday, July 5, 2007 at 23:56:20

txttitle: Mr

txtfirstname: Section 40

txtlastname:

txtaddress1:

txtaddress2:

txttowncity: Spilsby

txtstatecountry: Lincolnshire

txtzipcodepostcode: Section 40

txtcountry: UK

txtemailAddress: Section 40

txtinforequest: Hello. I would like a hard copy off all the UFO sightings, seen in and around England, or the UK. Also, anyother infomation regarding UFO Activity. I do not myself have a printer, or have an always on connection to the Internet.

If this is okay, I would be very grateful. If not, would you please contact me on the above e-mail address.

Many thanks,

Section 40



Section 40

From: Section 40

Sent: 29 June 2007 10:35

To: Section 40

Subject: Release-authorised: FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST 28-151441-005 - ALIEN INVASION & MAGNETIC FIELD CHANGES

Dear Section 40

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request of 28 June 2007 which asked whether the MoD has any official policy in the event of full scale alien invasion or similar event. Additionally you asked if the MoD had any issues with you setting up an observation station to detect magnetic field changes.

The MOD does not have any expertise or role in respect of 'UFO/flying saucer' matters or to the question of the existence or otherwise of extraterrestrial life forms, about which it remains totally open-minded. I should add that to date the MOD knows of no evidence which substantiates the existence of these alleged phenomena. We therefore have no plans relating to the scenario you suggest.

Whilst you do not give any indication of the size of the observation station you propose to set up, I would suggest that you contact your local council to discuss any building or health and safety issues that may arise.

If you are unhappy with this response or you wish to complain about any aspect of the handling of this request, then you should contact me in the first instance. If informal resolution is not possible and you are still dissatisfied then you may apply for an independent internal review by contacting the Director of Information Exploitation, 6th Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB (e-mail InfoXD@mod.uk). Please note that any request for an internal review must be made within 40 working days on the date on which the attempt to reach informal resolution has come to an end.

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

DAS-FOI

Section 40

MoD Main Building
Whitehall
London
SW1A 2HB

29/06/2007

Section 40

From: Section 40
Sent: 28 June 2007 15:16
To: Section 40
Subject: FW: FOI - Alien Invasion Policy 28-06-2007-151441-005

Section 40

exd 26 Jul 07

Section 40

One for you.

Section 40

Info-AccessOps5

Section 40

Main Building

From: Section 40 On Behalf Of INFO LibSvcs-PublicEnquires-Office
Sent: 28 June 2007 13:22
To: Info-Access-Office
Subject: FOI - Alien Invasion Policy 28-06-2007-151441-005 Section 40

Dear FOI team,

Is this one for you?

Thanks Section 40

Section 40

Assistant Librarian
Information Delivery Team
Ground Floor, Section 40
Ministry of Defence Main Building
Whitehall
London
SW1A 2HB

Tel: Section 40
Mil: Section 40
Email: Section 40 @mod.uk

From: feedback@www.mod.uk [<mailto:feedback@www.mod.uk>]
Sent: 28 June 2007 01:31
To: webmaster@dgics.mod.uk
Subject: Research Enquiry

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted on Thursday, June 28, 2007 at 01:30:34

txphone: Section 40

txemailAddress: Section 40

txtcountry: Great Britain

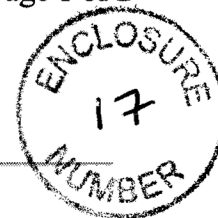
txtrequest: Hi. Recent events in Guernsey (specifically the Alderney verified UFO incident) have made me wonder if the UK Government has any official policy in the event of a full scale alien invasion or other similar incident.

can you verify that such a policy exists and/or is it classified?

also, i was looking into setting up an observation station to detect magnetic field changes that may be associated with said events (EPE magazine, April 2004 IIRC), would there be any issues with this?

regards, Section 40

Everyday Practical Electronics

**Section 40****From:** **Section 40****Sent:** 28 June 2007 16:02**To:** **Section 40****Subject:** Release-Authorised: FOI Request - 22-06-2007-092606-001.Dear **Section 40**

I am writing concerning your Freedom of Information request regarding sighting reports that the Ministry of Defence have received from County Durham, North Yorkshire, Cleveland, Middlesbrough, Stockton, Newcastle, Sunderland, Darlington, Hartlepool, Gateshead and Redcar since January 2002 to present date.

First, it may be helpful if I explain that the Ministry of Defence (MOD) examines any reports of 'unidentified flying objects' it receives solely to establish whether what was seen might have some defence significance; namely, whether there is any evidence that the United Kingdom's airspace might have been compromised by hostile or unauthorised air activity. Unless there is evidence of a potential threat to the United Kingdom from an external source, and to date no 'UFO' report has revealed such evidence, we do not attempt to identify the precise nature of each sighting reported to us. We believe that rational explanations, such as aircraft lights or natural phenomena could be found for them if resources were diverted for this purpose, but it is not the function of the MOD to provide this kind of aerial identification service. It would be an inappropriate use of defence resources if we were to do so.

With regards to your specific request regarding sighting reports from January 2002, the Ministry of Defence Freedom of Information website has a database which contains this information, which is up to date to 2006. This can be accessed by the public via the internet at:

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

I have checked my records for 2007, and can confirm that there have been no sighting reports for the above areas and only one report in 2006, was subject to any further investigation.

If you are unhappy with this response or you wish to complain about any aspect of the handling of this request, then you should contact me in the first instance. If informal resolution is not possible and you are still dissatisfied then you may apply for an independent internal review by contacting the Director of Information Exploitation, 6th Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB (e-mail InfoXD@mod.uk). Please note that any request for an internal review must be made within 40 working days on the date on which the attempt to reach informal resolution has come to an end.

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

Yours sincerely

Section 40

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

E.mail – das-ufo-office@mod.uk

28/06/2007

Section 40

EX-127 19 JUL 07

From: Section 40
Sent: 22 June 2007 09:27
To: Section 40
Subject: FW: FOI written request 22-06-2007-092606-001 Section 40

One for you.

Section 40

Info-AccessOps5

Section 40

Main Building

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

From: feedback@www.mod.uk [mailto:feedback@www.mod.uk]
Sent: 21 June 2007 14:03
To: Info-Access-Office
Subject: FOI written request 22-06-2007-092606-001 Section 40

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted on Thursday, June 21, 2007 at 14:03:13

txttitle: Mr

txtfirstname: Section 40

txtlastname: Section 40

txtoccupation: Reporter

txtorganisation: The Northern Echo

txtaddress1: The Northern Echo

txtaddress2: Priestgate

txttowncity: Darlington

txtstatecountry: County Durham

txtzipcodepostcode: DL1 1NF

txtcountry: UK

txtemailAddress: Section 40

txttelephone: Section 40

txtinforequest: How many reports of unidentified flying objects has the MOD received since January 2002 from the following local authority areas- County Durham, North Yorkshire, Cleveland, Middlesbrough, Stockton, Newcastle, Sunderland, Darlington, Hartlepool, Gateshead and Redcar and Cleveland.

When were the reports received? What was the nature of the reported incidents? Were any of these reports investigated by the MOD, and which ones remain unexplained?



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

16

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

Section 40

Our Reference
26-06-2007-142743-006

Date
28 June 2007

Cwmbran

Gwent

Section 40

Dear **Section 40**

Thank you for your undated Freedom of Information request asking whether regular meetings take place regarding UFO related material or if specialised meetings dealing with the material gathered take place.

We do not hold regular meetings, with or without agenda, to discuss UFOs. Having checked with colleagues, we have no memory of any informal or specialist meetings to discuss UFOs over the past few years either.

I have interpreted your request as referring to meetings to discuss UFO sighting reports etc rather than meetings which are essentially administrative in nature. If I am incorrect in this assumption, please let me know.

If you are unhappy with this response or you wish to complain about any aspect of the handling of your request, then you should contact me in the first instance. If informal resolution is not possible and you are still dissatisfied then you may apply for an independent internal review by contacting the Director of Information Exploitation, 6th Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB (e-mail Info-XD@mod.uk). Please note that any request for an internal review must be made within 40 working days of the date on which the attempt to reach informal resolution has come to an end.

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

Expiry - 23/07/07.
Ref - 26-06-2007-142743-006.

Section 40

Cwmbran
Gwent

Section 40

Dear Sir,

I am writing to you under the FOIA in regards to any meetings that take place in regards to UFO related material. Do regular meetings take place where the subject in on the agenda or are there specialised meetings that deal with the information gathered? If so, what is the frequency of these meetings? Many thanks.

22/

Regards

Section 40

DAS	
102No.	
25 JUN 2007	
FILE	



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



MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
5th Floor, Zone H, Main Building, Whitehall, London SW1A 2HB

Telephone (Direct dial) 020 7218 2140
(Switchboard) 020 7218 9000
(Fax) **Section 40**

Section 40

Cwmbran
Gwent

Section 40

Your Reference:

Our Reference:
26-06-2007-143901-008
Date:
27 June 2007

Dear **Section 40**

I am writing concerning your FOI request dated 7 June 2007, regarding photographs of alleged UFOs for the periods 1998-99 and 2000-01.

Attached are copies of nine photographs for the years requested. I should reiterate that the Ministry of Defence does not hold the copyright for these photographs and that you should take reasonable steps to protect that copyright, particularly if you intend to copy or disseminate further.

If you are unhappy with this response or you wish to complain about any aspect of the handling of this request, then you should contact me in the first instance. If informal resolution is not possible and you are still dissatisfied then you may apply for an independent internal review by contacting the Director of Information Exploitation, 6th Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB (e-mail InfoXD@mod.uk). Please note that any aspect for an internal review must be made within 40 working days of the date on which the attempt to reach informal resolution has come to an end.

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Yours sincerely

Section 40

Expiry - 23/07/07.
Ref - 26-06-2007 - 143901 - 008.

Section 40

Cwmbran
Gwent

Section 40

7th June 2007

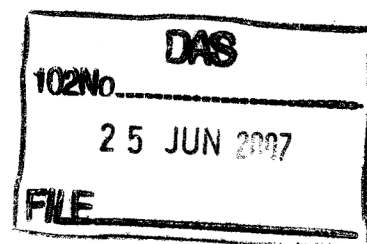
Your Ref: 09-05-2007-093358-002

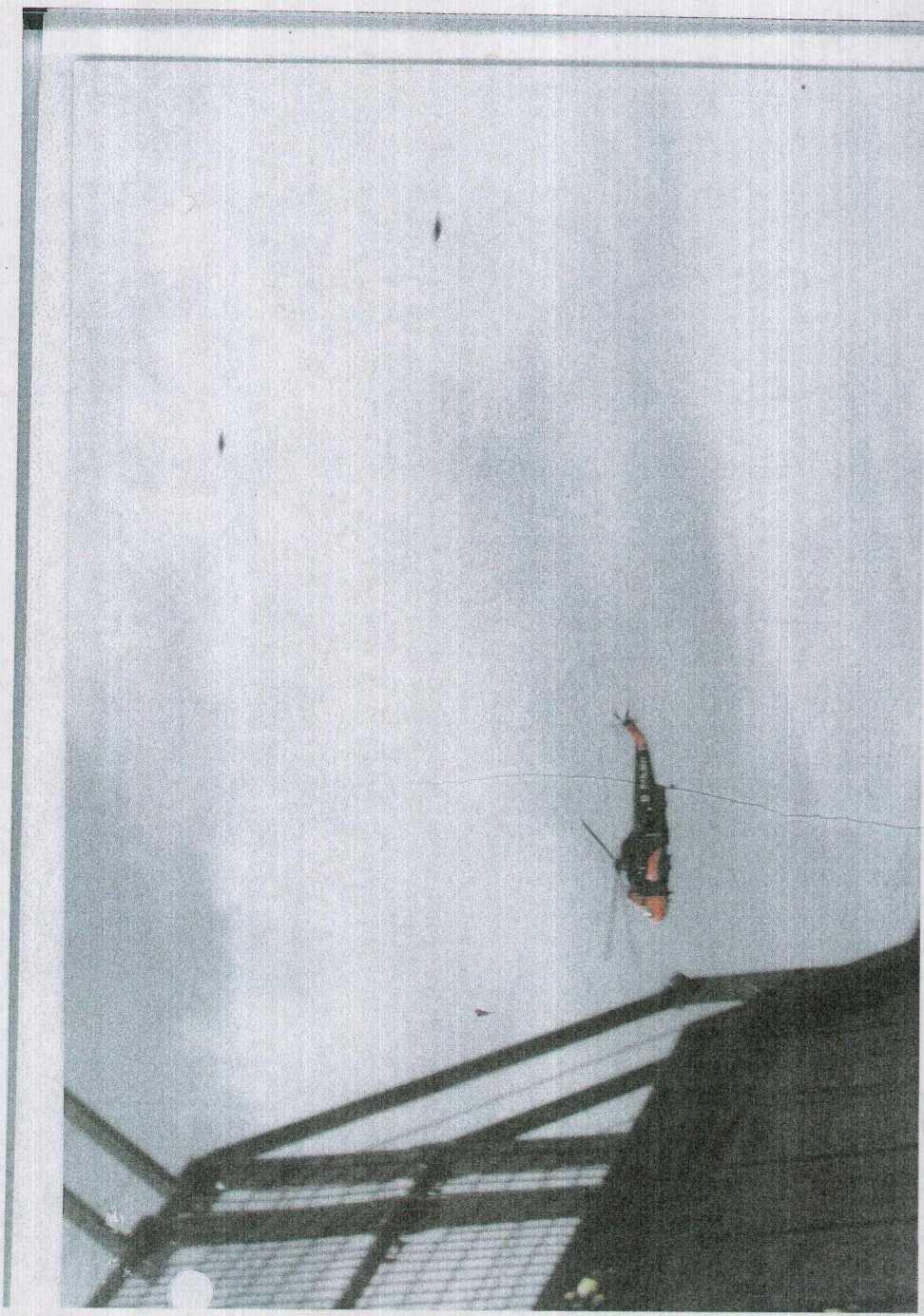
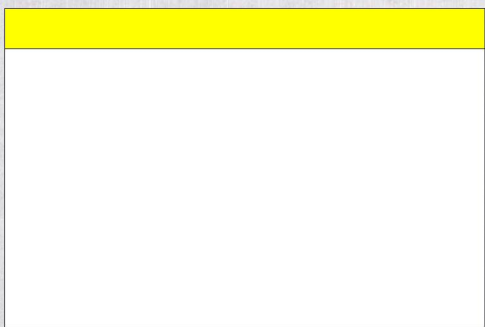
Dear Sir/Madam,

Based on your reply dated 1st June 2007, under the FOIA could you send me copies of the photographs of alleged UFOs for the periods 1998-99 and 2000-01. Many thanks.

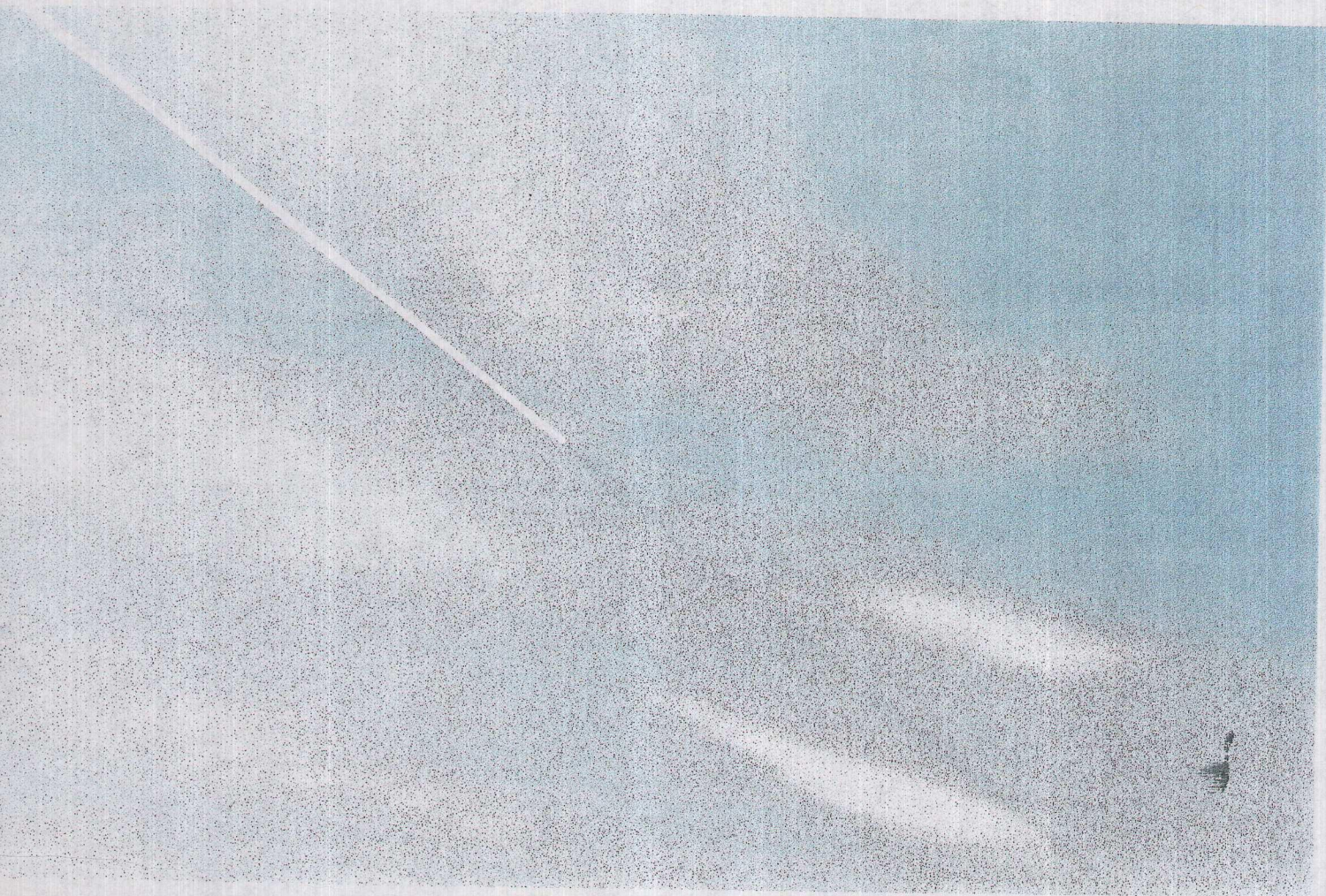
Yours faithfully

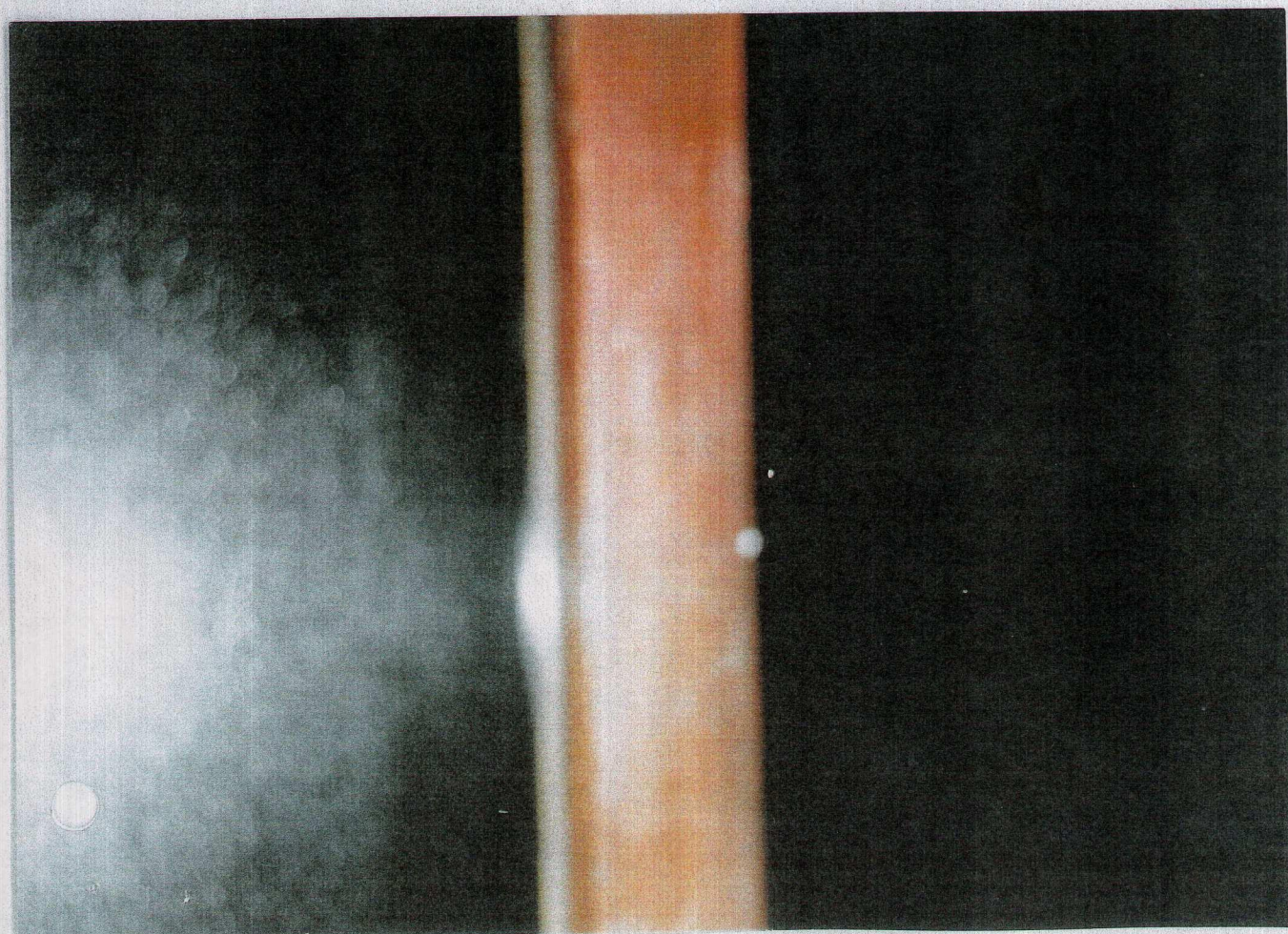
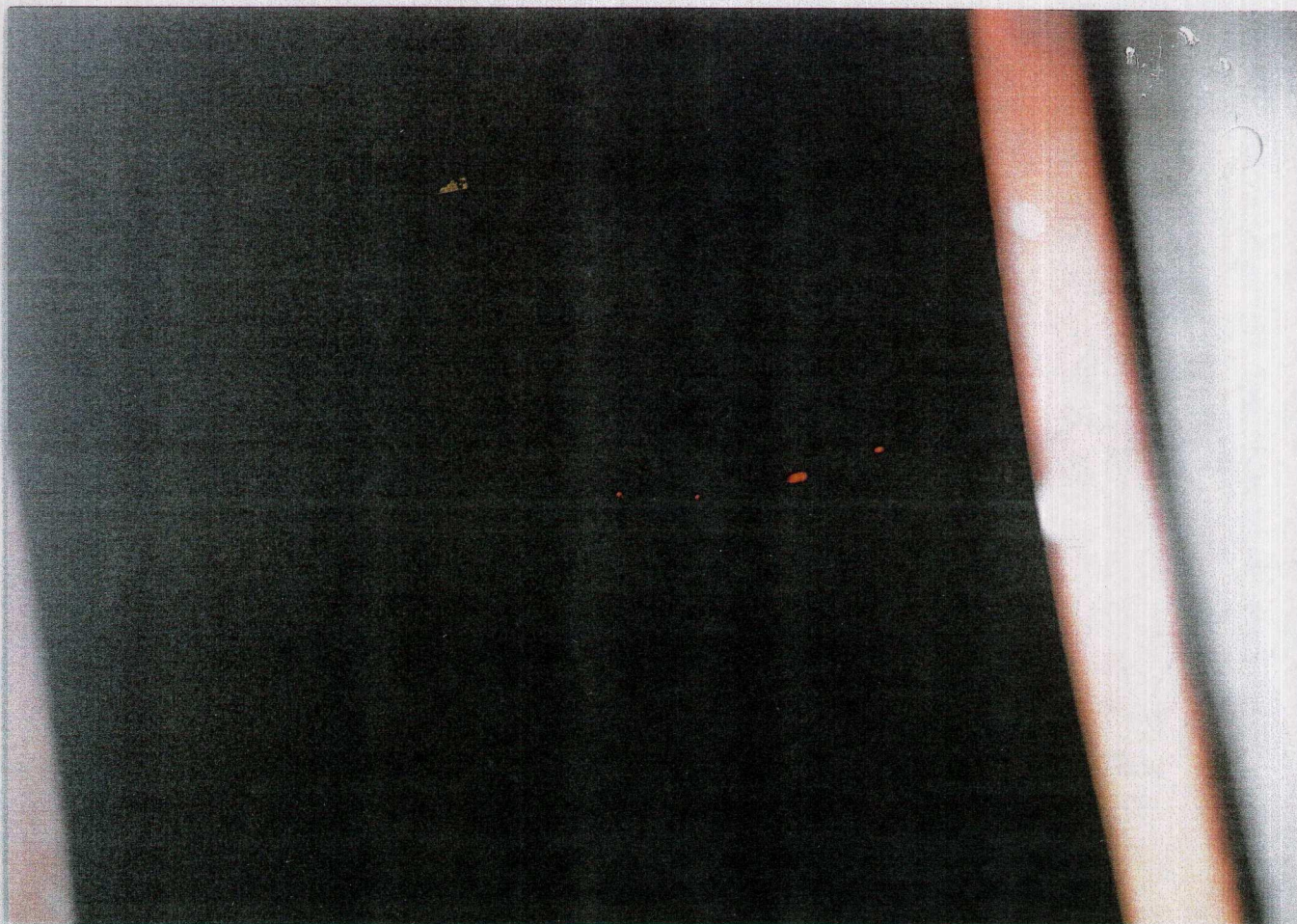
Section 40

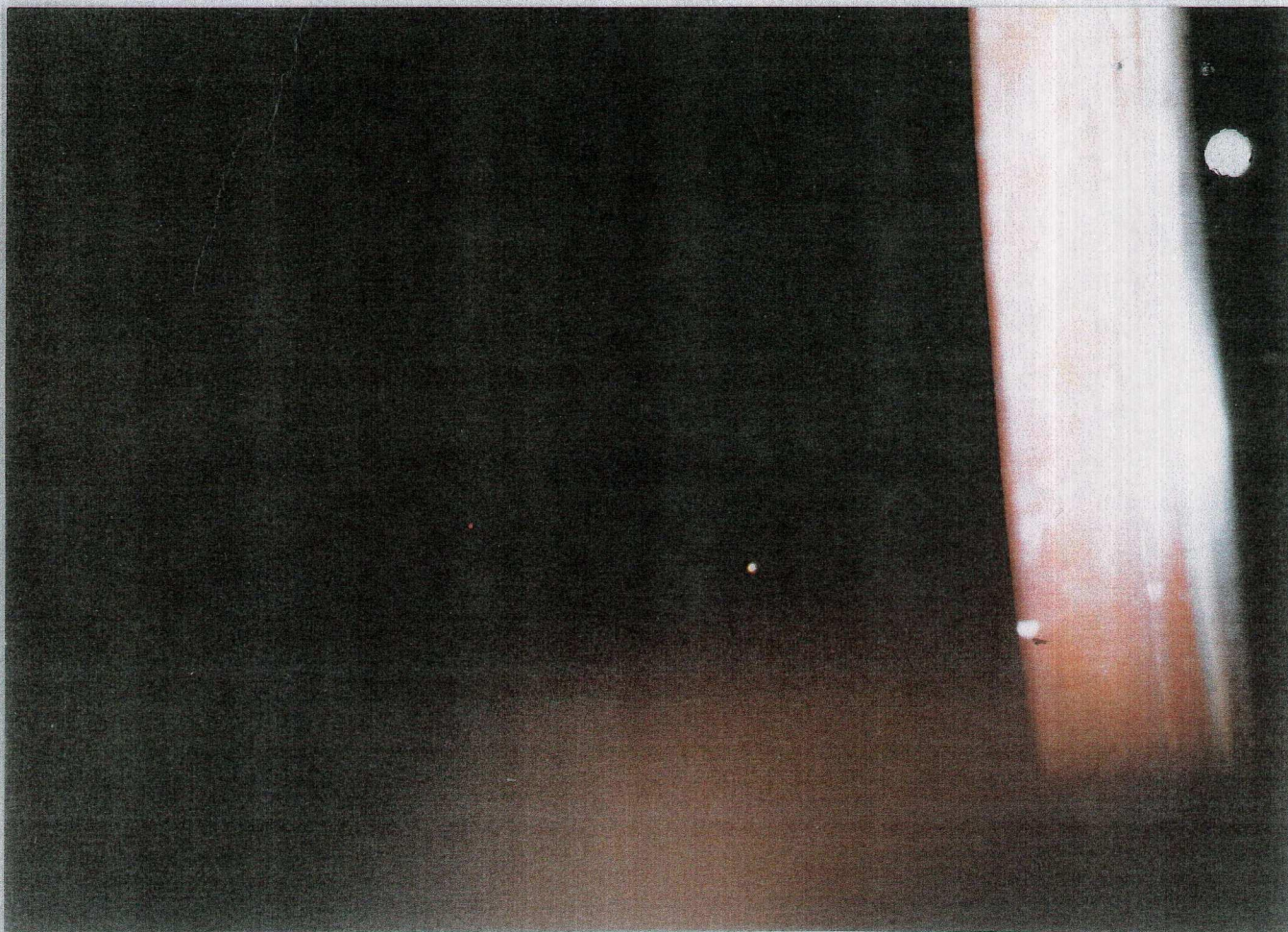
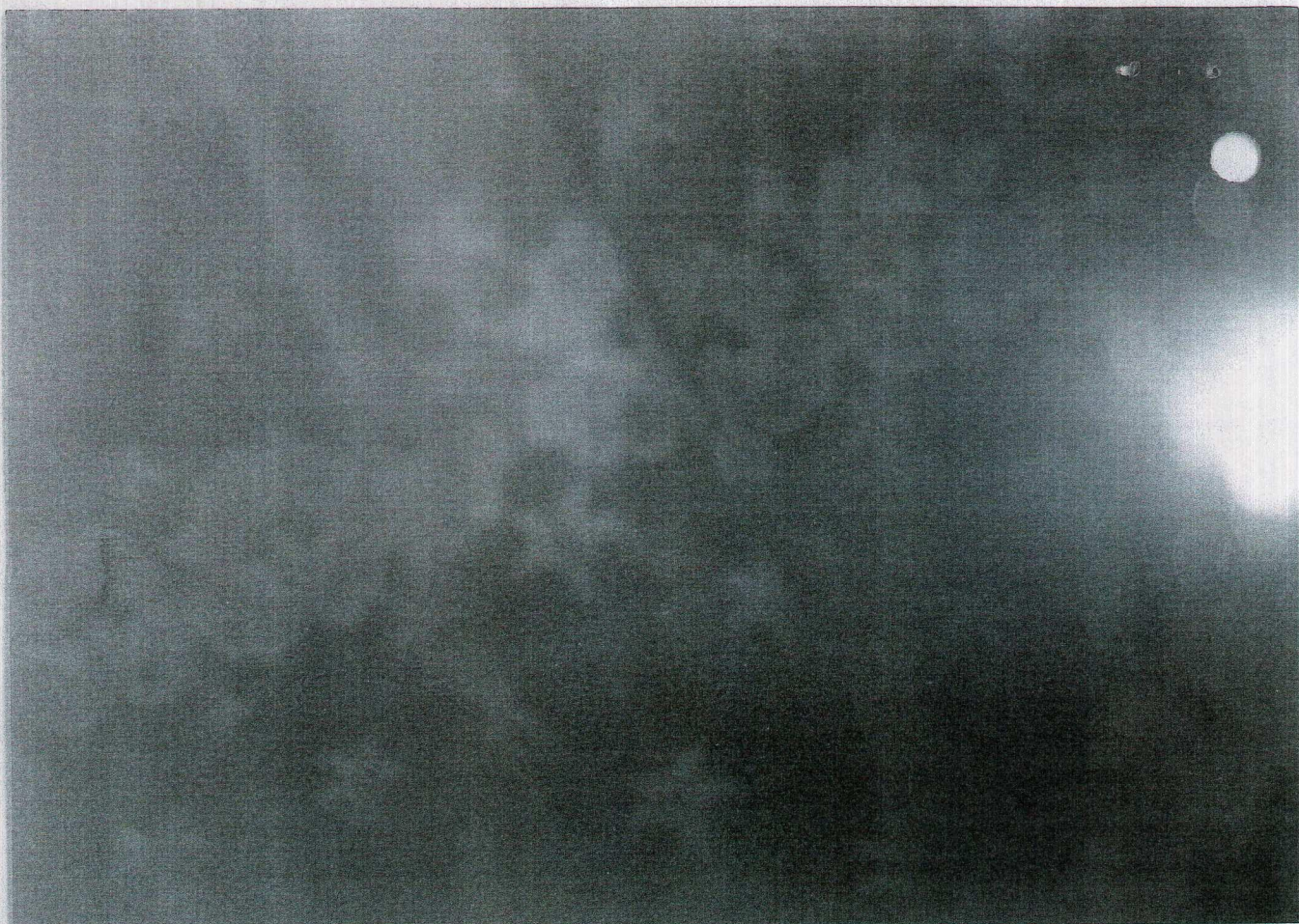


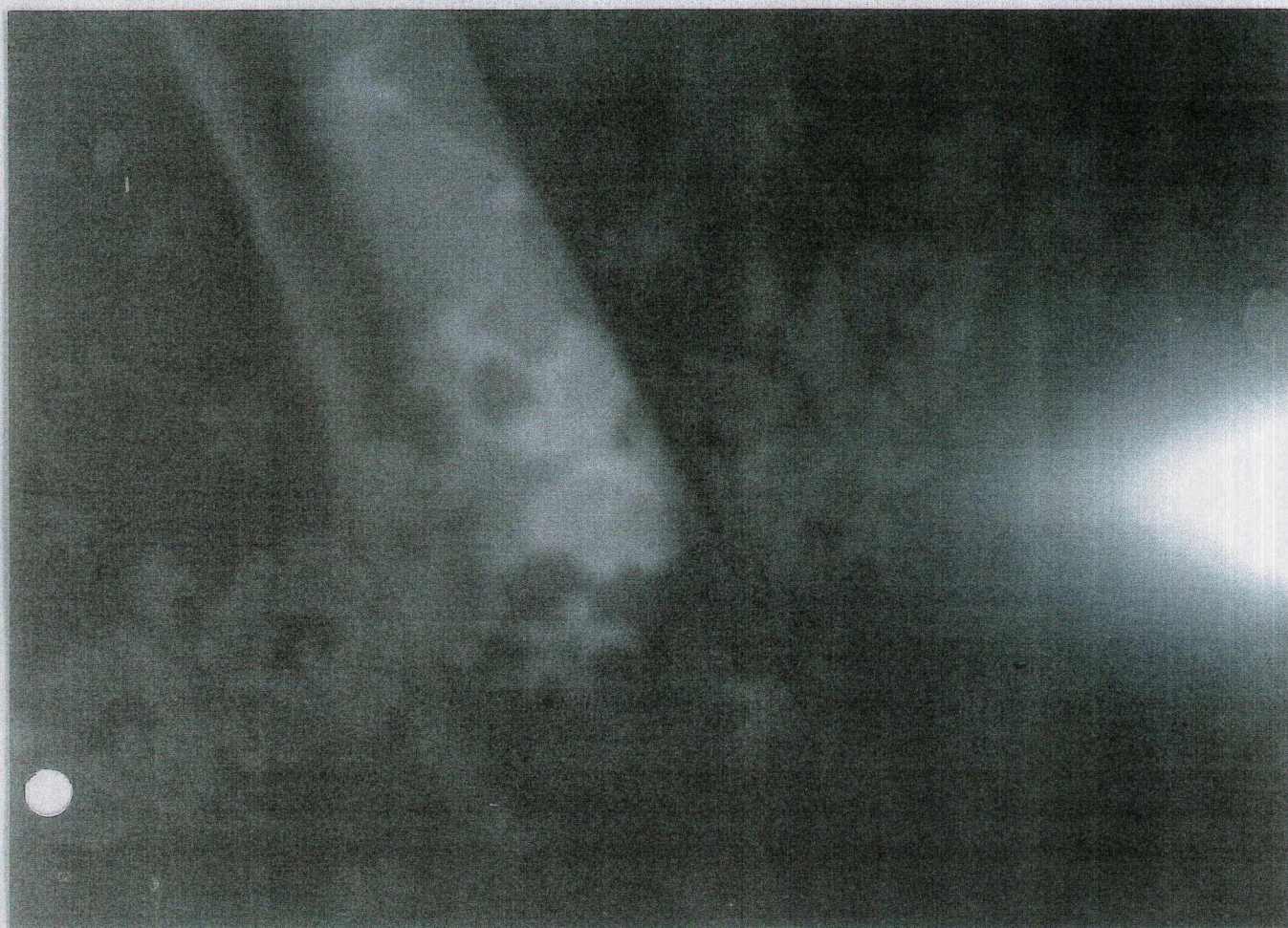






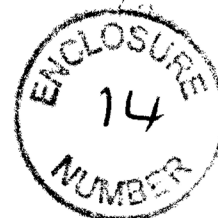








From: **Section 40**
Directorate of Air Staff - Freedom of Information
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
5th Floor, Zone H, Main Building, Whitehall, London SW1A 2HB



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

Section 40

Cwmbran
Gwent

Section 40

Our Reference
18-05-2007-105959-001

Date
18 May 2007

Dear **Section 40**

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request of 13 May 2007 asking for a map and building plans of the RAF Bentwaters and Woodbridge sites.

As I am sure you can imagine, both sites have a long history and any maps or plans would of course change over the years. I should be grateful therefore if you would clarify your request and let me know what time period you are interested in.

If you are unhappy with this response or you wish to complain about any aspect of the handling of your request, then you should contact me in the first instance. If informal resolution is not possible and you are still dissatisfied then you may apply for an independent internal review by contacting the Director of Information Exploitation, 6th Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB (e-mail Info-XD@mod.uk). Please note that any request for an internal review must be made within two calendar months of the date on which the attempt to reach informal resolution has come to an end.

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Yours sincerely,

Section 40

NOTE = NO RESPONSE HAS
BEEN RECEIVED TO DATE
DESPITE RECEIVING OTHER
FOI REQUESTS FROM **Section 40**

Section 40

THEREFORE THE REQUEST WAS
CLOSED BY THE TOOLKIT
ON 27 JUNE 07

Section 40

18-05-2007 - 105959-001
EXPIRY - 14 JUN 07

Section 40

Cwmbran
Gwent

Section 40

13th May 2007

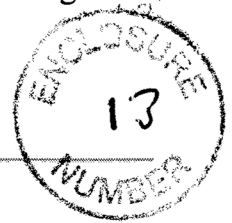
Dear Sir/Madam,

Under the Freedom of Information Act I am writing to request a map and building plans of the RAF Bentwaters and RAF Woodbridge sites. Many thanks.

Yours faithfully

Section 40

DAS	
102No.	
16 MAY 2007	
FILE	



Section 40

From: Section 40

Sent: 25 June 2007 16:15

To: Section 40

Subject: Internet-Authorised: FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST 25-06-2007-161221-003

Dear Section 40

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request of 9 May 2007 asking whether DAS UFO files would be subject to a wholesale release, whether the 2 year timescale quoted in the Daily Star is accurate and whether un-redacted files would be made available under the normal Public Records Act legislation. Additionally, you asked for copies of any internal and external discussion relating to the decision to release the UFO files. Finally, you asked whether the recent French release of their UFO records or the Guernsey incident on 23 April 2007 or the F-15 incident on 12 January 2007 had influenced the decision process regarding the release of UFO files.

The MoD is currently reviewing the status of UFO files held by DAS and DIS although no decision has been taken yet. Discussion papers relating any release of these files are withheld under exemption s.35 (Formulation of Government Policy) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

If you are unhappy with this response or you wish to complain about any aspect of the handling of your request, then you should contact me in the first instance. If informal resolution is not possible and you are still dissatisfied then you may apply for an independent internal review by contacting the Director of Information Exploitation, 6th Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB (e-mail Info-XD@mod.uk). Please note that any request for an internal review must be made within two calendar months of the date on which the attempt to reach informal resolution has come to an end.

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

Finally, please accept my apologies for the delay in responding to your request and I should like to thank you for your patience.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

DAS-FOI

Section 40

MoD Main Building
Whitehall
London
SW1A 2HB

25/06/2007

6 Jun 07

Section 40

From: Section 40
 Sent: 09 May 2007 19:03
 To: Section 40
 Subject: FoIA request - Release of records

Attachments: 2007-05-05 Daily Star.txt



2007-05-05 Daily
 Star.txt (2 K...

Hi

Section 40

There was a report in the "Daily Star" newspaper last Saturday which implied that DAS records will be released in addition to the wholesale release of DI55's UFO files. I attach a copy of the report.

I am aware that the DI55 files will be released, but I suspect that the Daily Star has confused this with the files held by DAS.

If that is the case, then many of the following questions will be superfluous, however, I submit the following questions under the terms of the FoIA:

1. Is the "Daily Star" article correct in that DAS files will also be subject to wholesale release? If not, is the possibility of such a release by DAS under consideration?
2. Is the 2-year timescale estimate correct in respect of either or both the DI55 and the DAS files?
3. Following the release of redacted files by either/both DI55 and DAS, will the unredacted files be made available under the usual Public Records Act legislation? (I am aware that DI55 have considered destroying the unredacted files following publication of the redacted versions, an action that I would strongly object to).
4. If DAS are considering or have considered such a wholesale release, please can I have copies of all internal and external correspondence in relation to the decision.
5. If DAS are considering or have considered such a wholesale release, was the French release of their files or the Guernsey incident of 23rd April, or the 12th January F-15 incidents an influencing factor? (one or more of these may not be covered in question 4).

Regards,

Section 40

Section 40

From: Section 40
Sent: 26 June 2007 10:41
To: Section 40
Subject: Release-Authorised: RE: FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST
25-06-2007-161221-003

Dear Section 40

Please accept my apologies for any confusion my e-mail may have caused. The MoD is currently discussing the release of its UFO files. To date no decision on the matter has been made. When a decision is made regarding their status (i.e. whether to release them or not), I will inform you.

Section 40

DAS-FOT

Section 40

MoD Main Building
Whitehall
London
SW1A 2HB

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

From: Section 40
Sent: 26 June 2007 07:07
To: Section 40
Subject: Re: FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST 25-06-2007-161221-003

Hello Section 40

The following phrase from your response is ringing a few alarm bells with me:

> The MoD is currently reviewing the status of UFO files held by DAS and
> DIS although no decision has been taken yet.

"reviewing the status" of the files sounds like rather more than simply considering if and how to manage the wholesale release of files. Please can you clarify what you mean by "reviewing the status"?

Regards,

Section 40

Section 40

From: Section 40
Sent: 26 June 2007 07:07
To: Section 40
Subject: Re: FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST 25-06-2007-161221-003

Hello Section 40

The following phrase from your response is ringing a few alarm bells with me:

> The MoD is currently reviewing the status of UFO files held by DAS and
> DIS although no decision has been taken yet.

"reviewing the status" of the files sounds like rather more than simply considering if and how to manage the wholesale release of files. Please can you clarify what you mean by "reviewing the status"?

Regards,

Section 40

Section 40

From: Section 40
Sent: 26 June 2007 04:02
To: Section 40
Subject: Re: FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST 25-06-2007-161221-003

Hi Section 40

Thank you for the response, but I have to say that I am disappointed that it has taken nearly 7 weeks to write the 45 salient words in the response.

I should have thought that the outcome of the request would have been arrived at very quickly, and that a response could have been sent within a week or two at the most, even allowing for how busy it has been.

Regards,

Section 40

12

AUTHORISATION FOR THE RELEASE OF INFORMATION

Applicant: **Section 40**

Case Number: 18-06-2007-113709-002 Expiry: 25 Jun 07

The Applicant has made the following request for information:

Copies of FOI requests that DAS have lead on relating to or mentioning **Section 40**
Section 40

Copies of documents relating to the handling of those requests.

Section 40 **Section 41**

Case for release of information

There is no reason to withhold the information. The names of living individuals mentioned (other than **Section 40**) have been redacted under exemption s.40 (Personal Information) Freedom Information Act together with addresses and telephone numbers.

Authorisation

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

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

Authorisation Reference Number: DAS-FOI 08/05.....

Date: 25/6/07



Section 40

From: Section 40
Sent: 25 June 2007 15:56
To: Section 40
Subject: Release-authorised: FOI REQUEST 18-06-2007-113709-002
Attachments: 2 Jan 07 FOI Request Crop Circles.mdi; 22 Nov 06 FOI Crop Circles.mdi; 27 Nov 06 FOI Request for UFO Files.mdi; FOIA.mdi; Information under FOIA.mdi; FOI IR.mdi

Dear Section 40

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request of 25 May 2007 which asked for copies of any FOI requests that mention Section 40 together with any response. Additionally, you asked for any documents relating to the consideration/staffing/handling of any such requests.

Section 40

Please find enclosed a number of FOI requests that mentioned Section 40 that DAS have lead on or been involved with. You will notice that names, addresses telephone numbers etc have been withheld in accordance with Exemption s.40 (Personal Information) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Any documents relating to the consideration/staffing or handling of these requests is withheld under Exemption s.35 (Formulation of government policy, etc.)

Section 40

If you are unhappy with this response or you wish to complain about any aspect of the handling of your request, then you should contact me in the first instance. If informal resolution is not possible and you are still dissatisfied then you may apply for an independent internal review by contacting the Director of Information Exploitation, 6th Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB (e-mail Info-XD@mod.uk). Please note that any request for an internal review must be made within 40 working days of the date on which the attempt to reach informal resolution has come to an end.

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

DAS-FOI
05-H: Section 40
MoD Main Building

25/06/2007

Whitehall
London
1A 2HB

Section 40

From: Section 40

Sent: 25 May 2007 13:21

To: Section 40

Subject: FOI Requests Mentioning Nick Pope

Section 40

1. Section 40 consulted me recently concerning an FOI request that related to me and involved the release of various emails that I'd written. I confirmed that I had no difficulty with the release. Shortly before I left the MoD I contributed to an FOI request that related to Section 40.

Section 40

- a. Send me copies of any FOI requests DAS have led on (or contributed to) that mention Section 40 together with any material released in response to such requests.
- b. Send me copies of any documents relating to the consideration/staffing/handling of any such requests.
- c. Section 40

Best wishes,

Section 40

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 29 November 2006 11:35

To: [REDACTED]

Cc: [REDACTED]

Subject: Internet-Authorised: 20061129 - Freedom of Information Internal Review

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your e-mail of 29 November 2006 in which you asked for an internal review of your request for all documents relating to UFOs (or any other terms with a similar meaning, eg UAP) held by the MoD produced during the tenure of Mr Nicholas Pope.

As your request was submitted to the Ministry of Defence it will be handled in accordance with the Department's appeal process. To this end the review will be conducted by the Directorate of Information Exploitation. The Directorate currently aims to complete reviews within 40 days of receipt of the application. The review will consist of a full, independent consideration of the final decision as well as a review of the handling of the case. Your letter was received by on 29 November 2006 and, therefore, we aim to send you the report of the review by 29 January 2007. Exceptionally, if it proves impossible to complete the review by the target date I will write to inform you of this with a revised date.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]
(signed electronically)

[REDACTED]
Info-AccessRevAD
MOD
6.E.01
Main Building
Whitehall
LONDON
SW1A 2HB

Tel: [REDACTED]
Fax: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

29/11/2006

[REDACTED]

REDACTED ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: [REDACTED]

29 November 2006 10:02
Info-XD

FOI REQUEST FOR UFO FILES 1991-94 27-11-2006-142921-002

Dear Director,

I submitted the following request to DAS:

--- start request ---

In the light of claims by Mr. Nicholas Pope who worked on the UFO desk between 1991 and 1994, I wish to submit the following request on the grounds of public interest:

All documents relating to UFOs (or any other terms with a similar meaning, eg UAP) held by the MoD produced during the tenure of Mr. Nicholas Pope.

The public interest has been stimulated to a large extent by Mr. Pope himself. He claims to have worked on something that he calls "The UFO Project" for the MoD. He further claims that he investigated crop circles, animal mutilations, and abductions in an official capacity during his tenure. He claims a wealth of photographic and radar evidence which he personally dealt with during his tenure. He claims to have spent a significant proportion of his time (in the order of 50%) on the topic while he was "in charge of" "the UFO Project". He also claims to have instigated the Condign Report by DI55.

This all appears to be inconsistent with the official position in respect of UFOs and I feel that the only way to demonstrate the accuracy or otherwise of his claims would be to release all of the documents pertinent to his tenure, including those originated by DI55.

I appreciate that this is a large task, and would certainly exceed the £600 limit stipulated under the FoIA, but it is my view that it is in the public interest to release the documents to clear up obvious discrepancies and ambiguities between Mr. Pope's description of his role and the official version. I also appreciate that at this time there is a resourcing issue within the FoIA section of DAS, and that it would take considerable time to provide the requested documents assuming that the release was agreed by the MoD. It would however probably diminish the number of requests for information pertaining to his period of tenure, thereby providing a longer term reduction of demand on resource.

I do not see any conflict between acceding to this request and privacy concerns relating to Mr. Pope, since Mr. Pope deliberately and consciously courts media publicity in relation to his past role (to the extent of describing himself as a "media tart" on occasion).

---- end ---

This was initially rejected by [REDACTED] on the grounds of cost. I then asked him to reconsider that decision, taking into account recent media coverage of the so-called "Cosford Incident" on Channel 5 television in which Mr. Pope featured heavily and made clear his view that this incident was definitely "of defence significance" in contradiction of the "official" position. I also pointed out recent newspaper articles based on Mr. Pope's resignation from the Civil Service which featured similar claims.

[REDACTED] responded, upholding his earlier decision and providing a valid rationale for doing so.

At this point, I would like to commend [REDACTED]. I understand that he is only temporarily covering the work previously carried out by [REDACTED]. In respect of this particular request, my original submission dated 19/10/06 went astray for some reason (quite possibly due to the vagaries of the internet), but Mr.

[REDACTED] responded to my follow-up enquiry extremely quickly and efficiently, mitigating any lost time resulting from the missing message. I am very grateful for this, and [REDACTED] deserves credit for it come his annual performance review!

Moving on to the reasons that I think my request merits further consideration:

1. No doubt Mr. Pope's media activities have been a thorn in the side for DAS due to consequent accusations and enquiries via House of Commons questions, FoIA requests, etc. Proactively releasing the requested information would reduce the scope for Mr. Pope to generate further such disruption and future enquiries could always be referred to the published documents.

2. Substantial parts of the material have already been released under the FoIA. I am aware that the data relating to the March 30th/31st events has been released to at least two researchers [REDACTED]. This highlights the fact that there is a duplication of effort on behalf of both the MoD and researchers, which would be overcome by publishing the material on-line, reducing the overall burden on the department. I anticipate that it would also be relatively easy to process the already released material for on-line access.

3. I am not insisting on immediate release of the requested documents, but I suggest a staged release over a period of 12 months. This would reduce the immediate impact on the department, and still produce some of the benefits of a proactive release.

I would like to add that I do not intend to take this request up with the Information Commissioner should my request for internal review result in denial. I am hoping that you will recognise the mutual advantages of the request and I fully understand the objections and recognise their validity, but think that the resultant reduction of effort would outweigh the immediate cost by an exponential factor.

Regards,
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: [REDACTED]

27 November 2006 18:44

Re: FOI REQUEST FOR UFO FILES 1991-94 27-11-2006-142921-002

Hello [REDACTED]

I appreciate that it is not your fault that that the original request went astray, but part of the blame for this must lie with the fact that your department does not routinely acknowledge receipt of requests. I would therefore appreciate it if you would acknowledge receipt of this email, even if it will be some time before you are able to respond fully.

I request that you reconsider your decision to refuse the request repeated below on the grounds of cost. I do not feel that due consideration of the grounds of public interest has been given, particularly in light of recent media coverage.

Since I originally sent this request, (19/10/06), there has been a television programme on 1/11/06 featuring Mr. Pope on Channel 5 presenting an image of events on 30/31 March 1993 that suggest that the MoD did not react to what he regarded as a real threat to national defence. There were numerous articles in the national press around 10/11/06 relating to Mr. Pope's departure from the MoD with quotes attributed to him such as:

"If you reported a UFO sighting now, I am absolutely sure that you would just get back a standard letter telling you not to worry." (London Metro, under the title "Alien threat after X-Files close")

"Alien craft probably have visited Britain - but the department probing them has virtually closed down, an expert warned yesterday. Nick Pope, who ran the MoD UFO project from 1991 to 1994 said despite 'credible' sightings witnesses are no longer being interviewed." (The Sun, under the title "ET Being Ignored!")

"If you believe these things are extra terrestrial craft then you cannot rule out that what is happening is some kind of covert reconnaissance." (Daily Mail, under the title "Aliens could attack at any time' warns former MoD chief")

All of this demonstrates the public interest, and the inconsistencies between his account of his tenure and the "official" account.

Regards,
[REDACTED]

--- start request ---

In the light of claims by Mr. Nicholas Pope who worked on the UFO desk between 1991 and 1994, I wish to submit the following request on the grounds of public interest:

All documents relating to UFOs (or any other terms with a similar meaning, eg UAP) held by the MoD produced during the tenure of Mr. Nicholas Pope.

The public interest has been stimulated to a large extent by Mr. Pope himself. He claims to have worked on something that he calls "The UFO Project" for the MoD. He further claims that he investigated crop circles, animal mutilations, and abductions in an official capacity during his tenure. He claims a wealth of photographic and radar evidence which he personally dealt with during his tenure. He claims to have spent a significant proportion of his time (in the order of 50%) on the topic while he was "in charge of" "the UFO Project". He also claims to have instigated the Condign Report by DI55.

This all appears to be inconsistent with the official position in respect of UFOs and I feel that the only way to demonstrate the accuracy or otherwise of his claims would be to release all of the documents pertinent to his tenure, including those originated by DI55.

I appreciate that this is a large task, and would certainly exceed the £600 limit stipulated under the FoIA, but it is my view that it is in the public interest to release the documents to clear up obvious discrepancies and ambiguities between Mr. Pope's description of his role and the official version. I also appreciate that at this time there is a resourcing issue within the FoIA section of DAS, and that it would take considerable time to provide the requested documents assuming that the release was agreed by the MoD. It would however probably diminish the number of requests for information pertaining to his period of tenure, thereby providing a longer term reduction of demand on resource.

I do not see any conflict between acceding to this request and privacy concerns relating to Mr. Pope, since Mr. Pope deliberately and consciously courts media publicity in relation to his past role (to the extent of describing himself as a "media tart" on occasion).

----- end -----

[REDACTED] wrote:

> Dear [REDACTED]
>
>
>
> Thank you for your e-mail of 27 November 2006 seeking the release of
> all documents relating to UFOs (or other terms with a similar meaning)
> covering the period in 1991-1994 when Mr Nick Pope worked on the UFO
> desk. I can confirm that, prior today, this branch had not seen your
> request.
>
> As you expected, the task would far exceed the permitted £600 limit
> set for compliance with the Freedom of Information Act and, as
> provided by Section 12 of the Act, the MoD is not obliged to comply
> with your request. However, if you can refine your request to deal
> with a specific aspect of the documentation, we will consider whether
> we will be able to assist you further.
>
> If you are unhappy with the response or wish to complain about any
> aspect of the handling of this request, then you should contact the
> undersigned in the first instance. Should you remain dissatisfied,
> then you may apply for an internal review by contacting the Director
> of Information Exploitation, 6th Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall,
> SW1A 2HB (e-mail:
> Info-XD@mod.uk).
>
> If you are still unhappy following an internal review, you may take
> your complaint to the Information Commissioner under the provisions of
> Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act.
> Please note that the Information Commissioner will not normally
> investigate your case until the MOD internal review process has been
> completed. Further details of the role and powers of the Information
> Commissioner can be found on the Commissioner's website,
> <http://www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk>
> <<http://www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk>> .
>
> [REDACTED]
> DAS Sec 1
> 05-H- [REDACTED] Section 40
> MoD Main Building
> Whitehall
> London
> SW1A 2HB

[REDACTED ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT]

[REDACTED]
From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 29 November 2006 09:04

To: [REDACTED]

Subject: Internet-Authorised:REVIEW OF FOI REQUEST 27-11-2006-142921-002

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your e-mail of 27 November requesting I reconsider my decision not to release all documents held by the MoD on the subject of UFOs between 1991 and 1994.

You have asked that I reconsider the decision on the basis of public interest in the matter, following Nick Pope's recent appearances in the media. I am sure that members of the public are interested in the topic of UFOs and indeed this branch corresponds with members of the public, like yourself, on the subject on a daily basis. However, I am afraid that I must return to my previous position.

I estimate that there are roughly 40 files relating to UFOs emanating from this office for the period in question. The task of reading them, assuming each file is only 100 pages thick, would probably take, at an average of one minute per page, in the region of 60 plus hours. This would not include any time taken to consider the contents, to consult with other branches, to redact the documents if necessary and then to release them to you. I should emphasise that I view this estimate to be a conservative one, and it is quite possible that the actual amount of time required to complete your request would be considerably longer. As I have demonstrated, working on a basis of manpower costs of £25 per hour, the costs would exceed the permitted £600 limit set for compliance with the Freedom of Information Act and as provided by Section 12 of the Act, the Ministry of Defence is not obliged to comply with your request. Nor is this section resourced to undertake the work meeting your request in full would generate, which would in effect, probably close the section to all work other than your request for some weeks.

That having been said, the MoD is certainly willing to consider a more limited release of documentation from this period if you would refine your request. You may, for instance, like to consider a particular topic or a specific (and much shorter, more manageable) time period.

If you are dissatisfied with this response, you may apply for an internal review by contacting the Director of Information Exploitation, 6th Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB (e-mail: Info-XD@mod.uk).

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

I am sorry I could not provide you with the response you are looking for.

[REDACTED]
DAS Sec 1
05-H-**Section 40**
MoD Main Building

29/11/2006

Whitehall
London
VIA 2HB

[REDACTED] Def PR Co-ord



defence

DGMC, Ministry of Defence

Zone A, Level 1, Main Building, Whitehall, London

Tel: [REDACTED]

30 May 2007

Dear [REDACTED]

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION UNDER FOIA

I refer to your e-mail of 11 April to [REDACTED] requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act relating to Mr N Pope in which you asked for information in respect of MOD internal discussions, policy and briefings surrounding Mr Pope's statements to the media on UFOs and the clearance of Mr Pope's book "Open Skies, Closed Minds".

In common with all MOD civilians and Service personnel seeking to publish books based on their official experience or duties and to take part in subsequent media appearances, Mr Pope was obliged to follow the procedures for seeking permission to speak in public, to lecture or write for publication. These rules are set out in Annex M to Volume 7 of the MOD Personnel Manual and additional guidance to staff is provided through a general Defence Council Instruction, (DCI Gen 200/2004). Copies of these documents are enclosed for your information. You will note that the granting of permission to publish does not confer official endorsement of the text – of either its factual content nor the opinions or views expressed therein - and this should be made clear to publishers. Furthermore, Mr Pope was not writing in an official capacity, but as a private citizen. Accordingly, the views and opinions expressed in Mr Pope's books are entirely his alone.

I can confirm that Mr Pope followed the procedure for clearing material for publication and the MOD holds information relevant to your request relating to the clearance of Mr Pope's book. This consists of Mr Pope's original manuscripts, internal correspondence/exchanges within the department and information relating to Mr Pope's media appearances. With regard to documents reflecting Mr Pope's media activities, I should inform you that although Mr Pope has frequently expressed his views on UFO matters in the media, he did so in a private capacity. He has never been authorised to speak on behalf of the MOD, and any interpretation he chose to put on these alleged events was entirely his own. We are satisfied that Mr. Pope's media comments, while drawing on his official experiences, did not compromise security or breach any regulations regarding the release of information. Mr Pope was not therefore required to formally clear his media activities, but he did alert the MOD of media appearances he intended to make.

Having now carefully examined the information we have, and in the light of the advice we have received, we have concluded that all the relevant material we hold falls either under Section 40 (Personal Information) or Section 36 (Prejudice to the Effective Conduct of Public Affairs) of the Freedom of Information Act. We also consider that the following exemption applies to some of the material we hold: Section 41 (Information Provided in Confidence). In some cases, these exemptions apply cumulatively. The ways in which we consider that these exemptions apply is set out in more detail below.

Mr Pope's original manuscripts are withheld under Section 40 of the Freedom of Information Act as Mr Pope wrote them in his personal capacity. They therefore form part of his personal data to which Section 40 applies and we consider that disclosure of this material would breach the data protection principle that personal information should be processed fairly. Section 40 is an absolute exemption.

Section 36 also applies to the manuscripts, to prevent the release into the public domain of material that we have asked one of our own employees not to make public. To do otherwise would undermine the clearance procedure. The procedure for submitting and examining manuscripts is conducted "in confidence" involving only those MOD employees who have a professional interest in the subject matter. As such, Section 41 also applies as Mr Pope had a reasonable expectation that the manuscripts were given to the Department "in confidence" for the purpose of determining their fitness for publication. Furthermore, in submitting his manuscripts for clearance, Mr Pope might reasonably expect them to form part of the employer/ employee relationship giving rise to the common law duty of confidentiality.

As part of the routine clearance procedure, the manuscripts generated internal discussion between officials and communication with Mr Pope and his line managers about their content. Some of this information is withheld under Section 40 as it is personal to Mr Pope whilst some is withheld under Section 36(2)(b) and (c). Section 36 applies because the material contains a free and frank exchange of views about editing the manuscripts. Records of internal discussions, where they exist, about Mr Pope's statements and media appearances are also exempt for the same reasons.

We have considered whether it would be possible to redact the information that is being withheld in order to provide you with some material. However, we have concluded that as so much of the material is covered by the exemptions listed above, extraction would not be straightforward and would not leave any meaningful text, or would make the documents incomprehensible.

We do, of course, recognise that it is in the public interest to know that Civil Servants do not abuse their position, and we are content that the proper procedures are in place to safeguard against this. We have undertaken a balancing exercise to consider whether the public interest is better served by disclosure or by non-disclosure. We firmly believe that the latter applies in this instance, not just in this particular case but in order to preserve the integrity and effectiveness of the clearance procedure itself.

If you are unhappy with this reply or you wish to complain about any aspect of the handling of your request, then you should contact the undersigned in the first instance. Should you remain dissatisfied, then you may apply for an MOD internal review by contacting the

Director of Information Exploitation,
6th floor,
MOD Main Building,
Whitehall,
London
SW1A 2HB.

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

Yours sincerely,



Defence Public Relations Co-ord
Directorate General Media & Communication

[REDACTED]

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

11 April 2007

FOI Request

Dear [REDACTED]

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.

All 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.

REDACTED ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT

Yours Faithfully,

[REDACTED]

Title: [REDACTED]

Person_Title: [REDACTED]

First_Name: [REDACTED]

Surname: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT]

Organisation:

Applicant_Type: Not Specified

Address_Line_1:

Address_Line_2:

Address_Line_3:

TownCity:

Postcode:

Country: United Kingdom

Email: [REDACTED]

Telephone:

Fax:

Request_Details: I'd like to make an application under the FOIA for the following materials:

Any and all materials pertaining to:

1. Nick Pope's statements to the media regarding UFOs
2. MOD internal discussions surrounding the writing, research or release of his books Open Skies, Closed Minds and The Uninvited.

I made a similar (but not the same) application in 2003, which was rejected. However, this was before the FOIA came into force. Should you determine that the above request is again refused I will appeal to the next level.

Pope was and still is a public employee, employed by the MOD. The fact that the documents will name him is immaterial because his books are in the public domain and were written (allegedly) using information he gleaned whilst working on the 'UFO Desk'. He has made money and notoriety from his position as a public employee and as such I believe the public have a right to know how the MOD has dealt with his books and public statements, especially as these contradict official MOD policy on UFOs.

I trust that this application will be processed within the usual timescales and I look forward to receiving your reply.

Case_Number: 27-07-2005-123522-008

Originator: [REDACTED]

User_Group: GxAITESTDGMCTOG

Date_Received: 25/07/2005

Date_Due: 10/11/2005

Status: Authorise closing of Apply Exemptions Closed

Responder: [REDACTED]



defence

REDACTED ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT

DGMC, Ministry of Defence

Zone A, Level 1, Main Building, Whitehall, London

6 February 2006

Dear [REDACTED]

Reference: 27-07-2005 123522-008

I refer to your e-mail of 28 September to [REDACTED] requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act relating to Mr N Pope, and our holding reply of 31 October 2005. You asked for information on Mr Pope's statements to the media on UFOs and material relating to the MOD internal discussions surrounding the clearance of Mr Pope's books "Open Skies, Closed Minds" and "The Uninvited".

I am sorry for the delay in replying to you but we have had to take advice on the application of the Data Protection Act and the Freedom of Information Act in this case.

In common with all MOD civilians and Service personnel seeking to publish books based on their official experience or duties and to take part in subsequent media appearances, Mr Pope was obliged to follow the procedures for seeking permission to speak in public, to lecture or write for publication. These rules are set out in Annex M to Volume 7 of the MOD Personnel Manual and additional guidance to staff is provided through a general Defence Council Instruction, (DCI Gen 200 2004). Copies of these documents are enclosed for your information. You will note that the granting of permission to publish does not confer official endorsement of the text – of either its factual content nor the opinions or views expressed therein - and this should be made clear to publishers. Furthermore, Mr Pope was not writing in an official capacity, but as a private citizen. Accordingly, the views and opinions expressed in Mr Pope's books are entirely his alone.

I can confirm that Mr Pope followed the procedure for clearing material for publication and the MOD holds information relevant to your request relating to the clearance of Mr Pope's books. This consists of Mr Pope's original manuscripts, internal correspondence/exchanges within the department and information relating to Mr Pope's media appearances. With regard to documents reflecting Mr Pope's media activities, I should inform you that although Mr Pope frequently expresses his views on UFO matters in the media, he does so in a private capacity. He is not and never has been authorised to speak on behalf of the MOD, and any interpretation he chooses to put on these alleged events is entirely his own. We are satisfied that Mr. Pope's media comments, while drawing on his official experiences, do not compromise security or breach any regulations regarding the release of information. Mr Pope is not therefore required to formally clear his media activities, but he does alert the MOD of media appearances he intends to make.

COMMUNICATING DEFENCE



defence

DGMC, Ministry of Defence

Zone A, Level 1, Main Building, Whitehall, London

REDACTED ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT

Having now carefully examined the information we have, and in the light of the advice we have received, we have concluded that all the relevant material we hold falls either under Section 40 (Personal Information) or Section 36 (Prejudice to the Effective Conduct of Public Affairs) of the Freedom of Information Act. We also consider that the following exemption applies to some of the material we hold: Section 41 (Information Provided in Confidence). In some cases, these exemptions apply cumulatively. The ways in which we consider these exemptions apply is set out in more detail below.

Mr Pope's original manuscripts are withheld under Section 40 of the Freedom of Information Act as Mr Pope wrote them in his personal capacity. They therefore form part of his personal data to which Section 40 applies and we consider that disclosure of this material would breach the data protection principle that personal information should be processed fairly. Section 40 is an absolute exemption.

Section 36 also applies to the manuscripts, to prevent the release into the public domain of material that we have asked one of our own employees not to make public. To do otherwise would undermine the clearance procedure. The procedure for submitting and examining manuscripts is conducted "in confidence" involving only those MOD employees who have a professional interest in the subject matter. As such, Section 41 also applies as Mr Pope had a reasonable expectation that the manuscripts were given to the Department "in confidence" for the purpose of determining their fitness for publication. Furthermore, in submitting his manuscripts for clearance, Mr Pope might reasonably expect them to form part of the employer/employee relationship giving rise to the common law duty of confidentiality.

As part of the routine clearance procedure, the manuscripts generated internal discussion between officials and communication with Mr Pope and his line managers about their content. Some of this information is withheld under Section 40 as it is personal to Mr Pope whilst some is withheld under Section 36(2)(b) and (c). Section 36 applies because the material contains a free and frank exchange of views about editing the manuscripts. Records of internal discussions, where they exist, about Mr Pope's statements and media appearances are also exempt for the same reasons.

We have considered whether it would be possible to redact the information that is being withheld in order to provide you with some material. However, we have concluded that as so much of the material is covered by the exemptions listed above, extraction would not be straightforward and would not leave any meaningful text, or would make the documents incomprehensible.

We do, of course, recognise that it is in the public interest to know that Civil Servants do not abuse their position, and we are content that the proper procedures are in place to safeguard against this. We have undertaken a balancing exercise to consider whether the public interest is better served by disclosure or by non-disclosure. We firmly believe that the latter applies in this

COMMUNICATING DEFENCE



defence

REDACTED ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT

DGMC, Ministry of Defence

Zone A, Level 1, Main Building, Whitehall, London

[REDACTED]

instance, not just in this particular case but in order to preserve the integrity and effectiveness of the clearance procedure itself.

If you are unhappy with this reply or you wish to complain about any aspect of the handling of your request, then you should contact the undersigned in the first instance. Should you remain dissatisfied, then you may apply for an MOD internal review by contacting the

Director of Information Exploitation,
6th Floor,
MOD Main Building,
Whitehall,
London SW1A 2HB.

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

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Corporate Identity Co-ord
Defence Public Relations
Directorate General Media & Communication

COMMUNICATING DEFENCE

[REDACTED]
REDACTED ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT**From:** [REDACTED]**Sent:** 02 January 2007 09:56**To:** [REDACTED]**Subject:** Internet-Authorised: FOI REQUEST 02-01-2007-093128-001 - CROP CIRCLES

Dear [REDACTED]

Your Freedom of Information request of 17 December 2006 and your follow up requests of 20 December 2006 asked for details of the file opened by Nick Pope during the period 1991-94 on the subject of crop circles. The MoD can find no record of such a file having been created.

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

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

I apologise for what must be a disappointing response.

[REDACTED]
DAS Sec 1
05-H-**Section 40**
MoD Main Building
Whitehall
London
SW1A 2HB

02/01/2007

From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: FOI written request

This is the second of two.

-----Original Message-----
From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 20 December 2006 11:50
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: FOI written request

Thanks

Another email to follow on this subject in a few moments.

Regards

[REDACTED]
FOI Helpdesk

-----Original Message-----
From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 20 December 2006 11:45
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: FOI written request

Ok, shall take the request.

-----Original Message-----
From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 19 December 2006 06:34
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: FOI written request

[REDACTED]
I trust that you want to tie this email up with the request I sent to you yesterday.

Regards

[REDACTED]
FOI Helpdesk

-----Original Message-----
From: feedback@www.mod.uk [mailto:feedback@www.mod.uk]
Sent: 19 December 2006 00:22
To: Info-Access-Office
Subject: FOI written request

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted on Tuesday, December 19, 2006 at 00:22:00

txttitle: Mr

txtfirstname: [REDACTED]

txtlastname: [REDACTED]

txtoccupation: [REDACTED]

txtorganisation: [REDACTED]

txtaddress1: [REDACTED]

txtaddress2: [REDACTED]

txttowncity: [REDACTED]

REDACTED ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT

txtstatecountry: [REDACTED]

txtzipcodepostcode: [REDACTED]

txtcountry: UK

txtemailAddress: [REDACTED]

txttelephone: [REDACTED]

txtinforequest: Yesterday I recieved an email in responce to my Freedom of information request regarding a file which was opened by Nick Pope on crop circles. I have recived an email from Mr Pope stating this; "I can't recall exactly when I opened the file, but it wasn't a big one, so I recommend you try a request for all documents MOD holds on crop circles, then narrow it down by year or by some other factor if they say it's too wide a request." He opened this file between 1991-1994 as he would not have had the authority to open a subsequently closed file after his tour of duty in Department 2A.

I have been assured he opened this small file, are you stating for the record that no such file exists? If this is the case then either Nick Pope is lying to me or the MOD are, or cannot locate a file which should be easy to find. I have the email in full format if the MOD which to view it.

Regards

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 22 June 2007 13:15
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: FOI written request

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

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 20 December 2006 11:51
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: FOI written request

Yet another message from [REDACTED]

Regards

[REDACTED]
FOI Helpdesk

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

From: feedback@www.mod.uk [mailto:feedback@www.mod.uk]
Sent: 19 December 2006 23:09
To: Info-Access-Office
Subject: FOI written request

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted on Tuesday, December 19, 2006 at 23:08:36

txttitle: [REDACTED]
txtfirstname: [REDACTED]
txtlastname: [REDACTED]
txtoccupation: [REDACTED]
txtorganisation: [REDACTED]
txtaddress1: [REDACTED]
txtaddress2: [REDACTED]
txttowncity: [REDACTED]
txtstatecountry: [REDACTED]
txtzipcodepostcode: [REDACTED]
txtcountry: [REDACTED]
txtemailAddress: [REDACTED]

txtinforequest: Further to speaking with Nick Pope again regarding the file he opened on crop circles I would like to make a final request for information from the MOD. The file was opened somewhere in the period 1991 to 1994, so unless anything further happened after he left in 1994, that's the period to search. The file was simply called "Crop Circles" and was in the 12 series of files, i.e. the reference began "D/Sec(AS)/12/".

Please Can you locate this file for me? What does it contain and when exactly was it opened?

Many thanks

REDACTED ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT

Best wishes

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
REDACTED ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 22 November 2006 09:16
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Internet-Authorised: FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT - CROP CIRCLES - 17-11-2006-130847-004

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request of 17 November 2006 requesting a copy of the file opened by Nick Pope on crop circles and your further request for information on military involvement with crop circles in the last ten years in the county of Wiltshire.

To the best of my knowledge, the Ministry of Defence holds no files specifically related to crop circles. There is no evidence to suggest that crop circles are caused by anything of military concern and the MoD does not therefore investigate reported sightings or carry out any research into them. Members of the public do sometimes associate crop circles with UFOs and write to the MoD (and more specifically this branch) about them. No separate record is kept of them and they are filed in the order they are received on our usual UFO files.

The only way to identify information about crop circles in Wiltshire would be to go through our files for the period 1996-2006 manually. As we hold over 30 files for this period, the task would far exceed the permitted £600 limit set for compliance with the Freedom of Information Act and, as provided by Section 12 of the Act, the MoD is not obliged to comply with your request. However, if you could express a shorter period of interest (I would suggest one year) we could conduct a limited search of our records.

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

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

[REDACTED]
DAS Sec 1
05-H-**Section 40**
MoD Main Building
Whitehall
London
SW1A 2HB

22/11/2006

From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: [REDACTED]

17 November 2006 13:10

FW: FOI written request 17-11-2006-130847-004 [REDACTED]

EXPIRY DATE 15 DEC 06

Can you take?

Thanks.

Info-AccessOps5

Main Building

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

From: feedback@www.mod.uk [mailto:feedback@www.mod.uk]

Sent: 17 November 2006 13:02

To: Info-Access-Office

Subject: FOI written request 17-11-2006-130847-004 [REDACTED]

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted on Friday, November 17, 2006 at 13:01:54

txttitle: Mr

txtfirstname: [REDACTED]

txtlastname: [REDACTED]

txtoccupation: [REDACTED]

txtorganisation: [REDACTED]

txtaddress1: [REDACTED]

txtaddress2: [REDACTED]

txttowncity: [REDACTED]

txtstatecountry: [REDACTED]

txtzipcodepostcode: [REDACTED]

txtcountry: UK

txtemailAddress: [REDACTED]

txtinforequest: I would like to see a copy of the file that was opened on crop circles by Nick Pope whilst he worked on department 2A between the years of 1991-1994. I have searched on the MOD website for any information on crop circles and have not found any. I would like to know if it would be possible to purchase this file that was opened on crop circles but then subsequently closed.

I would also like to request any information that is not in the public domain of

military involvement with crop circles in the last 10 years in the county of Wiltshire where several army helicopters have been seen hovering over crop circle formations.



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

Sent: 27 November 2006 14:42

To:

Subject: Internet-Authorised: FOI REQUEST FOR UFO FILES 1991-94 27-11-2006-142921-002

Dear

Thank you for your e-mail of 27 November 2006 seeking the release of all documents relating to UFOs (or other terms with a similar meaning) covering the period in 1991–1994 when Mr Nick Pope worked on the UFO desk. I can confirm that, prior today, this branch had not seen your request.

As you expected, the task would far exceed the permitted £600 limit set for compliance with the Freedom of Information Act and, as provided by Section 12 of the Act, the MoD is not obliged to comply with your request. However, if you can refine your request to deal with a specific aspect of the documentation, we will consider whether we will be able to assist you further.

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

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

DAS Sec 1
05-H-**Section 40**
MoD Main Building
Whitehall
London
SW1A 2HB

27-11-2006-142921-002

From: [REDACTED] on behalf of DAS-UFO-Office
 Sent: 27 November 2006 11:39
 To: [REDACTED]
 Subject: FW: FoIA Request 1991-1994 (public interest)

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

From: [REDACTED]
 Sent: 27 November 2006 10:42
 To: DAS-UFO-Office
 Subject: Re: FoIA Request 1991-1994 (public interest)

Hello,

Please can you confirm whether or not you have received the following request, and if so, if any decision has yet been reached about it? (2)

Regards,

> Hello,
 >
 > In the light of claims by Mr. Nicholas Pope who worked on the UFO desk
 > between 1991 and 1994, I wish to submit the following request on the
 > grounds of public interest:
 >
 > All documents relating to UFOs (or any other terms with a similar (1)
 > meaning, eg UAP) held by the MoD produced during the tenure of Mr.
 > Nicholas Pope.
 >
 > The public interest has been stimulated to a large extent by Mr.
 > Pope himself. He claims to have worked on something that he calls "The
 > UFO Project" for the MoD. He further claims that he investigated crop
 > circles, animal mutilations, and abductions in an official capacity
 > during his tenure. He claims a wealth of photographic and radar
 > evidence which he personally dealt with during his tenure. He claims
 > to have spent a significant proportion of his time (in the order of
 > 50%) on the topic while he was "in charge of" "the UFO Project". He
 > also claims to have instigated the Condign Report by DI55.
 >
 > This all appears to be inconsistent with the official position in
 > respect of UFOs and I feel that the only way to demonstrate the
 > accuracy or otherwise of his claims would be to release all of the
 > documents pertinent to his tenure, including those originated by DI55.
 >
 > I appreciate that this is a large task, and would certainly exceed the
 > £600 limit stipulated under the FoIA, but it is my view that it is in
 > the public interest to release the documents to clear up obvious
 > discrepancies and ambiguities between Mr.
 > Pope's description of his role and the official version. I also
 > appreciate that at this time there is a resourcing issue within the
 > FoIA section of DAS, and that it would take considerable time to
 > provide the requested documents assuming that the release was agreed
 > by the MoD. It would however probably diminish the number of requests
 > for information pertaining to his period of tenure, thereby providing
 > a longer term reduction of demand on resource.
 >
 > I do not see any conflict between acceding to this request and privacy
 > concerns relating to Mr. Pope, since Mr. Pope deliberately and
 > consciously courts media publicity in relation to his past role (to
 > the extent of describing himself as a "media tart" on occasion).
 >
 > If you require evidence of public interest in such a request, I am
 > sure that I can provide it through a poll of members on a mail list

> administered by myself for people interested in UK ufology, and at
> relevant websites operated by other interested parties. I am also
> confident that I could secure the support of named television and
> newspaper journalists in such an endeavour. Please advise if you
> require such evidence of public interest and I will endeavour to
> provide it to you. ③

> Regards,

>
>
>
>

REDACTED ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT

Section 40

From: Section 40
Sent: 25 June 2007 23:34
To: Section 40
Subject: Re: FOI REQUEST 18-06-2007-113709-002

Section 40

Thanks for this. Unfortunately, the attachments aren't in a format that my computer is able to read, so I'd be grateful if you'd send hard copies to the following address:

Section 40

London

Section 40

Once I've had a chance to read and digest the material I'll return to the issue of consultation in respect of any FOI requests that mention me or involve the release of documents that mention me.

Best wishes,

Section 40

Done
Section 40
26/6/07

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

From: Section 40
To: Section 40
Sent: Monday, June 25, 2007 3:56 PM
Subject: FOI REQUEST 18-06-2007-113709-002

Dear Mr Pope,

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request of 25 May 2007 which asked for copies of any FOI requests that mention you, together with any response. Additionally, you asked for any documents relating to the consideration/staffing/handling of any such requests. Finally you asked if the MoD would confirm that you would be consulted on any future FOI requests that mention you or involve the release of documents that mention you.

Please find enclosed a number of FOI requests that mentioned you that DAS have lead on or been involved with. You will notice that names, addresses telephone numbers etc have been withheld in accordance with Exemption s.40 (Personal Information) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Any documents relating to the consideration/staffing or handling of these requests is withheld under Exemption s.35 (Formulation of government policy, etc.)

I am unable to confirm that you will be consulted on any future requests that mention you, or involve the release of documents that mention you. Whilst I can understand your desire to see information relating to your private activities in the media, I cannot accept that it is appropriate for you to be consulted on any document that might mention your name. As a result of your media activities and the publication of your book "Open Skies, Closed Minds" it is not unusual for members the public to mention your name in correspondence and, in the three years you worked in Sec(AS), you will have written hundreds of documents that contain your name. It would not be acceptable, or in the spirit of the Freedom of Information Act, to delay any response to the public whilst we consult with you.

26/06/2007

If you are unhappy with this response or you wish to complain about any aspect of the handling of your request, then you should contact me in the first instance. If informal resolution is not possible and you are still dissatisfied then you may apply for an independent internal review by contacting the Director of Information Exploitation, 6th Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB (e-mail Info-XD@mod.uk). Please note that any request for an internal review must be made within 40 working days of the date on which the attempt to reach informal resolution has come to an end.

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

DAS-FOI
05-H-**Section 40**
MoD Main Building
Whitehall
London
SW1A 2HB

Section 40

From: Section 40

Sent: 18 June 2007 09:19

To: Section 40

Subject: Release-authorised: FOI REQUESTS MENTIONING NICK POPE

Dear Mr Pope,

Thank you for your e-mail of 25 May 2007 relating to FOI requests that have mentioned you. I hope to be in a position to respond shortly.

Please accept my apologies for the delay.

Section 40

DAS-FOI

05-H Section 40

MoD Main Building

Whitehall

London

SW1A 2HB

18/06/2007

Section 40

From: Section 40
Sent: 25 May 2007 13:21
To: Section 40
Subject: FOI Requests Mentioning Nick Pope



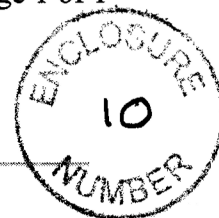
Section 40

1. Section 40 consulted me recently concerning an FOI request that related to me and involved the release of various emails that I'd written. I confirmed that I had no difficulty with the release. Shortly before I left the MoD I contributed to an FOI request that related to my role in D Def Sy.
2. It occurs to me that similar requests may be made to DAS. Clearly I'd wish to be aware of any such requests and be consulted on the handling, both as a professional courtesy and to ensure I'm content that any release protects my position under Section 40 (Personal Information) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, and under the Data Protection Act.
3. I'm sure that DAS would be mindful of the above points and would have consulted me had any similar requests been received, but in case anything has slipped through the net would you please:
 - a. Send me copies of any FOI requests DAS have led on (or contributed to) that mention me, together with any material released in response to such requests.
 - b. Send me copies of any documents relating to the consideration/staffing/handling of any such requests.
 - c. Confirm that I'll be consulted on any future FOI requests that mention me, or involve the release of documents that mention me.

Best wishes,

Nick Pope

07/06/2007

**Section 40****From:** **Section 40****Sent:** 07 June 2007 10:12**To:** **Section 40****Subject:** Release-authorised: FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST - UFO TORQUAY 1967 - 06-06-2007-065119-004Dear **Section 40**

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request of 6 June 2007 asking for details of a UFO sighting on 28 April 1967 over Torquay.

Given the length of time since the alleged incident, the Ministry of Defence no longer holds "UFO" files for the period in question. Before 1967 all "UFO" files were destroyed after five years, as there was insufficient public interest in the subject to merit their permanent retention. However since 1967, following an increase in public interest in this subject, "UFO" report files are now routinely preserved. Files for 1967 to 1984, and any files prior to 1967 which did survive, are now available for examination at The National Archives, Ruskin Avenue, Kew, Richmond, Surrey, TW9 4DU, Telephone: 0208 876 3444. Details of how to access these records and The National Archives on line catalogue can be found on their website at <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk>.

If you are unhappy with this response or you wish to complain about any aspect of the handling of your request, then you should contact me in the first instance. If informal resolution is not possible and you are still dissatisfied then you may apply for an independent internal review by contacting the Director of Information Exploitation, 6th Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB (e-mail Info-XD@mod.uk). Please note that any request for an internal review must be made within 40 working days of the date on which the attempt to reach informal resolution has come to an end.

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

DAS-FOI

05-H: **Section 40**

MoD Main Building

Whitehall

London

SW1A 2HB

07/06/2007

Section 40

From: Section 40
Sent: 07 June 2007 09:01
To: Section 40
Subject: FW: FOI written request PS 06-06-2007-065119-004 Section 40

Section 40

Further to our previous email, are you in a position to accept this FOI request?

Regards

Section 40

FOI Helpdesk

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

From: Section 40
Sent: 06 June 2007 07:49
To: Section 40
Subject: FW: FOI written request PS 06-06-2007-065119-004 Section 40

Section 40

Can I interest you with this FOI request?

Regards

Section 40

FOI Helpdesk

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

From: feedback@www.mod.uk [mailto:feedback@www.mod.uk]
Sent: 05 June 2007 20:52
To: Info-Access-Office
Subject: FOI written request PS 06-06-2007-065119-004 Section 40

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted on Tuesday, June 5, 2007 at 20:52:06

txttitle: Mr

txtfirstname: Section 40

txtlastname:

txtaddress1:

txtaddress2:

txttowncity: Torquay

txtstatecountry: Devon

txtzipcodepostcode: Section 40

txtcountry: UK

txtemailAddress: Section 40

txtinforequest: On April 28th 1967 I, along with 100 others including school teachers, witnessed a round silver UFO pass over Torquay, Devon at approx 11.30 am. The UFO travelled towards Brixham, Devon where it remained stationary for approx. 1 hour. The object was observed by the Brixham Coastguards which was reported to the RAF in Plymouth. According to the report the object after remaining stationary over the town proceeded to fly off. I feel that the HM Coastguards must have made a report of this sighting to the authorities, as a matter of procedure.

Under the Information of Freedom Act, I would be very grateful if you would look into this matter and forward any related information.

Thank you



From: Section 40

Directorate of Air Staff - Freedom of Information
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

5th Floor, Zone H, Main Building, Whitehall, London SW1A 2HB

Telephone

(Direct dial)
(Switchboard)
(Fax)

020 7218 2140
020 7218 9000

e-mail

das-ufo-office@mod.uk

Section 40

Section 40

Cwmbran
Gwent

Section 40

Our Reference

09-05-2007-093358-002
09-05-2007-093221-001

Date

12 June 2007

Dear Section 40

My letter of 1 June 2007 regarding the number of photographs or films purporting to be of UFOs the MoD has for the years 1998-99 and 2000-01 contained an error. There are eight, rather than seven, photographs for the period 1998-99.

If you are unhappy with this response or you wish to complain about any aspect of the handling of your request, then you should contact me in the first instance. If informal resolution is not possible and you are still dissatisfied then you may apply for an independent internal review by contacting the Director of Information Exploitation, 6th Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB (e-mail Info-XD@mod.uk). Please note that any request for an internal review must be made within two calendar months of the date on which the attempt to reach informal resolution has come to an end.

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

Please accept my apologies for any inconvenience this error may have caused.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40



From **Section 40**

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

5th Floor, Zone H, Main Building, Whitehall, London SW1A 2HB



Telephone

(Direct dial)
(Switchboard)
(Fax)

020 7218 2140
020 7218 9000

e-mail

das-ufo-office@mod.uk

Section 40

Section 40

Cwmbran

Gwent

Section 40

Our Reference
09-05-2007-093358-002
09-05-2007-093221-001

Date
1 June 2007

Dear **Section 40**

Thank you for your Freedom of Information requests of 2 May 2007 asking how many photographs or films purporting to be of UFOs the MoD has for the years 1998-99 and 2000-01.

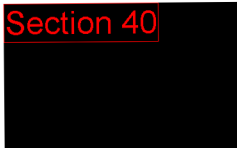
The MoD has seven photographs for the period 1998-99 and one photograph for 2000-01.

If you are unhappy with this response or you wish to complain about any aspect of the handling of your request, then you should contact me in the first instance. If informal resolution is not possible and you are still dissatisfied then you may apply for an independent internal review by contacting the Director of Information Exploitation, 6th Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB (e-mail Info-XD@mod.uk). Please note that any request for an internal review must be made within two calendar months of the date on which the attempt to reach informal resolution has come to an end.

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



09-05-2007-093221-001
EX/ 7 JUN 07

Section 40

Cwmbran
Gwent

Section 40

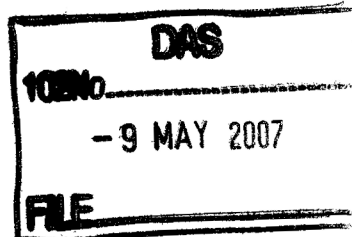
2ndth May 2007

Dear Sir/Madam,

Under the Freedom of Information Act I am writing to enquire how many photographs or film of UFOs the MoD has for the years 1998 and 1999. Many thanks.

Yours faithfully

Section 40



09-05-2007 - 097358 - 002

7 JUN 07

Section 40

Cwmbran
Gwent

Section 40

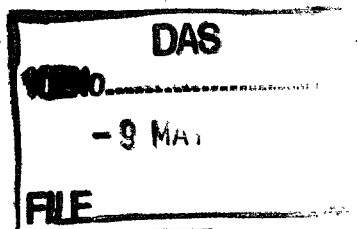
2ndth May 2007

Dear Sir/Madam,

Under the Freedom of Information Act I am writing to enquire how many photographs or film of UFOs the MoD has for the years 2000 and 2001. Many thanks.

Yours faithfully

Section 40



PHOTO'S RELIEVED 98-99

PART O' ENC 57 - photos on file x6
PART Q ENC 76 - Photo on file x1
PART Q ENC 67 Video - not held.
PART N ENC 77 - video - not held.
PART P ENC 52 - " " "

PART P
ENC 5
Photo

PHOTO'S RELIEVED 2000-01

PART V ENC 13 - photo x1
" " " 12 (video but no more
we actually
retrieve it!)
PART X ENC 23 video - not held.

**Section 40****From:** **Section 40****Sent:** 01 June 2007 12:45**To:** **Section 40****Subject:** FW: Release-Authorised: FOI Request - 25-05-2007-142432-007.

From: **Section 40****Sent:** 01 June 2007 12:45**To:** **Section 40****Subject:** Release-Authorised: FOI Request - 25-05-2007-142432-007.Dear **Section 40**

I am writing concerning your Freedom of Information request regarding a sighting you received from Bexhill, East Sussex on 23 May 2007. This department is the focal point within the Ministry of Defence for correspondence regarding UFOs.

First, it may be helpful if I explain that the Ministry of Defence (MOD) examines any reports of 'unidentified flying objects' it receives solely to establish what was seen might have some defence significance; namely, whether there is any evidence that the United Kingdom's airspace might have been compromised by hostile or unauthorised air activity. Unless there is evidence of a potential threat to the United Kingdom from an external source, and to date no 'UFO' report has revealed such evidence, we do not attempt to identify the precise nature of each sighting reported to us. We believe that rational explanations, such as aircraft lights or natural phenomena could be found for them if resources were diverted for this purpose, but it is not the function of the MOD to provide this kind of aerial identification service. It would be an inappropriate use of defence resources if we were to do so.

With regards to your specific request for information of the sighting you received in Bexhill, East Sussex, I have checked my records and can confirm that I received no reports from this area for the 23 May 2007. You asked if Gatwick had picked up this object on their radar. As Gatwick comes under civilian air traffic control and not military, you will have to contact Gatwick for further information.

If you are unhappy with this response or you wish to complain about any aspect of the handling of this request, then you should contact me in the first instance. If informal resolution is not possible and you are still dissatisfied then you may apply for an independent internal review by contacting the Director of Information Exploitation, 6th Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB (e-mail InfoXD@mod.uk). Please note that any request for an internal review must be made within 40 working days of the date on which the attempt to reach informal resolution has come to an end.

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

Sorry that I could not be of more assistance.

Yours sincerely

Section 40

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

01/06/2007

1A 2HB

E.mail – das-ufo-office@mod.uk

Section 40

From: Section 40
Sent: 31 May 2007 09:51
To: Section 40
Subject: FW: FOI written request 25-05-2007-142432-007 Section 40

Categories: FOI Information Request

Section 40

Can you take?

Section 40

Info-AccessOps5

Section 40

Main Building

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

From: feedback@www.mod.uk [mailto:feedback@www.mod.uk]
Sent: 25 May 2007 10:52
To: Info-Access-Office
Subject: FOI written request 25-05-2007-142432-007 Section 40

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted on Friday, May 25, 2007 at 10:51:36

txttitle: Mr

txtfirstname: Section 40

txtlastname: Section 40

txtorganisation: UFOData Magazine

txtaddress1: Section 40

txtaddress2: Section 40

txttowncity: Dewsbury

txtstatecountry: West Yorkshire

txtzipcodepostcode: Section 40

txtcountry: UK

txtemailAddress: Section 40

txtinforequest: Dear Sir/Madam,

We have received a report of an object filmed in the daytime sky in the Bexhill, East Sussex on 23rd May, 2007, between 12:40pm and 1:30pm. Here is the text of the report: "12.40pm...

I noticed a beautiful white object, about 65 degrees elevation, magnitude -8 or -9 .I was in the rear north/south orientated garden, in shade...the Sun was blocked out for a clear view of sky.

Over the next 20 minutes this object meandered east a few degrees...then at about 1pm started retrograding. By this time I was lying flat on my back for rigidity and comfort. I always kept in foreground detail..the gutter piping in this case...so as to show the movement of this object in relation to a fixed detail.

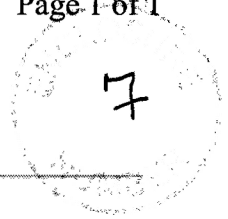
As it was moving back, it was meandering around a little. I requested it to move in toward pipe, it did. As it reached ever closer to the edge of the pipe I requested it to stop. It did. It stayed there for a minute. I then requested it to move away from the pipe. It did. As it moved away, I shuffled to get the object next to pipe again. It then moved along the pipe (this pipe running east-west approx). This was about 1.20pm. Then it moved into pipe, so I had to shuffle quick to maintain it in view..as I did this, the object started to alter...it turned into a mini comet-that is it had a misty streak with a condensed right side. THEN it turned brilliant again, and THEN started to fade, slightly pulsing. End of experience was 1.30pm.

I have all 50 minutes on video. This object was above the major flight path into Gatwick."

Could you tell us if anything was picked up on radar, were there any other reports of the object or similar in the area at the time, did Gatwick Airport pick up this object? Could it have been a scheduled flight (although being visible for 50 minutes appears to make this unlikely)? Could it have been a weather balloon or some other piece of atmospheric equipment?

Thank you for your time,

Section 40


Section 40

From: Section 40

Sent: 01 June 2007 10:00



To: Section 40

Subject: Internet-Authorised: FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST 16-05-2007-094438-002

Dear Section 40

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request of 15 May 2007 asking for the aircrew report documents regarding an incident at RAF Lyneham on 18 December 2006 involving a UFO and an RAF aircraft.

The MoD has no record of any report having been made. However, since you state the incident is listed with the CAA, I suggest that you contact them direct for any details they might have.

If you are unhappy with this response or you wish to complain about any aspect of the handling of your request, then you should contact me in the first instance. If informal resolution is not possible and you are still dissatisfied then you may apply for an independent internal review by contacting the Director of Information Exploitation, 6th Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB (e-mail Info-XD@mod.uk). Please note that any request for an internal review must be made within two calendar months of the date on which the attempt to reach informal resolution has come to an end.

If you remain unhappy following an internal review, you may take your complaint to the Information Commissioner under the provisions of Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act. Please note that the Information Commissioner will not investigate the case until the 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 am sorry I was not able to be of more help.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

DAS-FOI

Section 40

MoD Main Building
Whitehall
London
SW1A 2HB

Section 40

From: Section 40
Sent: 15 May 2007 21:28
To: Section 40
Subject: FOI request

Dear Section 40

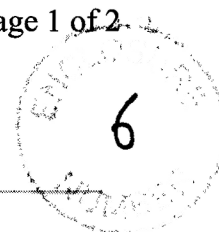
I would like to request copies of the aircrew report documents and any associated materials related to an incident at RAF Lyneham on 18 December 2006 listed in a log of CAA Mandatory Occurrence Reports as "conflict between a military aircraft and UFO whilst inbound to Lyneham at FL180."

The precise adds: "The crew spotted an object pass very close under the RH wing. No TCAS warning or indications. Other a/c in vicinity did not see the object and it was not showing on ATC radar."

I'd much appreciate confirmation of receipt of this request.

Thanks for your help

Section 40



Section 40

From: Section 40

Sent: 31 May 2007 14:52

To: Section 40

Subject: FW: Release-Authorised: FOI Requests - 31-05-2007-105930 and 30-05-2007-161100-005.

From: Section 40

Sent: 31 May 2007 14:44

To: Section 40

Subject: Release-Authorised: FOI Requests - 31-05-2007-105930 and 30-05-2007-161100-005.

Dear Section 40

I am writing concerning your two Freedom of Information requests regarding UFO sightings that have been reported in the Mole Valley District in the last two years and more generally, extraterrestrial and UFO sightings in the Mole Valley.

First, it may be helpful if I explain that the Ministry of Defence (MOD) examines any reports of 'unidentified flying objects' it receives solely to establish what was seen might have some defence significance; namely, whether there is any evidence that the United Kingdom's airspace might have been compromised by hostile or unauthorised air activity. Unless there is evidence of a potential threat to the United Kingdom from an external source, and to date no 'UFO' report has revealed such evidence, we do not attempt to identify the precise nature of each sighting reported to us. We believe that rational explanations, such as aircraft lights or natural phenomena could be found for them if resources were diverted for this purpose, but it is not the function of the MOD to provide this kind of aerial identification service. It would be an inappropriate use of defence resources if we were to do so.

With regards to your specific request for information covering the last two years, I have checked my records for 2007 so far, and have found no sighting reports for the Mole Valley District. With regards to the years 2005 and 2006, the Ministry of Defence Freedom of Information website has a database which contains this information. This can be accessed via the internet at:

<http://www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/FreedomofInformation/PublicationScheme>, by searching under "UFO Reports".

Turning to your general request, I should inform you that the MOD records are not held electronically, but are filed on paper files in the order in which they are received and we currently hold records spanning a 25 year period. They are not segregated by geographical area. To identify records specifically from the Mole Valley District, a manual search would be required, and the costs to do this would exceed the permitted £600 cost limit set for compliance with the Freedom of Information Act, and as provided by Section 12 of the Act, therefore the Ministry of Defence is not obliged to comply with your request.

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

<http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk>.

If you are unhappy with this response or you wish to complain about any aspect of the handling of this request, then you should contact me in the first instance. If informal resolution is not possible and you are still dissatisfied then you may apply for an independent internal review by contacting the Director of Information Exploitation, 6th Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB (e-mail InfoXD@mod.uk). Please note that any request for an internal review must be made within 40 working days of the date on which the attempt to reach informal resolution has come to an end.

31/05/2007

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

Yours sincerely

Section 40

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

E.mail – das-ufo-office@mod.uk

Section 40

DAS

31 May 07

[Home](#) [My Cases](#) [Log New Request](#) [Policy Guidance](#) [Help](#)**Request:** Section 40 30-05-2007-161100-005**Group:** DAS**Days Left:** 20**Received:** 30 May 07
Expiry Date: 27 Jun 07
Status: Open [All sources](#)**Workflow Options**[AIT Main](#)**View**[Audit Trail](#)[Comments Log](#)[Saved Search Result](#)[Contact Details](#)[Documents](#)**Actions**[Assign Within My Group](#)[Change Alert Settings](#)[Edit Request Details](#)[Upload Document](#)[Admin Close](#)[Take Ownership](#)

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

Date request received: 30 May 2007**Applicant Details****Title:** Section 40**Other:****First Name:*****Surname:**

Section 40

Organisation: Dorking and Leatherhea**Applicant Type:** Media and Journalists**Other:****Contact Details (Mailing or email address required)****Address Line1:** 80 South Street**Address Line2:** Surrey**Address Line3:** Mole Valley District**Town/City:** Dorking**Postcode:** RH4 2HE**Country:** United Kingdom**Email:** Section 40

Telephone:

Section 40

Fax:

Clear

Back

Next

Cancel

Section 40

DAS

31 May 07

[Home](#) [My Cases](#) [Log New Request](#) [Policy Guidance](#) [Help](#)**Request:** Section 40 30-05-2007-161100-005**Group:** DAS**Days Left:** 20

Received: 30 May 07

Expiry Date: 27 Jun 07

Status: Open

 All sources**Workflow Options**[AIT Main](#)**View**[Audit Trail](#)[Comments Log](#)[Saved Search Result](#)[Contact Details](#)[Documents](#)**Actions**[Assign Within My Group](#)[Change Alert Settings](#)[Edit Request Details](#)[Upload Document](#)[Admin Close](#)[Take Ownership](#)

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

Request Details**Response Format Requested:** e-mail**Language Requested** ☐ Welsh**Raised on behalf of:*****Enter the request for information:**

Dear sir or madam,
I would like to place a Freedom of Information request.
I would like to have information on the number of sightings of UFO's or any other extraterrestrial sightings in the Mole Valley District and I would like the amount of people who have claimed to have seen each UFO or extraterrestrial sighting in the Mole Valley District.

***Subject:**

UFO sightings in Mole Valley District

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

To be held by the Helpdesk until allocated.

Clear

◀ Back

Next ▶

Cancel

Section 40

From:

Section 40

Sent:

31 May 2007 11:01

To:

Section 40

Subject:

FW: foi email request 31-05-2007-105930-001

Section 40

Categories:

FOI Information Request

Section 40

Can you take?

Section 40

Info-AccessOps5

Section 40

Main Building

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

From: feedback@www.mod.uk [mailto:feedback@www.mod.uk]

Sent: 30 May 2007 16:26

To: Info-Access-Office

Subject: foi email request 31-05-2007-105930-001 Section 40

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted on Wednesday, May 30, 2007 at 16:25:38

txttitle: Mr

txtfirstname: Section 40

txtlastname:

txtoccupation: Reporter

txtororganisation: Dorking and Leatherhead Advertiser

txtemailAddress: Section 40

txttelephone: Section 40

txtinforequest: Dear sir or madam,

I would like to place a Freedom of Information request.

I would like to have information on the number of sitings reported in the Mole Valley District in the last two years (May 1st 2005 - May 1st 2007).

I would like information on the number of people who have reported each siting in the last two years (May 1st 2005 - May 1st 2007).

I would like information on which area each siting has been reported from in the last two years (May 1st 2005 - May 1st 2007).

I would like seperate figures on each and also another set of results to be set out with a figure from each quarter. May 1st 2005 - August 31st 2005, September 1st 2005 - December 31st 2005, Janurary 1st 2006 - April 30 2006, May 1st 2006 - August 31st 2006, September 1st 2006 - December 31st 2006, Janurary 1st 2007 - May 1st 2007 I would like them sent to me via e-mail.

Many thanks,

Section 40

Reporter

Dorking and Leatherhead Advertiser

80 South Street

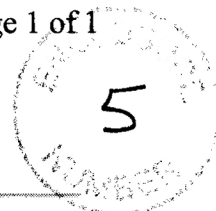
Dorking

RH4 2HE

Tel: Section 40

Mob:

E-mail: Section 40



Section 40

From: Section 40

Sent: 31 May 2007 14:36

To: Section 40

Subject: Internet-Authorised: FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUESTS 21-05-2007-164952-031 & 21-05-2007-164513-030

Dear Section 40

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request of 21 May 2007 asking for details of a UFO incident that took place on 9th November 1979 near Livingston, together with the official police report and investigation. Additionally, in a separate request you asked for copies of any information held on UFO reports for 23 and 24 July 1984.

Before 1967 all "UFO" files were destroyed after five years, as there was insufficient public interest in the subject to merit their permanent retention. However since 1967, following an increase in public interest in this subject, "UFO" report files are now routinely preserved. Files for 1967 to 1984, and any files prior to 1967 which did survive, are now available for examination at The National Archives, Ruskin Avenue, Kew, Richmond, Surrey, TW9 4DU, Telephone: 0208 876 3444. Details of how to access these records and The National Archives on line catalogue can be found on their website at <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk>.

If you are unhappy with this response or you wish to complain about any aspect of the handling of your request, then you should contact me in the first instance. If informal resolution is not possible and you are still dissatisfied then you may apply for an independent internal review by contacting the Director of Information Exploitation, 6th Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB (e-mail Info-XD@mod.uk). Please note that any request for an internal review must be made within two calendar months of the date on which the attempt to reach informal resolution has come to an end.

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

DAS-FOI

Section 40

MoD Main Building
Whitehall
London
SW1A 2HB

31/05/2007

21-05-2007-164513-030
EXP 19 JUN 07

Section 40

From: Section 40
Sent: 21 May 2007 16:46
To: Section 40
Subject: FW: FOI written request 21-05-2007-164513-030 Section 40
Categories: FOI Information Request

Section 40

Can you take?

Section 40

Info-AccessOps5

Section 40

Main Building

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

From: feedback@www.mod.uk [mailto:feedback@www.mod.uk]
Sent: 21 May 2007 16:01
To: Info-Access-Office
Subject: FOI written request 21-05-2007-164513-030 Section 40

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted on Monday, May 21, 2007 at 16:01:11

txttitle: Mr

txtfirstname: Section 40

txtlastname: Section 40

txtoccupation: Bank employee

txtorganisation: n/a

txtaddress1: Section 40

txtaddress2: Section 40

txttowncity: Nr Wakefield

txtstatecountry: West Yorkshire

txtzipcodepostcode: Section 40

txtcountry: United Kingdom

txtemailAddress: Section 40

txttelephone: Section 40

txtinforequest: Request for full details of the UFO event witnessed by Mr Robert Taylor. The event witnessed by Mr Taylor took place on Friday November 9, 1979 in Dechmont Woods, near Livingston in Scotland. I would also like to request a copy of the official police report and police investigation into this incident.

21-05-2007-164952-031
EXP 127 19 JUN 07

Section 40

From: Section 40
Sent: 21 May 2007 16:51
To: Section 40
Subject: FW: FOI written request 21-05-2007-164952-031 Section 40

Categories: FOI Information Request

Section 40

Can you take?

Section 40

Info-AccessOps5

Section 40

Main Building

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

From: feedback@www.mod.uk [mailto:feedback@www.mod.uk]
Sent: 21 May 2007 16:04
To: Info-Access-Office
Subject: FOI written request 21-05-2007-164952-031 Section 40

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted on Monday, May 21, 2007 at 16:04:04

txttitle: Mr

txtfirstname: Section 40

txtlastname: Section 40

txtoccupation: bank employee

txtorganisation: n/a

txtaddress1: Section 40

txtaddress2: Section 40

txttowncity: Nr Wakefield

txtstatecountry: West Yorkshire

txtzipcodepostcode: Section 40

txtcountry: United Kingdom

txtemailAddress: Section 40

txttelephone: Section 40

txtinforequest: I would like to request copies of any information you have of any UFO reports reported to you via any channel from anywhere in the UK for July 23 and 24 1984.



From: **Section 40**

Directorate of Air Staff - Freedom of Information

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

5th Floor, Zone H, Main Building, Whitehall, London SW1A 2HB

Telephone

(Direct dial)

020 7218 2140

(Switchboard)

020 7218 9000

(Fax)

Section 40

e-mail

das-ufo-office@mod.uk



Section 40

Our Reference
24-05-2007-065836-001

Date
24 May 2007

Newcastle upon Tyne

Section 40

Dear **Section 40**

Thank you for your e-mail of 23 May 2007 clarifying your previous Freedom of Information request of 12 May 2007 asking for any and all files relating to UFP/UAP reports in the North East. You narrowed your request down to the year 1980.

Before 1967 all "UFO" files were destroyed after five years, as there was insufficient public interest in the subject to merit their permanent retention. However since 1967, following an increase in public interest in this subject, "UFO" report files are now routinely preserved. Files for 1967 to 1984, and any files prior to 1967 which did survive, are now available for examination at The National Archives, Ruskin Avenue, Kew, Richmond, Surrey, TW9 4DU, Telephone: 0208 876 3444. Details of how to access these records and The National Archives on line catalogue can be found on their website at <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk>.

Additionally, the MoD has published details of UFO sightings for the period 2001-2006 on its website at www.mod.uk. They can be found by searching under the phrase "UFO Reports". It is hoped that we will also be in a position to publish details for 1999-2000 in the very near future.

If you are unhappy with this response or you wish to complain about any aspect of the handling of your request, then you should contact me in the first instance. If informal resolution is not possible and you are still dissatisfied then you may apply for an independent internal review by contacting the Director of Information Exploitation, 6th Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB (e-mail Info-XD@mod.uk). Please note that any request for an internal review must be made within two calendar months of the date on which the attempt to reach informal resolution has come to an end.

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

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

Section 40

From: Section 40
Sent: 24 May 2007 07:05
To: Section 40
Subject: FW: FOI written request PS 24-05-2007-065836-001 Section 40

Section 40

Can I interest you with this FOI request?

Section 40

FOI Helpdesk

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

From: feedback@www.mod.uk [mailto:feedback@www.mod.uk]
Sent: 23 May 2007 23:07
To: Info-Access-Office
Subject: FOI written request PS 24-05-2007-065836-001 Section 40

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted on Wednesday, May 23, 2007 at 23:07:05

txttitle: Mr

txtfirstname: Section 40

txtlastname:

txtorganisation: UFO Research Online

txtaddress1: Section 40

txtaddress2:

txttowncity: Newcastle Upon Tyne

txtstatecountry: Tyne & Wear

txtzipcodepostcode: Section 40

txtcountry: United Kingdom

txtinforequest: Following from my last request for any and all files relating to the UFO/UAP phenomena in the North East of England since 1980 until the present day, i was asked to reduce the timespan to 1 year so i was hoping to have any and all files for the year 1980.

Thanks

Section 40



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

3

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

Section 40

Spanaway
Wa 98387
USA

Our Reference
15-05-2007-112328-001

Date
23 May 2007

Dear **Section 40**

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request asking for all sighting reports for "Flying Triangles" between 2004 and 2006. You also expressed an interest in DI55 files that had recently been released.

Details of all UFO sightings reported to the Ministry of Defence (MoD) between 2001 and 2006 are available on the MoD website at www.mod.uk by searching under "UFO reports".

I am afraid you are mistaken in thinking that DI55 had released its UFO files. It has made a commitment to review a number of files with a view to releasing them on the MoD website, but the files have not been released.

If you are unhappy with this response or you wish to complain about any aspect of the handling of your request, then you should contact me in the first instance. If informal resolution is not possible and you are still dissatisfied then you may apply for an independent internal review by contacting the Director of Information Exploitation, 6th Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB (e-mail Info-XD@mod.uk). Please note that any request for an internal review must be made within two calendar months of the date on which the attempt to reach informal resolution has come to an end.

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

I would like to Request Under The Privacy
and Freedom of Information Act

all Flying Triangle sightings reports
from 2004 to 2006 I'm a Mufon Field
Investigator for The Mutual ufo Network
here in the United States Im currently
conducting a 10 yr Flying Triangle
sightings study where I collect all
world wide sightings data and compare
ours here in USA, UK, B.C. USSR, France,
Italy I already have MODs Rendlesham
forest ufo Documents file Im interested
in any of the Newly released DI55
post 1970's ufo sightings Flying triangles
sightings.

Thank you for your Assistance

Sincerely

Section 40

Section 40

Spanaway Wa 98387 USA

DAS	
102No	_____
- 9 MAY 2007	
FILE	_____

2

AUTHORISATION FOR THE RELEASE OF INFORMATION

Applicant: **Section 40**

Case Number: 16-05-2007-094156-001 Expiry: 13 Jun 07

The Applicant has made the following request for information:

Copies of the pilot report document and any associated materials reporting a UFO sighting on 23 Apr 07 to the CAA

Case for release of information

Information is shortly to be released on the MoD website and therefore exemption s.22 ((Information Intended for Future Publication) applies

Applicant also directed towards the CAA.

Authorisation

I hereby give authorisation to withhold the aforementioned information from the Applicant.

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

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

Date: **16/5/07**

Section 40

From: **Section 40**

Sent: 01 June 2007 09:40

To: **Section 40**

Subject: Internet-Authorised: FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST 16-05-2007-094156-001

Dear **Section 40**

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request of 15 May 2007 asking for the pilot report document and any associated materials filed with the CAA regarding an alleged UFO sighting near Alderney on 23 April 2007.

The MoD has placed the documentation it holds on this matter on its website www.mod.uk via its Disclosure Log, where it will be open for the public to view and therefore under Freedom of Information Act 2000 Exemption s.22 (Information Intended for Future Publication) the MoD is not obliged to release the information. However, since the alleged incident did not take place under UK military air traffic control, nor did it involve military aircraft, I suggest that you contact the CAA themselves for further details of what documentation they hold.

If you are unhappy with this response or you wish to complain about any aspect of the handling of your request, then you should contact me in the first instance. If informal resolution is not possible and you are still dissatisfied then you may apply for an independent internal review by contacting the Director of Information Exploitation, 6th Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB (e-mail Info-XD@mod.uk). Please note that any request for an internal review must be made within two calendar months of the date on which the attempt to reach informal resolution has come to an end.

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

DAS-FOI

05-H: **Section 40**

MoD Main Building

Whitehall

London

SW1A 2HB

01/06/2007

EX 13 JUN 07

Section 40

From: Section 40
Sent: 15 May 2007 21:23
To: Section 40
Subject: FOI request

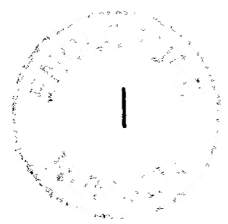
Dear Section 40

I would like to request copies of the pilot report document and any associated materials filed with CAA under the Mandatory Occurrence Report system, (Occurrence Number 200703486; Occurrence Date 23 Apr 2007; Location Alderney; pilot Capt. Bowyer, Aurigny), also any other report(s) or record(s) and associated materials from any other aircrew, Air Traffic Control facility or other radar installation connected with the incident.

I would very much appreciate it if you could confirm receipt of this request.

Thanks for your help,

Section 40



AUTHORISATION FOR THE RELEASE OF INFORMATION

Applicant: **Section 40**

Case Number: 15-05-2007-112958-002

Expiry: 7 Jun 07

The Applicant has made the following request for information:

Can you please locate and supply MoD 'briefing papers' and internal MoD correspondence relating directly to the following Parliamentary Questions from the House of Lords, mostly concatenated with Lord Hill Norton? (Titles located in Hansard Written Answers).

- 1) 14 October 1997 'Mid Air Explosion, Isle of Lewis' (answered by Lord Gilbert) - Written Answer.
- 2) 14 October 1997 'Lt Charles Halt: Memorandum' (answered by Lord Gilbert) - WA.
- 3) 28 October 1997 'RAF Bentwaters & Woodbridge: Nuclear Weapons Allegations' (4 separate questions) - (answered by Lord Gilbert) WA.
- 4) 15 July 1998 'Unidentified Flying Objects' (5 separate questions) - answered by Lord Gilbert WA.
- 5) 25 January 2001 'Rendlesham Forest incident' (3 questions re alleged involvement of Special Branch & Porton Down) - answered by Baroness Symons WA
- 6) 30 January 2001 'Rendlesham Forest/RAF Bentwaters incident' (5 separate questions regarding underground facilities and allegations in Georgina Bruni's book) - answered by Baroness Symons WA.

Case for release of information

Application is likely to exceed £600. The requester has been asked to narrow the scope of his request.

Authorisation

I hereby give refuse authorisation to release the aforementioned information to the Applicant.

Grade/Rank: **B2** Name: **Section 40**
Authorisation Reference Number: DAS-FOI 08/05..... **Section 40**
Date: **15/5/2007**

Section 40

From: Section 40

Sent: 15 May 2007 14:30

To: Section 40

Subject: Internet-Authorised: FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST 15-05-2007-112958-002

Dear Section 40

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request of 9 May 2007 asking for MoD briefing papers and internal correspondence relating to some 19 parliamentary questions on a range of subjects.

As you expected, the costs of providing you with the information you request are likely to exceed the permitted £600 limit set for compliance with the Freedom of Information Act and, as provided by Section 12 of the Act, the Ministry of Defence is not obliged to comply with your request. However, if you could limit your request to a maximum of five parliamentary questions, I may be in a position to help you.

If you are unhappy with this response or you wish to complain about any aspect of the handling of your request, then you should contact me in the first instance. If informal resolution is not possible and you are still dissatisfied then you may apply for an independent internal review by contacting the Director of Information Exploitation, 6th Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB (e-mail Info-XD@mod.uk). Please note that any request for an internal review must be made within two calendar months of the date on which the attempt to reach informal resolution has come to an end.

If you remain unhappy following an internal review, you may take your complaint to the Information Commissioner under the provisions of Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act. Please note that the Information Commissioner will not investigate the case until the 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 am sorry I could not be of more assistance.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

DAS-FOI

Section 40

MoD Main Building
Whitehall
London
SW1A 2HB

15/05/2007

15-05-2007-112958-002
EXP - 7 JUN 07

Section 40

From: Section 40
Sent: 09 May 2007 13:47
To: Section 40
Subject: FOIA enquiry PQs



Hi Section 40

Would you please consider the following Freedom of Information request and let me know what's do-able? (It may be that what's asked for could exceed the limit for a single enquiry?) If so, could you please divide it appropriately, apprise and I'll patiently submit a later request for the remainder. Thanks.

Can you please locate and supply MoD 'briefing papers' and internal MoD correspondence relating directly to the following Parliamentary Questions from the House of Lords, mostly concatenated with Lord Hill Norton? (Titles located in Hansard Written Answers).

- 1) 14 October 1997 'Mid Air Explosion, Isle of Lewis' (answered by Lord Gilbert) - Written Answer.
- 2) 14 October 1997 'Lt Charles Halt: Memorandum' (answered by Lord Gilbert) - WA.
- 3) 28 October 1997 'RAF Bentwaters & Woodbridge: Nuclear Weapons Allegations' (4 separate questions) - (answered by Lord Gilbert) WA.
- 4) 15 July 1998 'Unidentified Flying Objects' (5 separate questions) - answered by Lord Gilbert WA.
- 5) 25 January 2001 'Rendlesham Forest incident' (3 questions re alleged involvement of Special Branch & Porton Down) - answered by Baroness Symons WA
- 6) 30 January 2001 'Rendlesham Forest/RAF Bentwaters incident' (5 separate questions regarding underground facilities and allegations in Georgina Bruni's book) - answered by Baroness Symons WA.

Regards

Section 40

Hessle.

East Yorkshire.

Section 40

19 separate questions.

09/05/2007