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MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

S

12 Dec 2001

Registered file reference
AS/6

Registered file reference
D/DAS/64/4

Part No.

- DIVISION/ESTABLISHMENT/UNIT/BRANCH**

DAS(LA)Ops + Poll

[FULL ADDRESS & TELEPHONE NUMBER]

SUBJECT UFOs

PQs	PEs
-----	-----

[BLOCK CAPITALS]

RECORD OF KEYWORDS:

sent
ch
division

t when

) on

FOR DRO USE ONLY

1st Review date

2nd Review date

PA ACTION

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

Produced by Forms Design Section
Design Studio DSDA (PC) KY # 0117 9376256

RESTRICTED/UNCLASSIFIED

Registered File Disposal Form

MOD Form 262F

(Revised 9/01)

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

UFOs - PQs/PEs

Reference:
(Prefix and Number):

D/DAS/6414

Part:

H

PROTECTIVE MARKING (including caveats & descriptors):

UNCLASSIFIED

Date of last enclosure:

21 JUL 08

Date closed:

27 JUL 08

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)

UFO - PERMANENT RETENTION

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)

UFO

(ii) Key enclosures which support the recommendation are:

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

Destroyed

✓
☐

Considered by DR for
permanent preservation

☐

c. Of no further administrative value but worthy of consideration by INFO(EXP)-R for permanent preservation.

✓
☐

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

Signature: _____

Name: _____

(Block Capitals)

Grade/Rank: B2 Date: 28 Jul 08

Branch Title and Full Address:

DAS-sec AS
05-H- [redacted] tion 40
M-3 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)

LYNNE FEATHERSTONE MP

House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA

Tel: 020 7219 8401 / email: lynne@lynnefeatherstone.org / www.lynnefeatherstone.org



Rt Hon Des Browne MP
Secretary Of State for Defence
Ministry Of Defence
Floor 5, Main Building
Whitehall
LONDON
SW1A 2HB

Our Ref: [REDACTED] 001/10eb

Date: 14 July 2008

Des Des

I write on the behalf of my constituent who has expressed concerns regarding the recent occurrence a large number of UFO sightings. I have attached a copy of their letter which lays out their concerns in more detail.

I would be grateful if you could reply to me, addressing the specific concerns that my constituent raises.

[REDACTED] n 40

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

Lynne Featherstone MP

LIBERAL DEMOCRAT MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FOR HORNSEY & WOOD GREEN

Whilst your MP will treat as confidential any personal information which you pass on, she will allow authorised staff to see the information if this is needed to help and advise you, and may pass all or some of this information to agencies such as the Department of Work & Pensions, Revenue & Customs or the local Council if this is necessary to help with your case. She may wish to write to you from time to time, to keep you informed on related issues that you might find of interest. Please let her know if you do not wish to be contacted in this way.

FOR LARGE PRINT COPY, PLEASE CALL 020 8340 5459

Windows Live™

 Print

X Close window

FW: Feedback from Lynne's siteFrom: **FEATHERSTONE, Lynne** (FEATHERSTONEL@parliament.uk)

Sent: 10 July 2008 10:10:40

To: [REDACTED]

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

From: [REDACTED] [mailto:[REDACTED]@modems.org.uk]

Sent: 09 July 2008 13:15

To: FEATHERSTONE, Lynne

Subject: FW: Feedback from Lynne's site

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

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 08 July 2008 12:04

To: [REDACTED]

Subject: Feedback from Lynne's site

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by [REDACTED] on 40
[REDACTED] on 40 Tuesday, July 8, 2008 at 12:04:07

Question: Hi, and greetings. I am writing regarding the rash of UFO sightings, I have seen a similar thing in Hornsey a few years ago. I would like some questions asked of the Government, specifically what is their position on these occurrences, have they ever hidden evidence from the public, and has there ever been any official contact. Its time this issue was taken seriously, and the best way to slay paranoia is to deal with issues openly. What would it take to get you or somebody to ask such questions in the house? Many thanks for your attention.

[REDACTED]

email: [REDACTED]@hotmail.co.uk

Address1: [REDACTED]

Address2: [REDACTED]

Address3: London

Post code: [REDACTED] 40

Phone: [REDACTED]

Sign up for email column (non-EARS): box checked

Submit: Submit your question or comment

REMOTE_ADDR: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 21 July 2008 09:52
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Release-Authorised: Ministerial Correspondence: MC03861/2008
Attachments: MC03861 2008 - 20080721093713 - S - FEATHERSTONE.tif

Another for you!!

[REDACTED] Section 40

[REDACTED]
Hd of DAS-LACEU
5-H [REDACTED] Section 40
MAIN BUILDING
WHITEHALL
LONDON SW1A 2HB
[REDACTED]

From: Ministerial Correspondence
Sent: 21 July 2008 09:38
To: DAS-Sec; Low Flying
Subject: Release-Authorised: Ministerial Correspondence: MC03861/2008

MINISTERIAL CORRESPONDENCE - TO BE GIVEN PRIORITY AT ALL TIMES

To: DAS Sec
Copy To:
Our Reference: MC03861/2008
Correspondent: Lynne Featherstone MP
Minister Replying: US of S
Draft Required By: 25 July 2008
Additional Advice:

- Detailed guidance on handling Ministerial Correspondence can be found at http://main.defence.mod.uk/min_parl/ParlBrch/MCguid.htm.
- If you have access to DII, please follow this link to action this request: http://pt/_Layouts/PT/TaskList/TaskList.aspx
- If you do not have access to DII, please email drafts to Ministerial-Correspondence@mod.uk.
- If attached includes a specific request for recorded information, then it should be treated under the terms of the **Freedom of Information Act 2000**. You will need to acknowledge that you have applied the Act and provide details of the right of appeal. You may also need to additionally log this correspondence on the Access to Information toolkit and comply with the separate FOI guidance - particularly if we

21/07/2008

need to withhold information.

- You will be held accountable for the draft answer and advice that you provide - it must be accurate and not misleading in any way.
- A named official at Pay Band B2 level or above must clear draft. Other Government Departments or MOD divisions should be consulted as necessary.
- If this correspondence should be dealt with by another branch, please liaise and agree transfer with them immediately before informing the MCU.
- **SofS has made the prompt handling of Ministerial Correspondence a priority:** please ensure the above deadline is met.

MOD Parliamentary Branch
Ministerial Correspondence Unit

t: [REDACTED]

f: [REDACTED]

e: Ministerial-Correspondence@mod.uk

Thank you for your letter of 14 July (ref:) on behalf of your constituent [REDACTED] of [REDACTED], Haringey, London.

Firstly, it may be helpful if I explain that the Ministry of Defence has no 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. The MOD examines any reports of sightings solely to establish whether what was seen might have some defence significance. The MOD's only concern therefore, is to establish whether there is any evidence that the United Kingdom's airspace might have been compromised by hostile or unauthorized foreign military activity. The MOD is not aware of any official contact with extraterrestrial life.

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. Directorate of Air Staff 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>.

The Directorate of Air Staff which collates all UFO sighting reports received by the MOD, has records of alleged UFO sightings dating back to 1984 whilst the Defence Intelligence

DRAFT TO PARLI BRANCH
21 ~~21~~ JULY 07
[REDACTED]
JAS-161

Staff has a smaller number of files dating back to the late 1970s. The MOD has recently begun a programme to transfer some 160 of these files to The National Archives where they will be available to view by the general public over the internet. The first eight files were transferred electronically in May of this year.

■ may also be interested to know that details of UFO sightings for the period 1997-2007 are already available for viewing on the MOD website, www.mod.uk, by searching under the phrase *UFO reports*.

I hope this is helpful.

Derek Twigg MP

Lynne Featherstone MP

46

Thank you for your letter of 14 July (ref:) on behalf of your constituent [REDACTED]
of [REDACTED], Burton upon Trent.

Firstly, it may be helpful if I explain that the Ministry of Defence has no 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. The MOD examines any reports of sightings solely to establish whether what was seen might have some defence significance. The MOD's only concern therefore, is to establish whether there is any evidence that the United Kingdom's airspace might have been compromised by hostile or unauthorized foreign military activity.

Unless there is evidence of a potential threat to the United Kingdom from an external military 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 am sorry of could not be of more help.

Derek Twigg MP

Janet Dean MP

Sent to Parti
21 Jul 08

on 40

1/10-FOI



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

JANET DEAN MP

Labour Member of Parliament for the Burton Constituency

Our Ref: JD/jr/gencor. [redacted] pmed

14th July 2008

The Rt Hon Des Browne MP
Secretary of State for Defence
Ministry of Defence
Floor 5, Main Building
Whitehall
London SW1A 2HB

Dear Des

UFOs - [redacted] Burton upon Trent

I am writing on behalf of my constituent, [redacted], who recently contacted my office for advice.

In brief, [redacted] and her family were driving through Branston on the outskirts of Burton at 11.30pm on Saturday 28th June when they noticed orange lights in the sky. At first they thought there was nothing unusual, but on further observation, noticed that the lights were moving in a manner that would have been impossible for a conventional aircraft.

My constituent explained that she saw quite a few people outside in the town, also clearly watching these lights. When she and her family returned home, [redacted] rang the police and described what they had seen. She was allegedly advised that the police had received quite a few calls from other people who had had the same experience.

[redacted] would like to know if there is a rational explanation for what she and her family saw. I would very much welcome any advice you can provide and look forward to hearing from you in due course.

Yours sincerely,

[redacted]
Janet Dean MP
[redacted] tion 40

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 18 July 2008 10:59
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Release-Authorised: Ministerial Correspondence: MC03844/2008
Attachments: MC03844 2008 - 20080718104248 - S - Dean.tif

[REDACTED]
Hd of DAS-LACEU
5-H [REDACTED] ction 40
MAIN BUILDING
WHITEHALL
LONDON SW1A 2HB
[REDACTED]

From: Ministerial Correspondence
Sent: 18 July 2008 10:44
To: DAS-Sec; Low Flying
Subject: Release-Authorised: Ministerial Correspondence: MC03844/2008

MINISTERIAL CORRESPONDENCE - TO BE GIVEN PRIORITY AT ALL TIMES

To: DAS Sec
Copy To:
Our Reference: MC03844/2008
Correspondent: Janet Dean MP
Minister Replying: US of S
Draft Required By: 24 July 2008
Additional Advice:

- Detailed guidance on handling Ministerial Correspondence can be found at http://main.defence.mod.uk/min_parl/ParlBrch/MCguid.htm.
- If you have access to DII, please follow this link to action this request: http://pt/_Layouts/PT/TaskList/TaskList.aspx
- If you do not have access to DII, please email drafts to Ministerial-Correspondence@mod.uk.
- If attached includes a specific request for recorded information, then it should be treated under the terms of the **Freedom of Information Act 2000**. You will need to acknowledge that you have applied the Act and provide details of the right of appeal. You may also need to additionally log this correspondence on the Access to Information toolkit and comply with the separate FOI guidance - particularly if we need to withhold information.

● You will be held accountable for the draft answer and advice that you provide - it must be accurate and not misleading in any way.

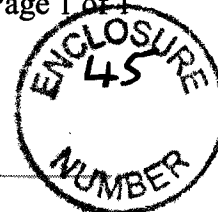
- A named official at Pay Band B2 level or above must clear draft. Other Government Departments or MOD divisions should be consulted as necessary.
- If this correspondence should be dealt with by another branch, please liaise and agree transfer with them immediately before informing the MCU.
- **SofS has made the prompt handling of Ministerial Correspondence a priority:** please ensure the above deadline is met.

MOD Parliamentary Branch
Ministerial Correspondence Unit

t: [REDACTED]

f: [REDACTED]

e: Ministerial-Correspondence@mod.uk



From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 10 July 2008 12:59
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Release-authorised: UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS TO03112/2008

Thank you for your e-mail to Secretary of State for Defence, Des Browne, regarding your research into Extra Terrestrials. It has been passed to this office to answer as we have responsibility for this subject.

Despite what many people think, the MoD does not have any expertise or role in respect of 'UFO/flying saucer' matters or to the question of the existence or otherwise of extraterrestrial lifeforms, 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. The 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 unauthorized foreign military activity.

Unless there is evidence of a potential threat to the United Kingdom from an external military 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 hope this explains the MoD position.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]
DAS-FOI
05-H- [REDACTED] ction 40
MoD main Building
Whitehall
London
SW1A 2HB

10/07/2008

From: feedback@www.mod.uk

Sent: 09 July 2008 15:34

To: Ministers

Subject: URGENT: I AM FRENCH AND I WANT TO SHOW YOU MY DISCOVERY. HIGH LEVEL DEFENSE

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted on Wednesday, July 9, 2008 at 15:34:23

firstname: [REDACTED] 40

lastname: [REDACTED] 40

address1: [REDACTED]

address2: Address line 2

towncity: Paris

statecounty: france

postzipcode: [REDACTED] 40

country: France

e-mail: [REDACTED]

informationrequest: Hi,

I am a french photographer graduate from the high school [REDACTED]. I won the Vocation Award. Please, respect my anonymous and sorry for my english. I want to show you my discovery. It is very serious:

In the night of 15 to 16 september 1994, at Metepec near State of mexico; 200 people saw red ufos like over liverpool in june. [REDACTED], 38 years old, saw a UFO, ran for her camera, but only video-taped something strange like a luminous humanoid in her garden.

At the first see on the video, the creature looks like funny. So, at the sight of the video and analysis of the time, concluded a little too quickly a disguise of the Independence Day. We must be wary appearances. The level of sharpness does not validate the veracity of a document.

I make an investigation and some new more analysis on this video and the discovery is big. The new analysis clearly show a creature with an expressive face. The image is not very sharp. However, analysis of 2008 is much more clear as that of 1994. We can see perfectly morphological elements.

The proof is there: Morphological details, invisible for naked eyes and revealed by my analysis, corroborate the sighting of the same day in zimbabwe with 60 childrens who saw the same ufo with 2 aliens.

Go to this website and read the investigation carefully :

<http://www.alienproof.org> You must communicate my discovery at the high level.

Regards

submit: Send Form

From: Parli Branch-Treat-Official
Sent: 10 July 2008 11:57
To: DAS-Sec; Low Flying
Subject: Release-Authorised: Treat Official Correspondence: TO03112/2008
Follow Up Flag: Follow Up
Flag Status: Flagged
Attachments: TO03112 2008 - 20080710115623 - [REDACTED].txt

TREAT OFFICIAL CORRESPONDENCE - TO BE GIVEN A HIGH PRIORITY

To: DAS Sec
Copy To:
Our Reference: TO03112/2008
Due Date: 30 July 2008
Correspondent: [REDACTED] n 40
Additional Advice:

The Rt Hon Des Browne MP has received the attached correspondence from a member of the public, which this office has neither retained nor acknowledged. Please send a reply on behalf of the PM/Minister/Department.

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

If correspondence includes a specific request for recorded information then it should be treated under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, even if the Act is not specifically mentioned. In general, if you meet the Department's 15 working day deadline and respond fully to the request for information, then there is no need to follow the full procedures for FOI requests. However, you will still need to acknowledge that you have applied the Act and provide details of their right of appeal (see link below). If the correspondence requests information which is not already in the public domain, and particularly if you considering withholding information, then you should formally treat it as a FOI request. The correspondence should be logged on the Access to Information toolkit and you should consult and comply with the separate FOI guidance from DG Info. Note, the shorter deadline for responding to Ministerial and Treat Official correspondence will still apply. If you are in any doubt as to whether a piece of correspondence should be treated as an FOI request, you should ask your FOI Focal Point or refer to the guidance produced by DG Info. (See the guidance at <http://defenceintranet.diiweb.r.mil.uk/DefenceIntranet/Admin/RespondToRequestsForInformatic>

It is important that branches ensure they have simple systems to track correspondence received from members of the public, though the Parliamentary Toolkit records the basic details. If you have access to a DII/C terminal, please follow this link (once a response has been sent) to add your Final Reply Date and close the case to remove it from your TO Task List:
http://pt/_Layouts/PT/TaskList/TaskList.aspx. Lead Branches without access to the Toolkit should notify the Ministerial Correspondence Unit (via ParliBranch-Treat-Official@mod.uk) of the date of their reply so that Parli Branch can close the record on the Toolkit.

Detailed guidance on handling TO Correspondence can be found on the Defence Intranet at

10/07/2008

http://main.defence.mod.uk/min_parl/ParlBrch/TOGuid.htm. If you do not have access to the Intranet, please inform the Ministerial Correspondence Unit.

Email: ParliBranch-Treat-Official@mod.uk

Regards,

**MOD Parliamentary Branch
Ministerial Correspondence Unit**

t: [REDACTED]

t: [REDACTED]

f: [REDACTED]

e: ParliBranch-Treat-Official@mod.uk



From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 08 July 2008 13:46
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Release-authorized: UFO IMAGE - TO02998/2008

Dear Chris,

Thank you for your e-mail to Secretary of State for Defence, Des Browne, regarding an image of an Unidentified Flying Object that you have put up for sale on e-bay. It has been passed to this office to answer as we have responsibility for this subject.

Despite what many people think, the MoD does not have any expertise or role in respect of 'UFO/flying saucer' matters or to the question of the existence or otherwise of extraterrestrial lifeforms, 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. The 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 unauthorized foreign military activity.

Unless there is evidence of a potential threat to the United Kingdom from an external military 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. Further more, it is not MoD policy to purchase material regarding UFOs from members of the public.

I hope this explains the MoD position.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]
DAS-FOI
05-H[REDACTED]ction 40
MoD main Building
Whitehall
London
SW1A 2HB

08/07/2008

T002998 2008 - 20080707120430 - S - [REDACTED]0

From: feedback@www.mod.uk
Sent: 01 July 2008 20:37
To: Ministers
Subject: Disclose or Dispose?

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted on Tuesday, July 1, 2008 at 20:36:47

firstname: [REDACTED]n 40

lastname: [REDACTED]ection 40

address1: [REDACTED]

address2: [REDACTED]

towncity: Ware

statecounty: Herts

postzipcode: [REDACTED]

country: UK

e-mail: [REDACTED]

informationrequest: As we all know the mod like to fabricate all ufo stories or pictures for the good or bad of the public. well you do a good job to be fair. anyway, as you are aware recently theres been more sightings then ever. but only discriptions and no photographic evidence. im no enthusiast and to be honest dont really care however ive bin at the right place right time without knowing. anyway i cant explain the full scenario as of yet but heres the script. i posses an image which i took (not stored on laptop or at home so no point hacking through my stuff because you wont find it) and ive been encouraged by many people to persue the matter a little further. i have an encrypted disk with the image on stored in a designated location. it is for sale. it is on ebay with the direct link:

http://cgi.ebay.co.uk/GENUINE-UFO-PICTURE_W0QQitemZ260256891287QQcmdZViewItem?hash=item260256891287&trkparms=72%3A12%7C39%3A1%7C65%3A12&trksid=p3286.c0.m14

I have purely put this forward to you as i think you the mod should have as much right to have it as average joe even if you destroy it or whatever.

[REDACTED]

submit: Send Form

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 07 July 2008 12:09
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Release-Authorised: Treat Official Correspondence: TO02998/2008
Attachments: TO02998 2008 - 20080707120430 - S - [REDACTED] 40

I think that the correct answer for the correspondent is, in the words of the Duke of Wellington – "Publish and be damned!"

[REDACTED] 40

From: Parli Branch-Treat-Official
Sent: 07 July 2008 12:05
To: DAS-Sec; Low Flying
Subject: Release-Authorised: Treat Official Correspondence: TO02998/2008

TREAT OFFICIAL CORRESPONDENCE - TO BE GIVEN A HIGH PRIORITY

To: DAS Sec
Copy To:
Our Reference: TO02998/2008
Due Date: 25 July 2008
Correspondent: [REDACTED] tion 40
Additional Advice:

The Rt Hon Des Browne MP has received the attached correspondence from a member of the public, which this office has neither retained nor acknowledged. Please send a reply on behalf of the PM/Minister/Department.

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

If correspondence includes a specific request for recorded information then it should be treated under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, even if the Act is not specifically mentioned. In general, if you meet the Department's 15 working day deadline and respond fully to the request for information, then there is no need to follow the full procedures for FOI requests. However, you will still need to acknowledge that you have applied the Act and provide details of their right of appeal (see link below). If the correspondence requests information which is not already in the public domain, and particularly if you considering withholding information, then you should formally treat it as a FOI request. The correspondence should be logged on the Access to Information toolkit and you should consult and comply with the separate FOI guidance from DG Info. Note, the shorter deadline for responding to Ministerial and Treat Official correspondence will still apply. If you are in any doubt as to whether a piece of correspondence should be treated as an FOI request, you should ask your FOI Focal Point or refer to the guidance produced by DG Info. (See the guidance at <http://defenceintranet.diiweb.r.mil.uk/DefenceIntranet/Admin/RespondToRequestsForInformatic>

It is important that branches ensure they have simple systems to track correspondence received from members of the public, though the Parliamentary

08/07/2008

Toolkit records the basic details. If you have access to a DII/C terminal, please follow this link (once a response has been sent) to add your Final Reply Date and close the case to remove it from your TO Task List:
http://pt/_Layouts/PT/TaskList/TaskList.aspx. Lead Branches without access to the Toolkit should notify the Ministerial Correspondence Unit (via ParliBranch-Treat-Official@mod.uk) of the date of their reply so that Parli Branch can close the record on the Toolkit.

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

Email: ParliBranch-Treat-Official@mod.uk

Regards,

**MOD Parliamentary Branch
Ministerial Correspondence Unit**

t:

t:

f:

e: ParliBranch-Treat-Official@mod.uk

43/1

From: [REDACTED] on behalf of Low Flying
Sent: 30 June 2008 14:04
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Release-Authorised: Treat Official Correspondence: TO02940/2008
Attachments: TO02940 2008 - 20080630132456 - S - [REDACTED] 40

[REDACTED]
Hd of DAS-LACEU
5-H [REDACTED] ction 40
MAIN BUILDING
WHITEHALL
LONDON SW1A 2HB
[REDACTED]

ANSWERED UNDER
FOI 01-07-2008 -
171609-002
SEE J/BAJ/64/6
PART C ENCL

From: Parli Branch-Treat-Official
Sent: 30 June 2008 13:26
To: DAS-Sec; Low Flying
Subject: Release-Authorised: Treat Official Correspondence: TO02940/2008

TREAT OFFICIAL CORRESPONDENCE - TO BE GIVEN A HIGH PRIORITY

To: DAS Sec
Copy To:
Our Reference: TO02940/2008
Due Date: 18 July 2008
Correspondent: [REDACTED] 40
Additional Advice:

the Department has received the attached correspondence from a member of the public, which this office has neither retained nor acknowledged. Please send a reply on behalf of the PM/Minister/Department.

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

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Apply. If you are in any doubt as to whether a piece of correspondence should be treated as an FOI request, you should ask your FOI Focal Point or refer to the guidance produced by DG Info. (See the guidance at <http://defenceintranet.diiweb.r.mil.uk/DefenceIntranet/Admin/RespondToRequestsForInformation>)

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<http://pt/Layouts/PT/TaskList/TaskList.aspx>. Lead Branches without access to the Toolkit should notify the Ministerial Correspondence Unit (via ParliBranch-Treat-Official@mod.uk) of the date of their reply so that Parli Branch can close the record on the Toolkit.

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Email: ParliBranch-Treat-Official@mod.uk

Regards,

**MOD Parliamentary Branch
Ministerial Correspondence Unit**

t:

t:

f:

e: ParliBranch-Treat-Official@mod.uk

Reply to: [REDACTED], Pontefract, West Yorkshire, [REDACTED] on 40

[REDACTED] on 40

Tele: [REDACTED]. Email: [REDACTED]

Date: 26th June 2008.

Dear Sir/Madam,

This is a Freedom of Information Act request. I would like to request copies of all documentation either written or electronic relating to the alleged UFO sighting by [REDACTED] 40 [REDACTED] and colleagues over Tern Hill barracks near Market Drayton in Shropshire on June 7th 2008.

I understand that [REDACTED] reported the incidents in question to his commanding officers. I would therefore like to request a copy of this report either written or electronic and any other reports submitted by any other military personnel at Tern Hill barracks on the night in question (June 7th 2008).

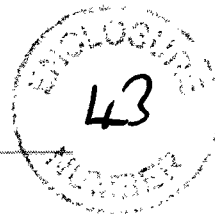
I would also respectfully like to request a copy of the video film footage taken by [REDACTED] 40 [REDACTED] and any other such footage that may have been taken by other military personnel at the times.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
Features Editor.





From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 20 May 2008 10:07
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Release-authorised: TO02269/2008 UFOs - [REDACTED] 0

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your e-mail of 13 May 2008 to Secretary of State for Defence, Des Browne. It has been passed to this office to answer as we are the branch with responsibility for UFO matters within the MOD.

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

The MOD does not have any expertise or role in respect of 'UFO/flying saucer' matters or 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.

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 five 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 1986-87 are now available for public viewing. We have also just announced that we will be releasing some 160 of our UFO files covering the late 1970s to 2007 over the next 3 years which will be available at The National Archives, who 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 the internet at: <http://www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/FreedomOfInformation/PublicationScheme>, by searching under UFO reports.

I hope this is helpful.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]
DAS-FOI
05-H [REDACTED] tion 40
MOD Main Building

20/05/2008

T002269 2008 - 20080514100455 - S - [REDACTED] 40

From: feedback@www.mod.uk
Sent: 13 May 2008 00:20
To: Ministers
Subject: Ask a Minister

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted on Tuesday, May 13, 2008 at 00:20:09

txtfirstname: [REDACTED]

txtlastname: [REDACTED] 40

txtsubject: About UFO

txtaddress1: [REDACTED]

txtaddress2: [REDACTED] ction 40

txttowncity: Ińsko

txtstatecountry: Zachodniopomorkie

txtzipcodepostcode: [REDACTED] 40

txtcountry: Poland

txtemailAddress: [REDACTED]

txtrequest: What MOD can tell me about UFO's over England or Scotland? And please, don't say "there was no UFO's over England".

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 14 May 2008 10:30
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Release-Authorised: Treat Official Correspondence: TO02269/2008
Attachments: TO02269 2008 - 20080514100455 - S - [REDACTED].doc

From: Parli Branch-Treat-Official
Sent: 14 May 2008 10:05
To: DAS-Sec; Low Flying
Subject: Release-Authorised: Treat Official Correspondence: TO02269/2008

TREAT OFFICIAL CORRESPONDENCE - TO BE GIVEN A HIGH PRIORITY

To: DAS Sec
Copy To:
Our Reference: TO02269/2008
Due Date: 04 June 2008
Correspondent: [REDACTED]
Additional Advice:

The Rt Hon Des Browne MP has received the attached correspondence from a member of the public, which this office has neither retained nor acknowledged. Please send a reply on behalf of the PM/Minister/Department.

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

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http://pt/_Layouts/PT/TaskList/TaskList.aspx. Lead Branches without access to

The Toolkit should notify the Ministerial Correspondence Unit (via ParliBranch-Treat-Official@mod.uk) of the date of their reply so that Parli Branch can close the record on the Toolkit.

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Email: ParliBranch-Treat-Official@mod.uk

Regards,

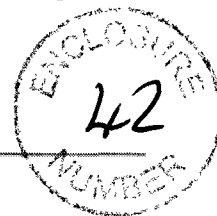
**MOD Parliamentary Branch
Ministerial Correspondence Unit**

t:

t:

f:

e: ParliBranch-Treat-Official@mod.uk



From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 07 May 2008 16:14
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Release-authorised: UNGA 33/426 (1978) - TREAT OFFICIAL 01999/2008

Dear Mr McDonald and Dr Salla,

Thank you for your letter of 15 March 2008 to the Prime Minister regarding the implementation of United Nations General Assembly decision 33/426 of 1978. It has been passed to this branch to answer as we have the lead on UFO matters for the Ministry of Defence (MOD).

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

The UK does not intend to take a pro-active stance in the UN given its limited interest in this matter. You may be interested to know that the MOD has made a commitment to transfer some 160 files dating back to the late 1970s to 2007 to The National Archives. The files are from both Defence Intelligence Staff and the Directorate of Air Staff, which is the lead branch on UFO matters across the MoD. The transfer programme will take place in chronological order and will take some three years to complete. It is due to commence shortly. Once they are transferred, the files will be available for viewing on The National Archives website. You may also be interested to know that the MOD has already released a considerable amount of information regarding UFOs on its own website www.mod.uk, including details of UFO sightings for the period 1997-2007.

I hope this explains our position.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]
DAS-FOI
05-H [REDACTED] ction 40
MOD Main Building
Whitehall
London
SW1A 2HB

07/05/2008

From: [REDACTED] on behalf of Low Flying
Sent: 25 April 2008 10:38
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Release-Authorised: Treat Official Correspondence: TO01999/2008
Attachments: TO01999 2008 - 20080425101103 - S - McDONALD.tif

[REDACTED]
Directorate of Airstaff (Lower Airspace)
Complaints & Enquiries Unit
Floor 5, Zone H
Main Building
Whitehall
London SW1A 2HB



From: Parli Branch-Treat-Official
Sent: 25 April 2008 10:12
To: DAS-Sec; Low Flying
Subject: Release-Authorised: Treat Official Correspondence: TO01999/2008

TREAT OFFICIAL CORRESPONDENCE - TO BE GIVEN A HIGH PRIORITY

To: DAS Sec
Copy To:
Our Reference: TO01999/2008
Due Date: 16 May 2008
Correspondent: MCDONALD
Additional Advice:

The Prime Minister has received the attached correspondence from a member of the public, which this office has neither retained nor acknowledged. Please send a reply on behalf of the PM/Minister/Department.

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

If correspondence includes a specific request for recorded information then it should be treated under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, even if the Act is not specifically mentioned. In general, if you meet the Department's 15 working day deadline and respond fully to the request for information, then there is no need to follow the full procedures for FOI requests. However, you will still need to acknowledge that you have applied the Act and provide details of their right of appeal (see link below). If the correspondence requests information which is not already in the public domain, and particularly if you considering withholding information, then you should formally treat it as a FOI request. The correspondence should be logged on the Access to Information toolkit and you should consult and comply with the separate FOI guidance from DG Info. Note, the

25/04/2008

shorter deadline for responding to Ministerial and Treat Official correspondence will still apply. If you are in any doubt as to whether a piece of correspondence should be treated as an FOI request, you should ask your FOI Focal Point or refer to the guidance produced by DG Info. (See the guidance at <http://defenceintranet.diiweb.r.mil.uk/DefenceIntranet/Admin/RespondToRequestsForInformation>)

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Email: ParliBranch-Treat-Official@mod.uk

Regards,

**MOD Parliamentary Branch
Ministerial Correspondence Unit**

t:

t:

f:

e: ParliBranch-Treat-Official@mod.uk

Defence, MOD, & Concerning the release of files on UFO's.
Implementation of UNGA Decision 33/426 (1978) Initiative

Exopolitics Institute • Exopolitics Toronto • Institute for Cooperation in Space • Institute for Multi Track Diplomacy

March 15, 2008

Rt Hon Gordon Brown MP
Prime Minister
10 Downing Street,
London, SW1A 2AA
United Kingdom

Dear Prime Minister Brown

**RE: REGARDING IMPLEMENTATION OF UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY
DECISION 33/426, 1978.**

UNGA Decision 33/426 (attached) concerns the establishment of a United Nations agency or department to monitor global reports of Unidentified Flying Objects (UFO) sightings, and to coordinate international efforts investigating extraterrestrial life. Paragraph Two of the Decision states the following:

2. the General Assembly invites interested Member States to take appropriate steps to coordinate on a national level scientific research and investigation into extraterrestrial life, including unidentified flying objects, and to inform the Secretary-General of the observations, research and evaluation of such activities.

Your Government has in fact taken steps to implement the terms of Decision 33/426 when on May 2, 2007 the U.K. Ministry of Defence announced it was releasing up to 7200 secret Extraterrestrial sightings files going back to 1967, collected by DI55, a secret unit within the Ministry of Defence.

Decision 33/426 identified the importance of the Secretary General being briefed by Member States, including the UK, on three areas concerning UFOs and extraterrestrials. The first concerns observations of extraterrestrial life/UFO's. The second is research and investigation of activities related to extraterrestrial life/UFO's. Evaluation of activities related to extraterrestrial life/UFO's is the third area described in Decision 33/426.

We therefore request that you forward to the UN Secretary General all relevant information you have concerning your observations, research and evaluation of your files concerning extraterrestrial life and UFOs. We have also written to the Heads of Government of France, Mexico and Brazil making similar requests concerning their own release of UFO files.

Finally, we plan to ask the Secretary General for a meeting towards the end of April so that he can be briefed on the three areas identified in UNGA Decision 33/426. Three non-governmental organizations that specialize in public policy issues concerning extraterrestrial life will provide experts for the meeting which will be chaired by retired U.S. Ambassador John McDonald



P.O. Box 2199, Kealahou, Hawaii 96750. USA

Implementation of UNGA Decision 33/426 (1978) Initiative

Exopolitics Institute • Exopolitics Toronto • Institute for Cooperation in Space • Institute for Multi Track Diplomacy

(former Deputy Director General of the International Labor Organization), and currently head of the Institute for Multi Track Diplomacy. The three NGO's are the *Exopolitics Institute* (based in Hawaii, USA); the *Institute for Cooperation in Space* (based in Vancouver, Canada, and Ecuador); and *Exopolitics Toronto* (based in Toronto, Canada).

We also respectfully suggest that you ask your Ambassador to the UN to support the idea of such a meeting with the Secretary General.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours Sincerely.

[REDACTED]

John W. McDonald, Ambassador
Institute for Multi Track Diplomacy

Ph: [REDACTED]

<http://imtd.org/>

Email: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Michael E. Salla, Ph.D.

Exopolitics Institute

Ph: [REDACTED]

www.ExopoliticsInstitute.Org

Email: [REDACTED]

Implementation of UNGA Decision 33/426 (1978) Initiative

Exopolitics Institute • Exopolitics Toronto • Institute for Cooperation in Space • Institute for Multi Track Diplomacy

United Nations General Assembly Decision 33/426 (1978)

[Reproduced from *Resolutions and Decisions Adopted by the General Assembly during its 33rd Session (1978-1979)*: A/33/45 (GAOR, 33rd Session, Suppl. No. 45)]

33/426. Establishment of an agency or a department of the United Nations for undertaking, co-ordinating and disseminating the results of research into unidentified flying objects and related phenomena

At its 87th plenary meeting, on 18 December 1978, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Special Political Committee adopted the following text as representing the consensus of the members of the Assembly:

- "1. The General Assembly has taken note of the statements made, and draft resolutions submitted, by Grenada at the thirty-second and thirty-third sessions of the General Assembly regarding unidentified flying objects and related phenomena.
- "2. the General Assembly invites interested Member States to take appropriate steps to coordinate on a national level scientific research and investigation into extraterrestrial life, including unidentified flying objects, and to inform the Secretary-General of the observations, research and evaluation of such activities.
- "3. The General Assembly requests the Secretary-general to transmit the statements of the delegation of Grenada and the relevant documentation to the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, so that it may consider them at its session in 1979.
- "4. The Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space will permit Grenada, upon its request, to present its views to the Committee at its session in 1979. the committee's deliberation will be included in its report which will be considered by the General Assembly at its thirty-fourth session."

P.O. Box 2199, Kealahakua, Hawaii 96750. USA

From: [REDACTED]@fco.gov.uk
Sent: 07 May 2008 15:04
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: IOD-PoliticalTeam@fco.gov.uk; [REDACTED]@fco.gov.uk; [REDACTED]@fco.gov.uk;
[REDACTED]@fco.gov.uk
Subject: RE: UNGA DECISION 33/426 (1978)
Attachments: Draft Reply - with tracked changes.doc

[REDACTED] on 40

Your main contact in the FCO on this issue is [REDACTED] (cc'd) who works in Security Policy Group. For info [REDACTED] is happy with the reply.

We do however have a couple of points / suggestions courtesy of [REDACTED] (Research Analyst, International Security & Global Issues Research Group), and [REDACTED] (Desk Officer, UN Political Team) which might be helpful to you [REDACTED] - thank you both for your contributions).

- You queried whether UNGA Decision 33/426 is binding upon member states. GA decisions are generally used for procedural matters, whereas resolutions normally deal with matters of substance. Neither is binding on Member States. If anything, insofar as their impact on Member States are concerned, GA decisions have even less weight than GA resolutions, though it isn't set out anywhere in terms and I doubt we'd want to say that in a letter to an MOP. (Of course, GA decisions can be binding on the UN itself, e.g. senior appointments in the funds and programmes). The terms of GA Decision 33/426 are extremely weak. A GA decision which "invites interested Member States to take appropriate steps" to do something is almost as weak as you get.
- We have made a slight change to the reply, which we are otherwise happy with. NB: If pressed, or if a PQ etc, we could say that 'we do not consider the steps being proposed to be appropriate given our limited interest in this issue', and that 'the GA decision is non-binding'. However, as it is a MoP letter, we see no need to explain this unless pressed. We feel the following line (see tracked changes in attached document) will suffice: *The UK does not intend to take a pro-active stance in the UN given its limited interest in this matter.*

Hope that's helpful.

regards

[REDACTED] on 40

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

[REDACTED] on 40

International Organisations Department
King Charles Street
London
SW1A 2AH
Tel [REDACTED]
Fax [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] [mailto:[REDACTED]@mod.uk]
Sent: 29 April 2008 16:06
To: [REDACTED] 40
Subject: UNGA DECISION 33/426 (1978)

07/05/2008

[REDACTED] n 40

Here is the UFO correspondence we spoke about earlier. I will forward my draft response separately.

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

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 29 April 2008 16:04
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Release-Authorised: Treat Official Correspondence: TO01999/2008

From: Parli Branch-Treat-Official
Sent: 25 April 2008 10:12
To: DAS-Sec; Low Flying
Subject: Release-Authorised: Treat Official Correspondence: TO01999/2008

TREAT OFFICIAL CORRESPONDENCE - TO BE GIVEN A HIGH PRIORITY

To: DAS Sec
Copy To:
Our Reference: TO01999/2008
Due Date: 16 May 2008
Correspondent: MCDONALD
Additional Advice:

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07/05/2008

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Email: ParliBranch-Treat-Official@mod.uk

Regards,

**MOD Parliamentary Branch
Ministerial Correspondence Unit**

t: [REDACTED]
t: [REDACTED]
f: [REDACTED]

e: ParliBranch-Treat-Official@mod.uk

Visit <http://www.fco.gov.uk> for British foreign policy news and travel advice, <http://blogs.fco.gov.uk> to read our blogs and <http://www.i-uk.com> - the essential guide to the UK

We keep and use information in line with the Data Protection Act 1998. We may release this personal information to other UK government departments and public authorities.

Please note that all messages sent and received by members of the Foreign & Commonwealth Office and its missions overseas may be monitored centrally. This is done to ensure the integrity of the system.

Dear Mr Salla,

Thank you for your letter of 15 March 2008 to the Prime Minister, Gordon Brown, regarding the implementation of United Nations General Assembly decision 33/426 of 1978. It has been passed to this branch to answer as we have the lead on UFO matters for the Ministry of Defence (MOD).

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

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with the United Nation
requested to do so by ti
however, it

Field Code Change

I hope this explains our position.

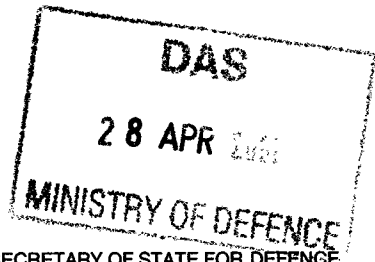
Deleted: The UK is h
operate with the Unite
requested to do so by t
however, it does not in
a pro-active stance giv
limited interest in this

0
DAS-FOI
05-H-Section 40
MOD Main Building
Whitehall
London
SW1A 2HB





PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE FOR DEFENCE
AND MINISTER FOR VETERANS



MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
FLOOR 5 ZONE B MAIN BUILDING
WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2HB

Telephone: 020 7218 9000 (Switchboard)

DAS Sec
41

D/US of S/DT MC02162/2008

21 April 2008

Dear Alistair

Section 40

Thank you for your letter of 27 March (reference: AC/JP) on behalf of your constituent, [REDACTED] of [REDACTED], Scalloway, about unidentified flying objects.

First, it may be helpful if I explain that the Ministry of Defence (MOD) has no 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. The MOD examines any reports of sightings solely to establish whether what was seen might have some defence significance. The MOD's only concern therefore, is to establish whether there is any evidence that the United Kingdom's airspace might have been compromised by hostile or unauthorized foreign military activity.

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. 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>.

The Directorate of Air Staff which collates all UFO sighting reports received by the MOD, has records of alleged UFO sightings dating back to 1984 whilst the Defence Intelligence Staff has a smaller number of files dating back to the late 1970s. The MOD has recently begun a programme to transfer some 160 of these files to The National Archives where they will be available to view by the general public over the internet. It is expected the first few files will be available shortly.

Alistair Carmichael MP
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

██████████ may also be interested to know that details of UFO sightings for the period 1997-2007 are already available for viewing on the MOD website, www.mod.uk, by searching under the phrase *UFO reports*.

I hope this is helpful.

Yours sincerely

██████████

DEREK TWIGG MP

LOADED IN PARLIAMENT TODAY
15 APR 08.

LAD

Thank you for your letter of 27 March (ref:) on behalf of your constituent [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] 40
of [REDACTED]

, Scalloway, Shetland.

First, it may be helpful if I explain that the Ministry of Defence has no 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. The MOD examines any reports of sightings solely to establish whether what was seen might have some defence significance. The MOD's only concern therefore, is to establish whether there is any evidence that the United Kingdom's airspace might have been compromised by hostile or unauthorized foreign military activity.

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. Directorate of Air Staff 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>.

The Directorate of Air Staff which collates all UFO sighting reports received by the MOD, has records of alleged UFO sightings dating back to 1984 whilst the Defence Intelligence Staff has a smaller number of files dating back to the late 1970s. The MOD has recently

begin a programme to transfer some 160 of these files to The National Archives where they will be available to view by the general public over the internet. It is expected the first few files will be available shortly.

may also be interested to know that details of UFO sightings for the period 1997-2007 are already available for viewing on the MOD website, www.mod.uk, by searching under the phrase *UFO reports*.

I hope this is helpful.

Derek Twigg MP

Alistair Carmichael MP



AC/JP

27 March 2008

HOUSE OF COMMONS

The Rt. Hon Des Browne MP LONDON SW1A 0AA
Secretary of State for Defence
Ministry of Defence
Floor 5, Main Building
Whitehall
London
SW1A 2HB

Unidentified Flying Objects – Northern Isles

I have been contacted by a constituent of mine a [REDACTED] of [REDACTED] tion 40 [REDACTED], Scalloway, Shetland, enquiring as to whether the Royal Air Force or any other Government defence organisation keep records of unidentified flying objects, and if such records do exist whether the public are allowed access to them.

[REDACTED] is particularly interested in seeing any official reports of unidentified flying objects over the Northern Isles.

Any information you can provide to my constituent would be much appreciated. I look forward to receiving your reply.



Tel: 020 7219 8181 Fax: 020 7219 1787

Email: carmichaela@parliament.uk Website: www.alistaircarmichael.org.uk

Constituency Offices: 31 Broad Street, Kirkwall, Orkney KW15 1DH
171 Commercial Street, Lerwick, Shetland ZE1 0HX

Tel: 01856 876541
Tel: 01595 690044

Fax: 01856 876162
Fax: 01595 690055

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 15 April 2008 10:59
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Release-Authorised: Ministerial Correspondence: MC02162/2008
Attachments: MC02162 2008 - 20080415093201 - S - carmichael.tif

[REDACTED]
Hd of DAS-LACEU
5-H [REDACTED] ction 40
MAIN BUILDING
WHITEHALL
LONDON SW1A 2HB
[REDACTED]

From: Ministerial Correspondence
Sent: 15 April 2008 09:35
To: DAS-Sec; Low Flying
Subject: Release-Authorised: Ministerial Correspondence: MC02162/2008

MINISTERIAL CORRESPONDENCE - TO BE GIVEN PRIORITY AT ALL TIMES

To: DAS Sec
Copy To:
Our Reference: MC02162/2008
Correspondent: Alistair Carmichael MP
Minister Replying: US of S
Draft Required By: 21 April 2008
Additional Advice:

- Detailed guidance on handling Ministerial Correspondence can be found at http://main.defence.mod.uk/min_parl/ParlBrch/MCguid.htm.
- If you have access to DII, please follow this link to action this request: http://pt/_Layouts/PT/TaskList/TaskList.aspx
- If you do not have access to DII, please email drafts to Ministerial-Correspondence@mod.uk. Please ensure sensitivity of your message is 'Normal'.
- Draft to be no more than two pages - see guidance.
- You will be held accountable for the draft answer and advice that you provide - it must be accurate and not misleading in any way.
- A named official at Pay Band B2 level or above must clear draft. Other Government Departments or MOD divisions should be consulted as necessary.

- If this correspondence should be dealt with by another branch, please liaise and agree transfer with them immediately before informing the MCU.
- **SofS has made the prompt handling of Ministerial Correspondence a priority;** please ensure the above deadline is met.

Regards,

MOD Parliamentary Branch
Ministerial Correspondence Unit

t:

f:

e: Ministerial-Correspondence@mod.uk

39

Ministry of Defence

Thursday 17 January 2008

DIS ANSWER

NOT

DAS

John Hayes MP (South Holland & The Deepings) (Con)

WRITTEN

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, with reference to the Answer of 27th June 2007, Official Report, column 801W, on unidentified flying objects, what the security classification of the report was; what its official title was; who commissioned the study; and for what reason; and if he will place a full or expurgated version of it in the Library. (180170)

Minister replying US of S

The report was entitled 'Unidentified Aerial Phenomena in the UK Air Defence Region'. It was commissioned by the Scientific and Technical Directorate of the Ministry of Defence's Defence Intelligence Staff (DIS) for the purpose of establishing whether anything of intelligence value could be determined from the sighting reports by members of the public that had been copied to the DIS. The full report was classified Secret UK Eyes Only. An expurgated version of the report is already available on the internet via the MOD's Freedom Of Information Act website at:

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



DRAFT REPLIES SHOULD BE SENT TO:

PARLIAMENTARY QUESTIONS AND NOT PQMAIL

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

TEMPLATE TO BE USED FOR REPLY

BACKGROUND NOTE

John Hayes has been the Conservative MP for South Holland and The Deepings since May 1997. He regularly raises PQs on a variety of defence related topics, however, this is the first PQ that he has raised on the Unidentified Aerial Phenomena (UAP) report and we have no indication as to why he has done so.

This PQ relates to the question raised by Norman Baker MP in June 2007 regarding the distribution of the UAP report, the text of which is as follows:

27 Jun 2007: Column 801W

Unidentified Flying Objects

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence for what reason his Secretariat (Air Staff)/Defence Secretariat did not receive a copy of the report on Unidentified Aerial Phenomena produced by the Defence Intelligence Staff; and if he will make a statement. [145883]

Derek Twigg [*holding answer 26 June 2007*]: The report was distributed to those areas of the Department who were considered to have most interest in the findings, including parts of the RAF.

(No further reply was submitted in response to this PQ)

The Unidentified Aerial Phenomena in the UK Air Defence Region study was conducted between December 1996 and March 2000 to determine whether there was a requirement for the Defence Intelligence Staff (DI55) to monitor UFO sighting reports by the public and to also ascertain whether there was any evidence of a threat to the UK and to identify any potential military technologies of interest. The study concluded that there was no evidence that any UAP in UK air space were incursions of foreign origin, no potential military technologies of interest were identified and there was no longer a requirement for the DIS to monitor UFO sighting reports. As a result of the recommendations, the DIS no longer receives UFO sighting reports and has conducted no further work into the subject of UAPs.

The report has been the subject of several Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests and was subject to a high level of public interest. Following this, an expurgated version of the report was placed on the internet via the MoD FOI website in May 2006 and can be viewed at <http://www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/FreedomOfInformation/PublicationScheme/SearchPublicationScheme/UnidentifiedAerialPhenomenauapInTheUkAirDefenceRegion.htm> There are, therefore, no plans to also place an expurgated copy of the report in the Library.

TEMPLATE TO BE USED FOR REPLY

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

Please send to PARLIAMENTARY QUESTIONS.

DRAFTED BY : [REDACTED] – DI CSD Sec3
TEL : [REDACTED] MB0

AUTHORISED BY : C.J. KERR
TEL : [REDACTED] MB0

GRADE/RANK : SCS
BRANCH : DI CSD-D

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



From: [REDACTED]
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) [REDACTED]
e-mail das-ufo-office@mod.uk

[REDACTED]
Maidenhead
Berkshire
[REDACTED] 0

Our Reference

TO 00171/08

Date

8 January 2008

Dear [REDACTED], 40

Thank you for your letter to the Prime Minister regarding Unidentified Flying Objects. It has been passed to this office in the Ministry of Defence (MoD) as we are the Department responsible for UFO matters across government.

First, it may be helpful if I explain that the 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.

The MOD does not have any expertise or role in respect of 'UFO/flying saucer' matters 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.

You may be interested to know that the MoD will be releasing some 160 of our UFO files over the next three years, starting later this year. These files, which cover policy, sighting reports, correspondence with the public, Freedom of Information requests and a small number of specific subjects or incidents, will be placed in the National Archive where they will be available for view over the internet.

I hope you find this useful

Yours sincerely,
[REDACTED]

③ Mod
Defence

MAIDENHEAD
BERKSHIRE

Dear Prime Minister, concerns re UFO's

I wish to write to you on a matter to which I am sure you are no stranger to. I have noticed an increasing interest amongst members of the public regarding the subject of UFO's, 'flying saucers' ect. As I understand it there are various investigations surrounding this issue some of which are governmental, & not all entirely inexpensive. Obviously a lot of these sightings are forgeries, & mistaken identities - i.e, comets, weather balloons, experimental aircraft ect.

However, if a certain percentage of these sightings are actually unidentified by even the most expert analysis does this not warrant further investigation if only in the interests of public safety? Obviously there are more pressing matters at hand but I do believe the public would be intrigued to know any answers you might be able to provide, & that some importance should be placed on the subject. I also believe that you would have the support of many registered voters so long as it is approached in the correct manner. Thankyou for your time.

Yours sincerely

P.S - if unable to respond personally then please reply to let me know which department this letter will be forwarded to!

37

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 08 January 2008 10:22
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Release-authorised: RENDLESHAM FOREST TO00151/2008

Dear [REDACTED] 0

Thank you for your e-mail of 1 January 2008 to Secretary of State for Defence, Des Browne, it has been passed to this office to answer as we are the branch with responsibility for UFO matters within the MoD.

When the Ministry of Defence was informed of the events which are alleged to have occurred at Rendlesham Forest/RAF Woodbridge in December 1980, all available substantiated evidence was looked at in the usual manner by those within the MOD/RAF with responsibility for air defence matters. The judgement was that there was no indication that a breach of the United Kingdom's air defences had occurred on the nights in question. As there was no evidence to substantiate an event of defence concern no further investigation into the matter was necessary. Although a number of allegations have subsequently been made about these reported events, nothing has emerged over the last quarter of a century which has given us reason to believe that the original assessment made by this Department was incorrect. Other than an obligation to respond to questions from the public, the MoD has no further interest in the subject and considers the matter closed.

The MoD file on the Rendlesham Incident is already in the public domain via our website and will be included in the general release of 160 UFO files that you mention in your e-mail, which will also include policy files, correspondence files, sighting report files, Freedom of Information request files and a small number of files regarding specific incidents or subjects such as alien abduction.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]
DAS-FOI
05-H [REDACTED] ction 40
MoD Main Building
Whitehall
London
SW1A 2HB

08/01/2008

36

From: feedback@www.mod.uk
Sent: 01 January 2008 21:00
To: Ministers
Subject: Ask a Minister

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted on Tuesday, January 1, 2008 at 20:59:49

txtfirstname: [REDACTED] on 40

txtlastname: [REDACTED] n 40

txtsubject: Rendlesham Forest RAF Bentwaters UFO 1980 Video

txtaddress1: [REDACTED]

txtaddress2: *no address 2*

txttowncity: Peachtree City

txtstatecountry: Georgia

txtzipcodepostcode: 30269

txtcountry: USA

txtemailAddress: [REDACTED]

txtrequest: Dear MoD Defense Minister,

I would like you to please watch these 2 short youtube video clips which feature testimony about the Rendlesham Forest UFO event of 1980 which I'm sure you're very familiar with.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ofwgrelyirs>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JmR2PzgLPPhg>

I would like to know what you think of this testimony. If they are telling the truth, one could assume that we've been visited by Extraterrestrial technology whether maned or unmanned.

Simply releasing a bunch of FOIA UFO Files over the next 3 years isn't enough. The general public isn't as dumb as you and the United States military think. You need to come clean and tell us the truth.

I hope you decide to do so because it's the best policy and we deserve to know that we're not alone and that these ET beings are not hostile.

Thank you and I look forward to your reply.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 07 January 2008 11:44
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Release-Authorised: Treat Official Correspondence: TO00151/2008
Attachments: TO00151 2008 - 20080107114213 - S - [REDACTED] 40

From: Parli Branch-Treat-Official
Sent: 07 January 2008 11:42
To: DAS-Sec; Low Flying
Subject: Release-Authorised: Treat Official Correspondence: TO00151/2008

TREAT OFFICIAL CORRESPONDENCE - TO BE GIVEN A HIGH PRIORITY

To: DAS Sec
Copy To:
Our Reference: TO00151/2008
Due Date: 25 January 2008
Correspondent: [REDACTED] n 40
Additional Advice:

the Department has received the attached correspondence from a member of the public, which this office has neither retained nor acknowledged. Please send a reply on behalf of the PM/Minister/Department.

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

If correspondence includes a specific request for recorded information then it should be treated under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, even if the Act is not specifically mentioned. In general, if you meet the Department's 15 working day deadline and respond fully to the request for information, then there is no need to follow the full procedures for FOI requests. However, you will still need to acknowledge that you have applied the Act and provide details of their right of appeal (see link below). If the correspondence requests information which is not already in the public domain, and particularly if you considering withholding information, then you should formally treat it as a FOI request. The correspondence should be logged on the Access to Information toolkit and you should consult and comply with the separate FOI guidance from DG Info. Note, the shorter deadline for responding to Ministerial and Treat Official correspondence will still apply. If you are in any doubt as to whether a piece of correspondence should be treated as an FOI request, you should ask your FOI Focal Point or refer to the guidance produced by DG Info. (See the guidance at <http://defenceintranet.diiweb.r.mil.uk/DefenceIntranet/Admin/RespondToRequestsForInformation>)

It is important that branches ensure they have simple systems to track correspondence received from members of the public, though the Parliamentary Toolkit records the basic details. If you have access to a DII/C terminal, please follow this link (once a response has been sent) to add your Final Reply Date and close the case to remove it from your TO Task List:
http://pt/_Layouts/PT/TaskList/TaskList.aspx. Lead Branches without access to

he Toolkit should notify the Ministerial Correspondence Unit (via ParliBranch-Treat-Official@mod.uk) of the date of their reply so that Parli Branch can close the record on the Toolkit.

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

Email: ParliBranch-Treat-Official@mod.uk

Regards,

**MOD Parliamentary Branch
Ministerial Correspondence Unit**

t:

t:

f:

e: ParliBranch-Treat-Official@mod.uk

36

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 03 January 2008 15:30
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Release-authorised: MoD Policy on UFOs - TO0024/2008

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your e-mail of 31 December 2007 asking for clarification of the Ministry of Defence's (MoD) policy regarding UFOs particularly concerning military and air force personnel. It has been passed to this branch to answer as we are the focal point for UFO matters within the MoD.

The MoD document you mention dated 12 April 2007 outlines the MoD position and there is little that I can add to it. However, from time to time, reports may be received that, in the opinion of staff, may warrant further investigation. This may be due to a large number of reports occurring on a particular day, or an unusual pattern of activity or reports. Additionally, the reports could come from witnesses such as pilots, aircrew, air traffic controllers or policemen. As part of our assessment of reports this office contacts, as required, the appropriate Departmental air defence experts to see if they believe the report is of any defence significance and if UK air integrity has been compromised. To date no 'UFO' report has revealed such evidence. That having been said, a report from military or air force personnel would not automatically receive any more attention than one from a member of the public.

When the Ministry of Defence was informed of the events which are alleged to have occurred at Rendlesham Forest/RAF Woodbridge in December 1980, all available substantiated evidence was looked at in the usual manner by those within the MOD/RAF with responsibility for air defence matters. The judgement was that there was no indication that a breach of the United Kingdom's air defences had occurred on the nights in question. As there was no evidence to substantiate an event of defence concern, no further investigation into the matter was necessary. Although a number of allegations have subsequently been made about these reported events, nothing has emerged over the last quarter of a century which has given us reason to believe that the original assessment made by this Department was incorrect.

I hope this is helpful.

[REDACTED]
DAS-FOI
05-H [REDACTED] tion 40
MoD Main Building
Whitehall
London
SW1A 2HB

03/01/2008

TO00024 2008 - 20080102114428 - S - [REDACTED] 40

From: feedback@www.mod.uk
Sent: 31 December 2007 01:38
To: Ministers
Subject: Ask a Minister

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted on Monday, December 31, 2007 at 01:37:42

txtfirstname: [REDACTED] 40

txtlastname: [REDACTED] 40

txtsubject: RE: MOD Policy on UFO Reports

txtaddress1: [REDACTED] on 40

txtaddress2: [REDACTED]

txttowncity: Swadlincote

txtstatecountry: Derbyshire

txtzipcodepostcode: [REDACTED]

txtcountry: UK

txtemailAddress: [REDACTED]

txtrequest: I was wondering if you could clear up a few queries for me. Obviously by the subject matter my questions regard UFO's. I would like to know the M.O.D's policy on reported UFO incidents. I have been looking into the UFO subject for a while now and find it to be full of contradictions. I was browsing your online archives and came across the incident of 'Rendlesham Forest' of December 1980. This is obviously one of the greatest and much debated UFO incidents within Great Britain. I have read the documentation and find it very interesting. I was then scanning other UFO related documents. One in particular caught my eye of recent times. The document was sent on the 12/04/07 regarding UFO sightings over the Grampian Region. Within this reply was written, i quote, "First, it may be helpful if I explain that the Ministry of Defence examines any reports of 'unidentified flying objects' it receives solely to establish whether what was seen might have some defence significance; namely, whether there is any evidence that the United Kingdom's airspace might have been compromised by hostile or unauthorised air activity. Unless there is evidence of a potential threat to the United Kingdom from an external source, and to date no 'UFO' has revealed such evidence,". I found this troubling when recalling the 'Rendlesham' incident of 1980. Surely this was 'unauthorised air activity' and surely this was also a potential threat to United Kingdom Airspace as the UFO was located not far from the RAF Bentwaters base. I would be grateful if you could give me the MOD's official policy on reported UFO incidents especially relating to incidents involving military and airforce personnel.

Kind Regards,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 02 January 2008 12:20
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Release-Authorised: Treat Official Correspondence: TO00024/2008
Attachments: TO00024 2008 - 20080102114428 - S - [REDACTED] 40

From: Parli Branch-Treat-Official
Sent: 02 January 2008 11:45
To: DAS-Sec; Low Flying
Subject: Release-Authorised: Treat Official Correspondence: TO00024/2008

TREAT OFFICIAL CORRESPONDENCE - TO BE GIVEN A HIGH PRIORITY

To: DAS Sec
Copy To:
Our Reference: TO00024/2008
Due Date: 22 January 2008
Correspondent: [REDACTED] 40
Additional Advice:

the Department has received the attached correspondence from a member of the public, which this office has neither retained nor acknowledged. Please send a reply on behalf of the PM/Minister/Department.

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

If correspondence includes a specific request for recorded information then it should be treated under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, even if the Act is not specifically mentioned. In general, if you meet the Department's 15 working day deadline and respond fully to the request for information, then there is no need to follow the full procedures for FOI requests. However, you will still need to acknowledge that you have applied the Act and provide details of their right of appeal (see link below). If the correspondence requests information which is not already in the public domain, and particularly if you considering withholding information, then you should formally treat it as a FOI request. The correspondence should be logged on the Access to Information toolkit and you should consult and comply with the separate FOI guidance from DG Info. Note, the shorter deadline for responding to Ministerial and Treat Official correspondence will still apply. If you are in any doubt as to whether a piece of correspondence should be treated as an FOI request, you should ask your FOI Focal Point or refer to the guidance produced by DG Info. (See the guidance at <http://defenceintranet.diiweb.r.mil.uk/DefenceIntranet/Admin/RespondToRequestsForInformation>)

It is important that branches ensure they have simple systems to track correspondence received from members of the public, though the Parliamentary Toolkit records the basic details. If you have access to a DII/C terminal, please follow this link (once a response has been sent) to add your Final Reply Date and close the case to remove it from your TO Task List:

http://pt/_Layouts/PT/TaskList/TaskList.aspx. Lead Branches without access to

the Toolkit should notify the Ministerial Correspondence Unit (via ParliBranch-Treat-Official@mod.uk) of the date of their reply so that Parli Branch can close the record on the Toolkit.

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

Email: ParliBranch-Treat-Official@mod.uk

Regards,

**MOD Parliamentary Branch
Ministerial Correspondence Unit**

t:

t:

f:

e: ParliBranch-Treat-Official@mod.uk

35

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 04 December 2007 10:10
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Release-authorised: FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST 27-11-2007-154550-006 AND TO07013/2007

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your e-mail to Des Browne, the Secretary of State for Defence, regarding the scrambling of RAF jets to investigate an alleged UFO sighting near Bognor on 4th October 2007. It has been passed to this branch to answer as we have responsibility for this subject. Additionally, you raised a Freedom of Information request on the same topic. I shall both queries in the same e-mail.

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

Turning to your actual question, I can confirm that no aircraft were launched to investigate this matter.

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,

[REDACTED]
DAS-FOI
05-H- [REDACTED] Section 40
MoD Main Building
Whitehall
London

04/12/2007

34

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 27 November 2007 11:52
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Release-Authorised: Treat Official Correspondence: TO07013/2007
Attachments: TO07013 2007 - 20071127114906 - S - [REDACTED].txt

One for you!

From: Parli Branch-Treat-Official
Sent: 27 November 2007 11:50
To: DAS-Sec; Low Flying
Subject: Release-Authorised: Treat Official Correspondence: TO07013/2007

TREAT OFFICIAL CORRESPONDENCE - TO BE GIVEN A HIGH PRIORITY

To: DAS Sec
Copy To:
Our Reference: TO07013/2007
Due Date: 17 December 2007
Correspondent: [REDACTED]
Additional Advice:

The Rt Hon Des Browne MP has received the attached correspondence from a member of the public, which this office has neither retained nor acknowledged. Please send a reply on behalf of the PM/Minister/Department.

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

If correspondence includes a specific request for recorded information then it should be treated under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, even if the Act is not specifically mentioned. In general, if you meet the Department's 15 working day deadline and respond fully to the request for information, then there is no need to follow the full procedures for FOI requests. However, you will still need to acknowledge that you have applied the Act and provide details of their right of appeal (see link below). If the correspondence requests information which is not already in the public domain, and particularly if you considering withholding information, then you should formally treat it as a FOI request. The correspondence should be logged on the Access to Information toolkit and you should consult and comply with the separate FOI guidance from DG Info. Note, the shorter deadline for responding to Ministerial and Treat Official correspondence will still apply. If you are in any doubt as to whether a piece of correspondence should be treated as an FOI request, you should ask your FOI Focal Point or refer to the guidance produced by DG Info. (See the guidance at <http://defenceintranet.diiweb.r.mil.uk/DefenceIntranet/Admin/RespondToRequestsForInformatic>)

It is important that branches ensure they have simple systems to track correspondence received from members of the public, though the Parliamentary Toolkit records the basic details. If you have access to a DII/C terminal, please follow this link (once a response has been sent) to add your Final Reply Date and close the case to remove it from your TO Task List:
http://pt/_Layouts/PT/TaskList/TaskList.aspx. Lead Branches without access to

27/11/2007

Toolkit should notify the Ministerial Correspondence Unit (via ParliBranch-Treat-Official@mod.uk) of the date of their reply so that Parli Branch can close the record on the Toolkit.

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

Email: ParliBranch-Treat-Official@mod.uk

Regards,

**MOD Parliamentary Branch
Ministerial Correspondence Unit**

t:

t:

f:

e: ParliBranch-Treat-Official@mod.uk

TO07013 2007 - 20071127114906 - S - [REDACTED]

From: feedback@www.mod.uk
Sent: 23 November 2007 18:26
To: Ministers
Subject: Ask a Minister

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted on Friday, November 23, 2007 at 18:26:00

txtfirstname: [REDACTED] 40

txtlastname: [REDACTED]

txtsubject: RAF - UFO intercept over Bognor - October 4th

txtaddress1: [REDACTED]

txtaddress2: Glastonbury

txttowncity: Glastonbury

txtstatecountry: Somerset

txtzipcodepostcode: [REDACTED] 40

txtcountry: UK

txtemailAddress: [REDACTED]

txtrequest:

<http://www.worthingherald.co.uk:80/6427/UFO-report--RAF-did.3488813.jp>

I refer to the above press report, and would ask for confirmation that two RAF fighters were sent up to investigate/intercept a possible UFO over Bognor on Oct 4th 2007.

[REDACTED]
Presenter
[REDACTED]

TEMPLATE TO BE USED FOR REPLY



Ministry of Defence

Wednesday 24 October 2007

Norman Baker MP (Lewes) (Lib Dem)

WRITTEN

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, pursuant to the Answer of 27th June 2007, Official Report, column 801W, on unidentified flying objects, for what reasons his Secretariat (Air Staff)/Defence Secretariat were not sent a copy of the Unidentified Aerial Phenomena Report. (160948)

Minister replying US of S

I refer the hon. Member to my answer of 27 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 801W.

(Please type answer here using as much space as necessary).

DRAFT REPLIES SHOULD BE SENT TO:

PARLIAMENTARY QUESTIONS AND NOT PQMAIL

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

October 2007

PQ Ref No PQ04214T

TEMPLATE TO BE USED FOR REPLY

BACKGROUND NOTE

Norman Baker has been the Liberal Democrat MP for Lewes since May 1997. Mr Baker tables a prolific number of Parliamentary Questions across Government Departments and has asked many Defence related questions during the past year. The questions have primarily focussed on Iraq but have also included Defence Intelligence related questions on the Unidentified Aerial Phenomena (UAP) report, the DIS in-house magazine 'The Mole', the DIS internal exhibition 'Project 21', and the Joint Narcotics Analysis Centre. This latest question is almost an exact repeat of a question Mr Baker asked in June 07 (PQ03179T) – see Hansard entry below - and has links to an earlier PQ from March 07 (PQ01844T), also copied below. On a separate, but related, issue Mr Baker wrote to the Min(AF) in May 2007 on the UAP report asking him to reconsider his decision not to release the name and qualifications of the author of the report (MC02961/2007). A reply was sent to Mr Baker on 19 June 07 upholding the earlier decision.

The Unidentified Aerial Phenomena (UAP) in the UK Air Defence Region study was conducted by DIS between December 1996 and March 2000 to determine whether there was a requirement for the DIS (DI55) to monitor UFO sighting reports and to also ascertain whether there was any evidence of a threat to the UK and to identify any potential military technologies of interest. The study concluded that there was no evidence that any UAP in UK air space were incursions of foreign origin, no potential military technologies of interest were identified and there was no longer a requirement for the DIS to monitor UAP sighting reports. As a result of the recommendations, the DIS no longer receives UAP sighting reports and has conducted no further work into the subject of UAPs. The report was circulated within the DIS and to those branches within MoD who were considered to have an interest in the findings of the report and were involved in air defence, flight safety and plasma formation. MoD branches that received either the full or part report were DG(R&T), UKADGE, IFS(RAF) FSATC(AIRPROX) and OPS(LF) 1 HQ MATO. DIS has no historical information to explain why Air Staff (now DAS-Sec) were not included on the distribution.

The report has been the subject of several Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests. The distribution list for the report was originally withheld but was subsequently released following an appeal and an internal review with MoD by Info Access. A redacted version of the report, with the distribution list, is now available on the internet via the MoD FOI disclosure log.

Hansard Written Answers: 27 June 2007

Column 801W

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence for what reason his Secretariat (Air Staff)/Defence Secretariat did not receive a copy of the report on Unidentified Aerial Phenomena produced by the Defence Intelligence Staff; and if he will make a statement.
[145883]

Derek Twigg [*holding answer 26 June 2007*]: The report was distributed to those areas of the Department who were considered to have most interest in the findings, including parts of the RAF.

Hansard Written Answers: 26 Mar 2007

TEMPLATE TO BE USED FOR REPLY

Column 1360W

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much was spent producing the report Unidentified Aerial Phenomena in the UK Air Defence Region; who the author was; what the author's qualifications in this subject were; to whom the report was circulated; what actions were taken on the recommendations of the report; and if he will make a statement. [128505]

Mr. Ingram: It is not possible to provide accurate details as to the cost of producing the Unidentified Aerial Phenomena report as this was one of several tasks that were included within a single contract and detailed costings for each of these tasks is not available. However, it is estimated that the overall cost was approximately £50,000.

The author of the report was a contractor and was employed by the Defence Intelligence Staff (DIS) on a long-term contract. Further details of the author, including the name, are being withheld under the terms of the Data Protection Act 1998.

The report was circulated within the DIS and to other branches of the Ministry of Defence and RAF. As recommended by the report, the DIS ceased to monitor unidentified aerial phenomena sighting reports (and therefore reaped a saving in staff time) as they contained no information of Defence Intelligence interest and no further action was taken.

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

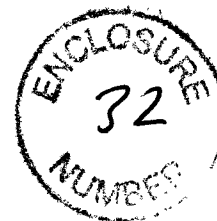
Please send to PARLIAMENTARY QUESTIONS.

DRAFTED BY : [REDACTED]
TEL : MB [REDACTED] 40

AUTHORISED BY : Colin Kerr
TEL : MB [REDACTED] 40

GRADE/RANK : SCS
BRANCH : DI CSD

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



Ministry of Defence

Wednesday 24 October 2007

Norman Baker MP (Lewes) (Lib Dem)

WRITTEN

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, whether his Department's (Air Staff)/Defence Secretariat remains the only branch of his Department responsible for the evaluation of reported unidentified flying objects. (160949)

Minister replying US of S

The Directorate of Air Staff remains responsible for the evaluation of reported unidentified flying objects, calling, if necessary, for advice from other branches.

DRAFT REPLIES SHOULD BE SENT TO:

PARLIAMENTARY QUESTIONS AND NOT PQMAIL

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



25 October 2007

PQ Ref No PQ04215T

TEMPLATE TO BE USED FOR REPLY

BACKGROUND NOTE

Norman Baker has been the Liberal Democrat MP for Lewes since May 1997. He is Liberal Democrat Shadow Minister for the Cabinet Office and Shadow Chancellor for the Duchy of Lancaster. Mr Baker has tabled 74 Defence related Questions during the last year. This question returns to the theme of the role of DAS regarding UFOs, which was the subject of three Questions raised by him in 2006. It is not known what prompted this particular Question, however, some "ufologists" express the view that the role of DAS has been exaggerated and that other branches are responsible for UFO or "extraterrestrial" investigations or research. Mr Baker has recently published a book on the death of Dr David Kelly.

The Ministry of Defence examines any reports of 'unidentified flying objects' it receives solely to establish whether what was seen might have some defence significance; namely, whether there is any evidence that the United Kingdom's airspace might have been compromised by hostile or unauthorized foreign military activity.

Unless there is evidence of a potential threat to the United Kingdom from an external military 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.

DAS remains the lead branch on UFO matters within the MoD and indeed, across Government. UFO reports are forwarded to this branch and DAS staff carry out an initial evaluation of any report received to decide if it warrants further investigation. If this is the case, DAS consults the appropriate subject matter experts, particularly those dealing with airspace integrity or air traffic control. On occasion, we may consult with other outside organisations such as the Civil Aviation Authority or the Metrological Office.

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

Please send to PARLIAMENTARY QUESTIONS.

DRAFTED BY : 
TEL : 

AUTHORISED BY : Mark Roberts
TEL : 

GRADE/RANK : Air Cdre
BRANCH : DAS

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



From: [REDACTED]
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)	[REDACTED]
e-mail	das-ufo-office@mod.uk	

[REDACTED]
Brampton
Huntingdon
Cambs
[REDACTED]

Our Reference

TO 4764/07

Date

20 August 2007

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your letter of 26 July 2007 to Derek Twigg the Under Secretary of State for Defence. It has been passed to me to answer.

Aircraft condensation trails ("contrails") are formed by mixing between the engine exhaust air and the surrounding environmental air. The exhaust air contains additional water vapour that has been released by burning fuel and the mixing process creates a plume of air that is briefly super-saturated with water vapour. Observations of contrail formation conditions show that it is necessary to achieve super-saturation with respect to liquid water in order for cloud particles to be nucleated in the mixing plume.

With the current generation of airliner jet engines, contrail formation typically occurs at temperatures below about -45 deg C, with some dependence on the humidity of the ambient air. At such temperatures, the cloud particles forming in the contrail freeze almost instantaneously to leave a cloud of small ice crystals. The temperature conditions required for contrail formation typically occur at altitudes of 30,000ft and above, the typical altitude for many airliners in cruising flight. They may occasionally form at slightly lower altitudes provided that the temperature and humidity conditions are appropriate.

In a very dry atmosphere, continued mixing between the contrail, which is very turbulent, and the environment can lead to the air becoming sub-saturated, resulting in the cloud particles evaporating. This produces a so-called non-persistent contrail which can be seen to dissipate at some distance behind the aircraft which generated it.

Contrail formation is somewhat analogous to the condensation that can occur in one's breath on a cold day. In this case, mixing between the warm, moist (and nearly saturated) air from the lungs and cold, unsaturated air in the environment can result in a super-saturated mixture in which cloud droplets briefly form.

In some circumstances, it is possible for the environmental air in which the contrail forms to be at or above the saturation humidity with respect to ice. It should be noted here that the saturation humidity with respect to ice is less than that with respect to liquid water. In this circumstance, mixing between the contrail and the environment does not result in the mixture becoming sub-saturated with respect to ice. Hence, the ice crystals in the contrail can persist for long periods or

even grow larger as they absorb the excess water vapour from the environment. This results in a contrail that can persist for many minutes or hours after the passage of the generating aircraft.

The part of atmosphere in which contrails form (the upper troposphere) can be a region in which strong wind-shear, *i.e.* changes of wind speed or direction with height, occurs. Growing ice crystals in the contrail can, therefore, fall into a layer of the atmosphere in which the wind speed or direction is different from that in its formation layer. This means that the ice crystals can then be carried horizontally away from the contrail. This contrail spreading is most apparent if the contrail is orientated perpendicular to the wind shear direction and can easily result in cloud streaks that may be many kilometres wide and visible in satellite cloud images. In regions of heavy air traffic, it is quite common for the spreading of persistent contrails to result in a thin overcast that covers most of the sky when viewed from the ground. Such overcasts can be difficult to distinguish from natural cirrus cloud. This is also formed in the upper troposphere and is composed of ice crystals.

As noted above, the initiation of contrails is dependent on three major factors, i) the engine exhaust characteristics, ii) the air temperature, and iii) the humidity of the air. At any level in the atmosphere, there may be some variability in the humidity field such that when an aircraft flies along, it may form contrails at one point but not at another. Such structure in the upper tropospheric humidity can result from meteorological phenomena that may be very distant. For example, a thunderstorm can transport water vapour into the upper atmosphere and may leave a plume of moister air that persists and can be transported for long distances after the cloud itself has dissipated.

Day-to-day variability of contrail formation results just from changes in the upper atmospheric temperature and humidity at aircraft flight levels, as the large-scale weather systems evolve. This can give rise to possible associations between periods of stronger contrail formation and subsequent weather systems, although such associations are entirely natural.

The photographs contained on the CD-ROM you provided, and which I return to you, show features that are absolutely consistent with the normal processes, described above, of contrail formation, persistence and spreading. In particular, photo 13032007420.jpg illustrates two of the important phenomena described above.

There is a contrail orientated roughly bottom-left to top-right in the picture. The oldest part of this trail is at bottom-left and marks a boundary where the generating aircraft probably entered a region of moister air and started to form a contrail. At this older end of the contrail, it has already become spread in the horizontal as a result of the wind-shear effects. The width of the contrail decreases towards the younger end at top-right, because the wind-shear has simply had less time to act on the growing and falling ice crystals. The broader patches of cloudiness in this picture appear to be of more natural origin, although as noted above, the distinction can sometimes be difficult.

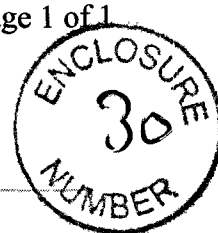
If you are concerned about the amount of air traffic that you have been witnessing since 2005, may I suggest that you contact the Civil Air Authority who are responsible for air traffic within the UK.

The Ministry of Defence does not take part in any activities of the type you describe. However, it is possible however, that from time to time during an emergency, aircraft may vent fuel to reduce the amount held in fuel tanks prior to landing.

I hope this is helpful.

Yours sincerely,





From: [REDACTED] [REDACTED]@metoffice.gov.uk
Sent: 20 August 2007 08:23
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: TO 4764/07 Contrails
Attachments: Chem-trail response 17-08-2007.doc

[REDACTED] n 40

Please see the attached explanation of what contrails are, how they spread or persist and comment on the photographs supplied.

Although the Met Office has not been involved in cloud seeding for many years, it is true that both the Met Office and MoD were involved in cloud seeding during the 1950s, but these activities were directed at modifying the rainfall produced by convective clouds forming in the lower atmosphere. Contrails, as you will read in the attached, form in the upper atmosphere.

If you need anything else please let me know.

Regards

[REDACTED] 40

<<Chem-trail response 17-08-2007.doc>>

[REDACTED] Corporate Services Manager

Met Office Green Island 1-17 FitzRoy Road Exeter Devon EX1 3PB United Kingdom

Tel: [REDACTED]

E-mail: [REDACTED]@metoffice.gov.uk <http://www.metoffice.gov.uk>

20/08/2007

1. The Initiation of Aircraft Condensation Trails

Aircraft condensation trails ("contrails") are formed by mixing between the engine exhaust air and the surrounding environmental air. The exhaust air contains additional water vapour that has been released by burning fuel and the mixing process creates a plume of air that is briefly super-saturated with water vapour. Observations of contrail formation conditions show that it is necessary to achieve super-saturation with respect to liquid water in order for cloud particles to be nucleated in the mixing plume.

With the current generation of airliner jet engines, contrail formation typically occurs at temperatures below about -45 deg C, with some dependence on the humidity of the ambient air. At such temperatures, the cloud particles forming in the contrail freeze almost instantaneously to leave a cloud of small ice crystals. The temperature conditions required for contrail formation typically occur at altitudes of 30,000ft and above, the typical altitude for many airliners in cruising flight. They may occasionally form at slightly lower altitudes provided that the temperature and humidity conditions are appropriate.

In a very dry atmosphere, continued mixing between the contrail, which is very turbulent, and the environment can lead to the air becoming sub-saturated, resulting in the cloud particles evaporating. This produces a so-called non-persistent contrail which can be seen to dissipate at some distance behind the aircraft which generated it.

Contrail formation is somewhat analogous to the condensation that can occur in one's breath on a cold day. In this case, mixing between the warm, moist (and nearly saturated) air from the lungs and cold, unsaturated air in the environment can result in a super-saturated mixture in which cloud droplets briefly form.

2. Contrail Persistence

In some circumstances, it is possible for the environmental air in which the contrail forms to be at or above the saturation humidity with respect to ice. It should be noted here that the saturation humidity with respect to ice is less than that with respect to liquid water. In this circumstance, mixing between the contrail and the environment does not result in the mixture becoming sub-saturated with respect to ice. Hence, the ice crystals in the contrail can persist for long periods or even grow larger as they absorb the excess water vapour from the environment. This results in a contrail that can persist for many minutes or hours after the passage of the generating aircraft.

3. Contrail Spreading

The part of atmosphere in which contrails form (the upper troposphere) can be a region in which strong wind-shear, *i.e.* changes of wind speed or direction with height, occurs. Growing ice crystals in the contrail can, therefore, fall into a layer of the atmosphere in which the wind speed or direction is different from that in its formation layer. This means that the ice crystals can then be carried horizontally away

from the contrail. This contrail spreading is most apparent if the contrail is orientated perpendicular to the wind shear direction and can easily result in cloud streaks that may be many kilometres wide and visible in satellite cloud images. In regions of heavy air traffic, it is quite common for the spreading of persistent contrails to result in a thin overcast that covers most of the sky when viewed from the ground. Such overcasts can be difficult to distinguish from natural cirrus cloud. This is also formed in the upper troposphere and is composed of ice crystals.

4. Contrail Intermittency

As noted above, the initiation of contrails is dependent on three major factors, i) the engine exhaust characteristics, ii) the air temperature, and iii) the humidity of the air. At any level in the atmosphere, there may be some variability in the humidity field such that when an aircraft flies along, it may form contrails at one point but not at another. Such structure in the upper tropospheric humidity can result from meteorological phenomena that may be very distant. For example, a thunderstorm can transport water vapour into the upper atmosphere and may leave a plume of moister air that persists and can be transported for long distances after the cloud itself has dissipated.

Day-to-day variability of contrail formation results just from changes in the upper atmospheric temperature and humidity at aircraft flight levels, as the large-scale weather systems evolve. This can give rise to possible associations between periods of stronger contrail formation and subsequent weather systems, although such associations are entirely natural.

5. Comments on the attached photographs

These photographs all show features that are absolutely consistent with the normal processes, described above, of contrail formation, persistence and spreading. In particular, photo 13032007420.jpg illustrates two of the important phenomena described above.

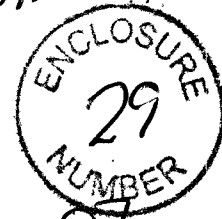
There is a contrail orientated roughly bottom-left to top-right in the picture. The oldest part of this trail is at bottom-left and marks a boundary where the generating aircraft probably entered a region of moister air and started to form a contrail. At this older end of the contrail, it has already become spread in the horizontal as a result of the wind-shear effects. The width of the contrail decreases towards the younger end at top-right, because the wind-shear has simply had less time to act on the growing and falling ice crystals. The broader patches of cloudiness in this picture appear to be of more natural origin, although as noted above, the distinction can sometimes be difficult.

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

**** DAS ****
TO BE GIVEN A HIGH PRIORITY **
10270
01 AUG 2007
FILE



EXP 22 AUG 07



TREAT OFFICIAL CORRESPONDENCE

To DAS Sec

TO Ref No 4764 / 2006

cc.

Date 01/08/07

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

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

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

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

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

Ministerial Correspondence Unit

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

t: [redacted] or [redacted]

f: [redacted]; DII: Ministerial Correspondence; e: Ministerial-Correspondence@mod.uk.

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

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

* Delete as appropriate.



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

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

DAS Sec
Low flying
(CDROM to follow)

[REDACTED]
Brampton
Huntingdon
Cambs
[REDACTED]

Tel: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
(Tues)

Thursday 26th July 2007

Dear Mr Twigg,

MC
3658/07

I am writing to you with reference to the letter you sent to my local MP, Mr Jonathan Djanogly, dated 18th July 2007.

Firstly, I would like to point out that at no time have I ever mentioned UFO's or any related topic. What I have witnessed in the sky is normal air traffic (i.e. passenger planes) and an increasing amount of aircraft since October 2005 that appear very similar in size to passenger planes. The increasing amount of aircraft as mentioned above, fly at a much lower altitude than the normal contrail height for passenger planes, leaving behind them (as can be seen on the enclosed CD-ROM) what have been classed on the internet as Chem-Trails. I have witnessed, along with my brother, one of these Chem-Trail laying planes malfunction and dump its intended cargo and abort its run.

Once the Chem-Trails have been laid in the sky, they gradually spread out and can turn a clear blue sky into an extremely hazy sky. I am concerned and would like to know exactly what is being sprayed by these planes as it would appear that some form of seeding of the atmosphere is taking place. As in the early 1950's in Dorset, where flash flooding occurred and more recently the severe flooding in Gloucestershire and Oxfordshire, there was a large increase in the activity of the planes spraying/seeding the atmosphere in the respective areas.

As well as photographs on the enclosed CD-ROM, there are also some video clips that show Chem-Trails that have been laid and also some that are in the process of being laid. I am surprised that this has not been brought to your attention before. I would like to add that this is not something that is unique to this country, it is something that has been going on all over Europe and America.

A copy of this letter and the CD-ROM has also been sent to my MP, Mr Jonathan Djanogly for his reference and perusal.

Yours faithfully

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

TC North East changed

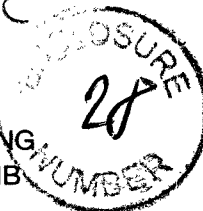
OK 04.



PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE FOR DEFENCE
AND MINISTER FOR VETERANS

DAS SEC
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
FLOOR 5 ZONE B MAIN BUILDING
WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2HB

Telephone: 020 7218 9000 (Switchboard)



D/US of S/DT MC03658/2007

18 July 2007

Jonathon

Thank you for your letter of 3 July to Des Browne enclosing one from your constituent, [REDACTED], Brampton. I am replying as this matter falls within my area of responsibility.

First, it may be helpful if I explain that the Ministry of Defence has no expertise or role in respect of 'UFO/flying saucer' matters or to the question of the existence or otherwise of extraterrestrial lifeforms, about which it remains totally open-minded. The MOD examines any reports of sightings solely to establish whether what was seen might have some defence significance. The MOD's only concern therefore, is to establish whether there is any evidence that the United Kingdom's airspace might have been compromised by hostile or unauthorised foreign military activity.

Unless there is evidence of a potential threat to the United Kingdom from an external military 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.

However, if your constituent would care to forward copies of his photographs to the address below, my staff will look into the matter for him.

Directorate of Air Staff – Freedom of Information

05-H [REDACTED] tion 40

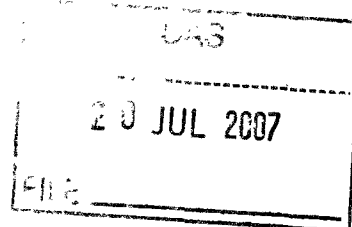
MOD Main Building
Whitehall
London
SW1A 2HB

I hope this is helpful.

Jonathon
[REDACTED]

DEREK TWIGG MP

Jonathan Djanogly MP
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA





D/DAS/64/4

11 July 2007

Ministerial Correspondence Unit

Through DAS SEC

MINISTERIAL CORRESPONDENCE 03658/2007 – Jonathan Djanogly MP

1. I attach a draft reply for USofS to send to Jonathan Djanogly MP.
2. Jonathan Djanogly MP has received an e-mail from his constituent [REDACTED] Brompton, expressing his concern that contrails he has seen in the sky are part of a unknown United States project, backed by the British government. Jonathan Djanogly MP, has however, categorised this as a UFO matter.
3. [REDACTED] has provided no evidence to support this theory, nor given any indication of exactly what he thinks the project is. Without any clear indication of exactly what [REDACTED] is referring to, it is impossible to take the matter further.
4. It is therefore proposed that we suggest [REDACTED] forward any evidence he has and we will look into it.

{signed}

[REDACTED]
DAS-FOI
5-H- [REDACTED] MB
DII: DAS-FOI

AUTHORISED BY: [REDACTED]
GRADE/RANK: B2
BRANCH: DAS SEC
TEL: [REDACTED] MB

July 2007

Thank you for your letter of 3 July to Des Browne enclosing correspondence from your constituent [REDACTED], Brampton. I am responding as this matter falls within my area of responsibility.

First, it may be helpful if I explain that the Ministry of Defence has no expertise or role in respect of 'UFO/flying saucer' matters or to the question of the existence or otherwise of extraterrestrial lifeforms, about which it remains totally open-minded. The MoD examines any reports of sightings solely to establish whether what was seen might have some defence significance. The MoD's only concern therefore, is to establish whether there is any evidence that the United Kingdom's airspace might have been compromised by hostile or unauthorized foreign military activity.

Unless there is evidence of a potential threat to the United Kingdom from an external military 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.

However, if your constituent would care to forward copies of his photographs to the address below, my staff will look into the matter for him.

Directorate of Air Staff – Freedom of Information

05-H[REDACTED]on 40

MoD Main Building

Whitehall

London

SW1A 2HB

I hope this is helpful.

Derek Twigg MP

Jonathan Djanogly MP

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 10 July 2007 10:29
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Release-Authorised: Ministerial Correspondence: MC03658/2007
Attachments: MC03658 2007 - 20070710091356 - DJANOGLY.tif

UFOs? Over to you!

From: Ministerial Correspondence
Sent: 10 July 2007 09:16
To: DAS-Sec; Low Flying
Subject: Release-Authorised: Ministerial Correspondence: MC03658/2007

MINISTERIAL CORRESPONDENCE - TO BE GIVEN PRIORITY AT ALL TIMES

To: DAS Sec
Copy To:
Our Reference: MC03658/2007
Correspondent: Jonathan Djanogly MP
Minister Replying: US of S
Draft Required By: 19 July 2007

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

DRAFTS TO BE NO MORE THAN TWO PAGES IF AT ALL POSSIBLE - SEE GUIDANCE

YOU WILL BE HELD ACCOUNTABLE FOR THE DRAFT ANSWER AND ADVICE THAT YOU PROVIDE - IT MUST BE ACCURATE AND NOT MISLEADING IN ANY WAY.

E-MAIL DRAFTS TO 'MINISTERIAL CORRESPONDENCE' (or Ministerial-Correspondence@mod.uk), NOT TO MC CLERKS OR PRIVATE OFFICES.
(Please ensure sensitivity of your email message is 'Normal'.)

- ENSURE THE DEADLINE IS MET: The department is committed to answering 90 percent of its correspondence within 15 working days. Every effort must therefore be made to reply substantively on time. However, if it is obvious that you will be unable to reply in full within the deadline, an interim must be provided. You should then aim to forward a final reply within a further eight working days.
- A named official at pay band B2 level or above must clear all drafts. Other Government Departments or MOD divisions should be consulted as necessary.
- If this correspondence should be dealt with by another branch, please liaise with them immediately before passing it on and informing us. If you are an agency, the Minister's Office has directed that this letter should receive a ministerial - not Chief Executive - reply.

If you have access to a DII /C terminal please follow this link to action the request:
http://pt/_Layouts/PT/TaskList/TaskList.aspx

Regards,

10/07/2007

**MOD Parliamentary Branch
Ministerial Correspondence Unit**

t:

f:

e: Ministerial-Correspondence@mod.uk

w: http://main.defence.mod.uk/min_parl/ParlBrch/MCguid.htm



Jonathan Djanogly MP
Member of Parliament for Huntingdon
House of Commons
London SW1A 0AA

The Rt Hon Des Browne MP
Ministry of Defence
Floor 5 Main Building
London SW1A 2HB

3 July 2007

Dear Minister

Unidentified Flying Objects

I have received a letter from my constituent [REDACTED]
[REDACTED], Brampton, who is concerned about contrails in the sky that
he has witnessed locally to him.

[REDACTED] tells me that he has apparently taken some photos and a
video of these contrails and I would be grateful if the Ministry could look
into this for him. I enclose a copy of his email for your information and
would be grateful for your comments.

Yours sincerely



Tel: 020 7219 2367
Email: djanoglyj@parliament.uk
www.jonathandjanogly.com

[REDACTED]

From: DJANOGLY, Jonathan
Sent: 30 June 2007 09:59
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Contrails in our skies

From:
Message.from.the.House.of.Commons.-.Find.your.MP.service@HPUX14X.PARLIAMENT.UK[SMTP:MESSAGE.FROM.THE.HOUSE.OF.COMMONS.-.FIND.YOUR.MP.SERVICE@HPUX14X.PARLIAMENT.UK]
Sent: Saturday, June 30, 2007 9:59:12 AM
To: DJANOGLY, Jonathan
Subject: Contrails in our skies
Auto forwarded by a Rule

Message :
Dear Mr Djanogly

I have witnessed since oct2005 strange events happening in our skies, contrails that are not contrails, they leave lines in the sky that do not fade away but spread out. I have a lot of photos and some video. I suspect that this is a project for what purpose which is unknown by the Americans with our own government backing.

Do come and see me for more information.

Yours faithfully

[REDACTED]
Your MP : Mr Jonathan Djanogly

Message ID : WR1183193952W46861b60b4a86

Name: [REDACTED]

Postal code : [REDACTED]

Postal address : [REDACTED]

Brampton

Huntingdon

Email address : [REDACTED]

Constituency Searched for: Huntingdon

Constituency From Postcode entered : Huntingdon

This person is in your constituency



From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 25 June 2007 16:53
To: Parliamentary Questions
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Internet-Authorised:Parliamentary Question: PQ03179T
Attachments: PQ03179T - 20070622094814 - PQ Question - Draft answer.rtf

PSA draft answer and background note.

[REDACTED] 40

DI CSD-Sec 2
 04.J [REDACTED] MB

[REDACTED]@mod.uk

From: Parliamentary Questions
Sent: 22 June 2007 09:48
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: DGRP D AIR RP-PS; DAS-Sec; Low Flying; Air CmdSecCS-RAF Parli Business
Subject: Internet-Authorised:Parliamentary Question: PQ03179T

WRITTEN PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION - URGENT ACTION REQUIRED

DATE FOR RETURN:

12:00 ON 25 June 2007

PQ REFERENCE:

PQ03179T

PQ TYPE:

NAMED DAY WRITTEN

MINISTER REPLYING:

US of S

LEAD BRANCH:

DI CSD-Sec2

COPY ADDRESSEE(S):

D Air RP,DAS Sec,Air Command,

ADDITIONAL ADVICE:

Draft answers must be returned by 12.00 on Monday 25 June, as Cabinet have agreed that all questions have to be answered by 26 June.

- The answer and background note must be authorised by a civil servant at Senior Civil Service level or a military officer at one-star level or above who is responsible for ensuring that the information and advice provided is accurate and reflects Departmental Instructions on answering PQs DCI GEN 150/97.
- Those contributing information for PQ answers and background notes are responsible for ensuring the information is accurate.
- The attached checklist should be used by those drafting PQ answers and background material, those contributing information and those responsible for authorising the answer and background note as an aid to ensuring that departmental policy is adhered to.
- If you or others concerned are uncertain about how PQs are answered seek advice from a senior civil servant in or closely associated with your area.

MP's DETAIL: **Baker, Norman** (Lewes)(Lib Dem)

27/06/2007

QUESTION

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, for what reason his Secretariat (Air Staff)/Defence Secretariat did not receive a copy of the report on Unidentified Aerial Phenomena produced by the Defence Intelligence Staff; and if he will make a statement.(145883)

If you have access to a DII /C terminal please follow this link to action the request:

http://pt/_Layouts/PT/TaskList/TaskList.aspx

MOD Parliamentary Branch

t: [REDACTED]

f: [REDACTED]

e: parliamentaryquestions@mod.uk

TEMPLATE TO BE USED FOR REPLY

Ministry of Defence

Tuesday 26 June 2007

Norman Baker MP (Lewes) (Lib Dem)

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, for what reason his Secretariat (Air Staff)/Defence Secretariat did not receive a copy of the report on Unidentified Aerial Phenomena produced by the Defence Intelligence Staff; and if he will make a statement. (145883)

Minister replying US of S

The distribution for the report was predicated on the conclusions of the report and those areas of MoD who were considered to have most interest in the findings.

DRAFT REPLIES SHOULD BE SENT TO:

PARLIAMENTARY QUESTIONS AND NOT PQMAIL

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



June 2007

PQ Ref No PQ03179T

TEMPLATE TO BE USED FOR REPLY

BACKGROUND NOTE

Norman Baker has been the Liberal Democrat MP for Lewes since May 1997. Mr Baker tables a prolific number of Parliamentary Questions across Government Departments and has asked many Defence related questions during the past year. The questions have primarily focussed on Iraq but have also included Defence Intelligence related questions on the UAP report, the DIS in-house magazine 'The Mole', the DIS internal exhibition 'Project 21', and the Joint Narcotics Analysis Centre. This latest question clearly stems from a question Mr Baker asked in March 07 (PQ01844T) – Hansard entry below. Mr Baker also wrote to the Min(AF) in May 2007 on the UAP report, asking him to reconsider his decision not to release the name and qualifications of the author of the report (MC02961/2007) – a draft reply was sent to Parliamentary Branch on 8 June 07.

The Unidentified Aerial Phenomena (UAP) in the UK Air Defence Region study was conducted between December 1996 and March 2000 to determine whether there was a requirement for the DIS (DI55) to monitor UFO sighting reports and to also ascertain whether there was any evidence of a threat to the UK and to identify any potential military technologies of interest. The study concluded that there was no evidence that any UAP in UK air space were incursions of foreign origin, no potential military technologies of interest were identified and there was no longer a requirement for the DIS to monitor UFO sighting reports. As a result of the recommendations, the DIS no longer receives UFO sighting reports and has conducted no further work into the subject of UAPs. The report was circulated within the DIS and to those branches within MoD who were considered to have an interest in the findings of the report and were involved in air defence, flight safety and plasma formation. MoD branches that received either the full or part report were DG(R&T), UKADGE, IFS(RAF) FSATC(AIRPROX) and OPS(LF) 1 HQ MATO. DIS has no historical information to explain why Air Staff (now DAS-Sec) were not included on the distribution.

The report has been the subject of several Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests. The distribution list for the report was originally withheld but was subsequently released following an appeal and an internal review with MoD by Info Access. A redacted version of the report, with the distribution list, is now available on the internet via the MoD FOI disclosure log.

Hansard

26 Mar 2007 : Column 1360W

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much was spent producing the report Unidentified Aerial Phenomena in the UK Air Defence Region; who the author was; what the author's qualifications in this subject were; to whom the report was circulated; what actions were taken on the recommendations of the report; and if he will make a statement. [128505]

Mr. Ingram: It is not possible to provide accurate details as to the cost of producing the Unidentified Aerial Phenomena report as this was one of several tasks that were included within a single contract and detailed costings for each of these tasks is not available. However, it is estimated that the overall cost was approximately £50,000.

The author of the report was a contractor and was employed by the Defence Intelligence Staff (DIS) on a long-term contract. Further details of the author,

TEMPLATE TO BE USED FOR REPLY

including the name, are being withheld under the terms of the Data Protection Act 1998.

The report was circulated within the DIS and to other branches of the Ministry of Defence and RAF. As recommended by the report, the DIS ceased to monitor unidentified aerial phenomena sighting reports (and therefore reaped a saving in staff time) as they contained no information of Defence Intelligence interest and no further action was taken.

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

Please send to PARLIAMENTARY QUESTIONS.

DRAFTED BY
TEL:

[REDACTED]

AUTHORISED BY :Mike Jenden
TEL:

[REDACTED]

GRADE/RANK :SCS
BRANCH :DI ST

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



D/DAS/64/4

12 October 2006

Ministerial Correspondence Unit

Through DAS AD (Secretariat)

MINISTERIAL CORRESPONDENCE 5589/2006 Derek Twigg, MP

1. I attach a self explanatory draft reply for Min(AF) to send to USofS.
2. Derek Twigg MP has received an e-mail from his constituent [REDACTED] of [REDACTED] Widnes, asking for information regarding use of "sleds" with laser lights being towed behind aircraft to counter heat seeking missiles and the existence of a BAE Systems Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV).
3. [REDACTED] is a member of the British Unidentified Flying Object Study Centre. He believes that the explanation for a number of UFO sightings might actually lie in modern military equipment having been misidentified by members of the public. He refers first to a "sled" towed from the back of aircraft that emits multi coloured laser beams in order to divert heat seeking missiles away from the aircraft itself. The MoD is unaware of any laser based device that would fit this description. However, there are a variety of small electronic devices that can be towed from the back of aircraft to defeat incoming missiles and work by emitting radio waves. The ARI 23569 system has been fitted to Tornado for a number of years and the new Typhoon is fitted with the Towed Radar Decoy on the RAF version. Information on both these systems is widely available on the internet.
4. [REDACTED] second suggestion is that UFO sightings over Runcorn may actually have been an UAV from the BAE factory at Preston. BAE have developed a UAV called the HERTI which was shown at Farnborough earlier this year but they insist it has never been flown over Runcorn. Whilst it remains an experimental project, details are available on the BAE website.
5. The MoD does operate small battlefield UAVs such as the Pheonix, which can be used to spot for artillery or for local reconnaissance but it does not own larger UAVs such as the US Predator with their loiter capability which [REDACTED] is probably envisaging.

signed

DAS Sec 1

5-H- MB

DII: DAS-Sec1

AUTHORISED BY:

GRADE/RANK:

BRANCH:

B2

DAS AD (Secretariat)

TEL:

MB

October 2006

Thank you for your note regarding the e-mail you received from [REDACTED] of Widnes, seeking information regarding devices towed from aircraft to defeat heat seeking missiles and the existence of an Unmanned Aerial Vehicle produced by BAE.

The MoD is unaware of any towed sled with multi coloured laser beams being used to defeat heat seeking missiles. However, the ARI 23569 towed decoy system that emits radio waves to confuse incoming missiles has been used for a number of years on Tornado F3. Additionally, the new Typhoon aircraft will be fitted with the Towed Radar Decoy on the RAF version.

BAE have developed a UAV called the HERTI which was shown at Farnborough earlier this year but they have not flown it over Runcorn. Whilst it remains an experimental project, details are available on the BAE website.

I hope this is helpful.

Adam Ingram MP

Derek Twigg MP

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 09 October 2006 11:45
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Internet-Authorised: Ministerial Correspondence: MC05589/2006
Attachments: MC05589 2006 - 20061009111345 - [REDACTED].tif40

From: Ministerial Correspondence
Sent: 09 October 2006 11:15
To: DAS-Sec; Low Flying
Subject: Internet-Authorised: Ministerial Correspondence: MC05589/2006

MINISTERIAL CORRESPONDENCE - TO BE GIVEN PRIORITY AT ALL TIMES

To: DAS Sec
Copy To:
Our Reference: MC05589/2006
Minister Replying: Min (AF)
Draft Required By: 18 October 2006

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

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(Please ensure sensitivity of your email message is 'Normal'.)

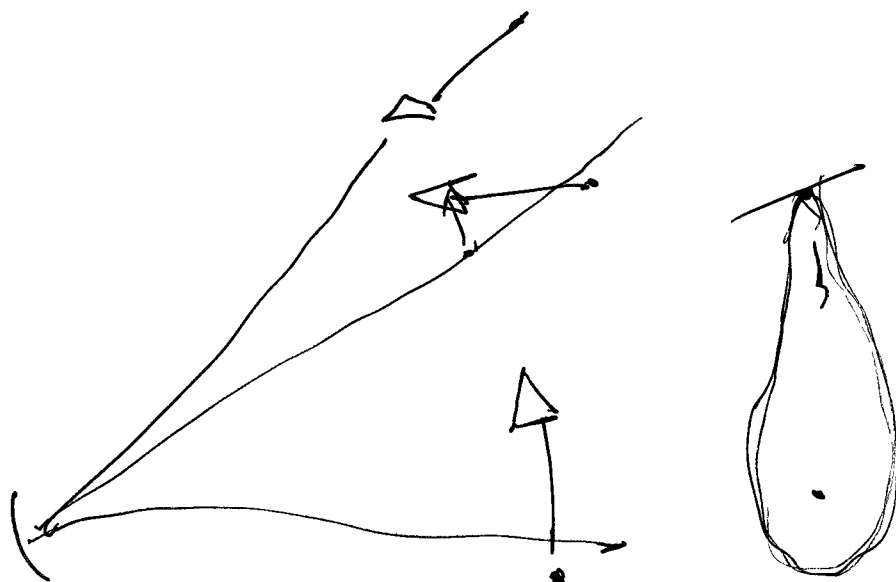
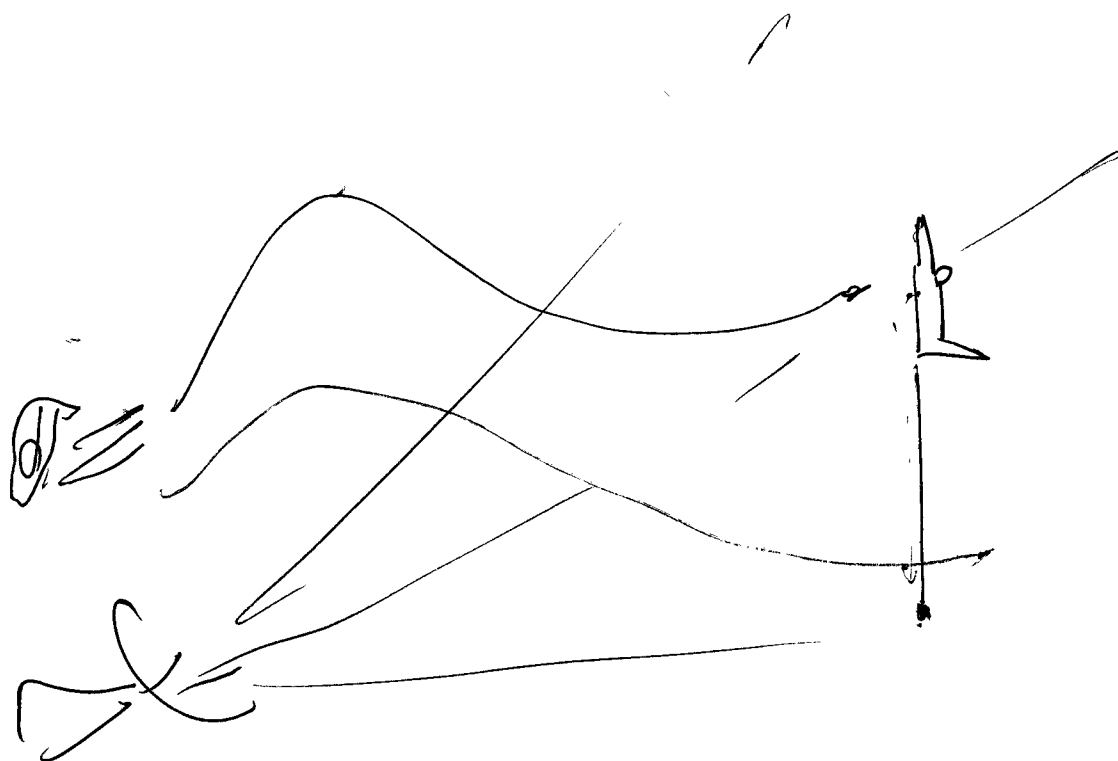
- ENSURE THE DEADLINE IS MET: The department is committed to answering 90 percent of its correspondence within 15 working days. Every effort must therefore be made to reply substantively on time. However, if it is obvious that you will be unable to reply in full within the deadline, an interim must be provided. You should then aim to forward a final reply within a further eight working days.
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If you have access to a DII /C terminal please follow this link to action the request:
<http://pt/Layouts/PT/TaskList/TaskList.aspx>

Regards,

MOD Parliamentary Branch
Ministerial Correspondence Unit
t: [REDACTED]
f: [REDACTED]

09/10/2006



WIGG, Mary

From: [REDACTED] [REDACTED]@hotmail.com]
Sent: 02 October 2006 16:32
To: TWIGG, Derek
Cc: [REDACTED]@hotmail.com
Subject: Recent meeting

to
MC surely

Derek Twigg M.P.
House of Commons
London

Widnes

40

Hi Derek,

Thanks to you and [REDACTED] for coming to the recent Friends of the Earth meeting on climate Change. Also thanks to [REDACTED] for arranging the meeting with our [REDACTED].

As a member of the British Unidentified Flying Object Study Centre (BUFOSC), there are several questions I would like to ask the Ministry of Defense.

1) Several years ago, BUFOSC received reports about people seeing UFO's chasing British fighter planes. BUFOSC believe the UFO's are somekind of device being towed by the fighter planes, to counteract incoming heat seeking missiles. We believe the device is a towed sled with multi- coloured laser beams on it, which produce a white light some distance from the plane, which the heat seeking missile homes in on, then detonates its proximity fuse.

We would like to know:-

- a) Does this device exist
- b) Has it been developed beyond the experimental stage
- c) What name has been given to the device.

KICK PANG
JCRS

2) BUFOSC received reports of people seeing UFO's over Runcorn. The UFO's followed the same path each time. They came in from the Fiddlers Ferry Power Station, direction, and went out towards Liverpool Airport. The UFO's were too slow for a fighter plane, too small to be a bomber, too quiet for a Helicopter. We believe they are UAV (unmanned ariel vehicles), from British Aerospace factory, at Preston. I am concerned that if one of these British "predator" UAV's crashes into the Chlorine tanks at ICI Runcorn, then large numbers of your constituents will be killed, by Chlorine poisoning. Also, if one of these UAV's hits the large Vinyl Chloride tanks at EVC, then a BLEVE (Boiling Liquid Expanding Vapour Explosion) could result, which would result in large numbers of your constituents being killed.

I would like to know:-

- a) Does such a UAV exist
- b) Has it been developed beyond the experimental stage.
- c) What name does the UAV have.

yes

shown at Farnborough
production configuration

You may recall, Derek, at your 8th September surgery, at Upton Community Centre, I asked if these devices were being deployed in Afghanistan. You said you did not know, as you had only been in your new job two days. I was trying to get you to admit that these devices exist, so that BUFOSC can classify these UFO's as Identified.

From:- [REDACTED]

STILL
EXPERIMENTAL



With Compliments

*I would be grateful if you would
respond to the attached e-mail
from my constituent [REDACTED]*

Derek Twigg MP

PP [REDACTED]

HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON, SW1A 0AA

From: DLO Sec-Strike 1
Sent: 12 October 2006 10:48
To: DAS-Sec1
Subject: FW: Internet-Authorised: Ministerial Correspondence: MC05589/2006
Attachments: MC05589 2006 - 20061009111345 - [REDACTED].tif40

[REDACTED] on 40

Hope this is helpful.

[REDACTED]
DLO Sec(Strike)

[REDACTED] 40

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

From: wyt-esair-avc-avewms
Sent: 12 October 2006 10:19
To: DLO Sec-Strike 1
Cc: wyt-esair-avc-aviptl
Subject: FW: Internet-Authorised: Ministerial Correspondence: MC05589/2006

[REDACTED] n 40

In answer to the Ministerial Correspondence you forwarded, I have the following comment regarding the statements at para 1:

Tornado F3 has a limited fit of Towed Radar Decoy (TRD) and is given the designator ARI 23569. Manufactured by SELEX, the TRD is a Radio Frequency (RF) Countermeasures system however, it is not fitted with any "multi-coloured lasers". The decoy itself is a relatively small device (about 1m long) has a non-reflective coating, and is towed behind the aircraft on a long fibre-optic cable. It should be noted that no streaming (the deployment of the decoy) of TRD is currently authorised outside of an operational environment.

Typhoon has a similar system, although it is not currently fitted to the RAF's aircraft. Again it is an RF system, with no lasers and a non-reflective body.

Other TRD systems are being fitted to some Large Aircraft Systems currently in procurement, but none have as yet been delivered to the Service.

There are other technologies in development such as MALD (Miniature Air Launched Decoy) and advanced flare systems which have the capability to "keep up" with the parent platform however, none are currently fielded.

On the subject of "multi-coloured lasers" DIRCM is a Directional Infrared (IR) CounterMeasures system designed to defeat missile IR seekers through directed light energy. However, this system is not fitted to any Fast Jets, is not towed and emits radiation outside of the visible spectrum; we are not aware of any system comprising a laser (visible or otherwise) on a sled.

I hope the above is satisfactory for your response however, feel free to call should you require more detail.

Regards

12/10/2006

Wg Cdr
NEW&MS

Tel: (GPTN) [REDACTED]
Tel: (PSTN) [REDACTED]
Fax: (GPTN) [REDACTED]
Fax: (PSTN) [REDACTED]
E-Mail: avc-avewms@esair.dlo.mod.uk

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

From: wyt-esair-avc-aviptpa **On Behalf Of** wyt-esair-avc-aviptl
Sent: 10 October 2006 16:04
To: wyt-esair-avc-avewms
Subject: FW: Internet-Authorised: Ministerial Correspondence: MC05589/2006

[REDACTED] on 40

This one I think falls under your area on the TRD... CC this office.

[REDACTED] on 40

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

From: DLO Sec-Strike 1
Sent: 10 October 2006 14:53
To: wyt-esair-avc-aviptl
Cc: wyt-esair-avc-aviptpa
Subject: FW: Internet-Authorised: Ministerial Correspondence: MC05589/2006

Captain [REDACTED] on 40

Please see the attached MC for which DAS Sec have the lead. I would be very grateful for any information on the items described in para 1 of the email (TRDs?).

If these are TRDs I would be grateful for a very short note on which ones are in service with the RAF. A reply by Friday 13 Oct would be appreciated.

[REDACTED]
DLO Sec(Strike)
[REDACTED] on 40

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

From: DLO - Sec (Strike)
Sent: 10 October 2006 12:12
To: DLO Sec-Strike 1
Subject: FW: Internet-Authorised: Ministerial Correspondence: MC05589/2006

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

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 09 October 2006 13:49
To: DLO Sec-(Strike)
Subject: FW: Internet-Authorised: Ministerial Correspondence: MC05589/2006

[REDACTED] on 40

Here is the MC we spoke about.

[REDACTED] on 40

12/10/2006

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 09 October 2006 11:45
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Internet-Authorised: Ministerial Correspondence: MC05589/2006

Bit cheeky this one - look who the MP is!

[REDACTED]
DAS-Secretariat
MB5.H. [REDACTED] MB
DII: DAS-Sec e-mail: [REDACTED]@mod.uk

From: Ministerial Correspondence
Sent: 09 October 2006 11:15
To: DAS-Sec; Low Flying
Subject: Internet-Authorised: Ministerial Correspondence: MC05589/2006

MINISTERIAL CORRESPONDENCE - TO BE GIVEN PRIORITY AT ALL TIMES

To: DAS Sec
Copy To:
Our Reference: MC05589/2006
Minister Replying: Min (AF)
Draft Required By: 18 October 2006

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- A named official at pay band B2 level or above must clear all drafts. Other Government Departments or MOD divisions should be consulted as necessary.
- If this correspondence should be dealt with by another branch, please liaise with them immediately before passing it on and informing us. If you are an agency, the Minister's Office has directed that this letter should receive a ministerial - not Chief Executive - reply.

If you have access to a DII /C terminal please follow this link to action the request:
http://pt/_Layouts/PT/TaskList/TaskList.aspx

Regards,

MOD Parliamentary Branch

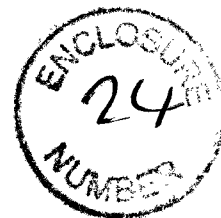
12/10/2006

Ministerial Correspondence Unit

f: [REDACTED]

e: Ministerial-Correspondence@mod.uk

w: http://main.defence.mod.uk/min_parl/ParlBrch/MCguid.htm



Ministry of Defence

Monday 09 October 2006

Lynne Featherstone MP (Hornsey & Wood Green) (Lib Dem)

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, how many reported unidentified flying object sightings his Department (a) received and (b) investigated in the last five years. (92203)

Minister replying US of S

Since January 2001 the Ministry of Defence has received 714 reports of unidentified flying objects. Reports are analysed solely to consider whether there is any reason to believe that UK airspace has been compromised by the reported activity. Of the 714 reports received, only 12 were deemed to be worthy of further consideration, and none of these was considered to demonstrate any threat to the integrity of the UK Air Defence Region.

DRAFT REPLIES SHOULD BE SENT TO:

PARLIAMENTARY QUESTIONS AND NOT PQMAIL

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

October 2006

PQ Ref No PQ05715S

TEMPLATE TO BE USED FOR REPLY

BACKGROUND NOTE

Lynne Featherstone has been a Liberal Democrat MP and Member for Hornsey and Woodgreen since 2005. She is a member of the House of Commons Environmental Audit Select Committee and Liberal Democrat spokesperson on Home Affairs and London. Lynne Featherstone has not asked any questions concerning UFOs before. Her main interests lie with local community issues. However, she is strongly against the war in Iraq and was against the Terrorism Bill. It is not known what may have prompted this Question, although it may have been provoked by a recent article in the Guardian newspaper.

In the early post World War 2 era, when there was a rise in the number of reports of "UFOs" from the public, a working party was set up at the instigation of Sir Henry Tizard to consider whether there was anything credible in such reports. The working party concluded in 1951 that "*...no further investigation of reported mysterious aerial phenomena be undertaken unless and until some material evidence becomes available*". In other words, there was insufficient evidence of the existence of UFOs to warrant any further official investigation.

Nevertheless, the public continued to report such sightings, and it was decided that they would be handled by a branch responsible for Air Force issues, solely with a view to determining whether any reports might indicate some threat to UK air defence. Additionally, until December 2000, the DIS examined UFO sighting reports received by MOD to see if they contained any information of value in DIS's task of analysing the performance and threat of foreign weapons systems, nuclear, chemical and biological warfare programmes and technologies and emerging technologies. However, following a policy review in 2000, it was decided there was no further utility in reports being copied to DIS.

That remains the situation up to today, with an average of some 130 reports being received each year. As well as receiving letters from the public, the Directorate of Air Staff (DAS) maintains an unmanned answering service to allow the public to make reports by telephone.

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

Despite reports in the media the MoD has no expertise or role in respect of the existence or otherwise of extraterrestrial life forms. The MOD's only concern is to establish whether there is any evidence that the United Kingdom's airspace might have been compromised by hostile or unauthorised air activity. Unless there is evidence of a potential threat to the United Kingdom from an external military or terrorist source, and to date no UFO reported to us has revealed such a threat, we do not attempt to identify the precise nature of each sighting. We believe that rational explanations, such as aircraft lights or unusual meteorological events, 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.

TEMPLATE TO BE USED FOR REPLY

The MOD is aware that many people have claimed to have seen or been involved with extra-terrestrial life forms or craft. The MOD remains open minded, but to date we know of no evidence which substantiates the existence of such phenomena.

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

Please send to **PARLIAMENTARY QUESTIONS**.

DRAFTED BY :
TEL:

[REDACTED]

AUTHORISED BY :
TEL:

[REDACTED]

GRADE/RANK : B1
BRANCH : DAS DD

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



LOOSE MINUTE

D/DAS/64/4

2 August 2006

Ministerial Correspondence Unit
(through DAS-SecAD)

MINISTERIAL CORRESPONDENCE – US04222/2006 –
NICK HARVEY MP

1. This constituent has not contacted the MOD before about 'UFOs' and he will not therefore be aware that the MOD does not investigate reported UFO sightings beyond our defence remit.
2. [REDACTED] has heard of the recent release of an MOD document about 'unidentified aerial phenomena' (UAP) and therefore believes he should tell the MOD about his own sighting. It is not clear if he has actually seen the document so details have been provided to clarify why the study was conducted and where it can be viewed on the MOD website.
3. There were no UFO sightings reports made to the MOD on the day of the constituents sighting.
4. A draft reply for US of S to send to Nick Harvey MP is attached.

[REDACTED]

DAS-FOI
5-H-Section 40
MB [REDACTED] 40

Drafted by:
Authorised by:

[REDACTED]

DAS-FOI
DAS-SecAD

1/8/06

August 2006

Thank you for your letter of 11 July 2006 to Adam Ingram enclosing a letter from your constituent, [REDACTED], [REDACTED] Great Torrington, Devon, concerning unidentified aerial phenomena, more commonly known as UFOs . I am replying as this matter falls within my area of responsibility.

First, it may be helpful if I explain that the Ministry of Defence has no expertise or role in respect of the existence or otherwise of extraterrestrial lifeforms.

The MOD examines any reports of sightings solely to establish whether what was seen might have some defence significance. The MOD's only concern therefore is to establish whether there is any evidence that the United Kingdom's airspace might have been compromised by hostile or unauthorised air activity. I should add that 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, and the MOD remains vigilant for any potential threat.

Unless there is evidence of a potential threat to the United Kingdom from an external military or terrorist source, and to date no UFO reported to the MOD has revealed such a threat, we do not attempt to identify the precise nature of each sighting. We believe that rational explanations, such as aircraft lights or unusual meteorological events, could be found for them if resources were diverted for this purpose, but it is not the function of the MOD to provide this kind of aerial identification service.

With regard to the unidentified aerial phenomena study the MOD has recently published, you may wish to inform [REDACTED] that prior to this study the Defence Intelligence Staff (DIS) routinely received copies of the UFO sightings reported to the MOD to see if they provided anything of interest to them in their task of analysing the performance and threat of foreign weapons systems, nuclear, chemical and biological warfare programmes and technologies and emerging technologies. The study entitled "Unidentified Aerial Phenomena in the UK Air Defence Region" was undertaken during a review of policy on the handling of UFO reports and was conducted purely to establish whether the UFO sighting reports received by the MOD were of any value to the DIS and whether there was a requirement for the DIS to see them in the future. Given the conclusion it was decided that there was no such requirement and, since December 2000, UFO reports have not been forwarded to the DIS. If your constituent has not yet had an opportunity to view this document he may wish to look at the MOD website at <http://www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/FreedomOfInformation/PublicationScheme> where the document can be seen in full.

As for [REDACTED]'s particular sighting on 16 July 2003, I can confirm that my officials received no reports of UFO sightings from anywhere in the UK on this date. The MOD is satisfied that there is no corroborating evidence to suggest that the United Kingdom's airspace was breached by unauthorised aircraft activity.

****DRAFTS TO BE NO MORE THAN 2 PAGES – SEE GUIDANCE****

MINISTERIAL CORRESPONDENCE

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

TO: DAS(LA)P&P**MC REF NUMBER: 04222/2006**

Copy to:

MINISTER REPLYING: US**DRAFT REQUIRED BY: 03/08/06****DATE: 25/07/2006****FROM: [REDACTED] Ministerial Correspondence Unit****Floor 5, Zone A, MB****TEL: [REDACTED]****FAX: [REDACTED]**

YOU WILL BE HELD ACCOUNTABLE FOR THE DRAFT ANSWER AND ADVICE THAT YOU PROVIDE - IT MUST BE ACCURATE AND NOT MISLEADING IN ANY WAY.

**E-MAIL DRAFTS ON DII TO 'MINISTERIAL CORRESPONDENCE' (or Ministerial-Correspondence@mod.uk externally) -
NOT TO MC CLERKS OR PRIVATE OFFICES.**

(Please ensure sensitivity of your email message is 'Normal'.)

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- **IF THIS CORRESPONDENCE SHOULD BE DEALT WITH BY ANOTHER BRANCH, PLEASE LIAISE WITH THEM IMMEDIATELY BEFORE PASSING IT ON AND INFORMING US. IF YOU ARE AN AGENCY, THE MINISTER'S OFFICE HAS DIRECTED THAT THIS LETTER SHOULD RECEIVE A MINISTERIAL – NOT CHIEF EXECUTIVE – REPLY.**

Number of pages sent by fax: 5****DRAFTS TO BE NO MORE THAN 2 PAGES – SEE GUIDANCE******** TO BE GIVEN PRIORITY AT ALL TIMES ******** TO BE GIVEN PRIORITY AT ALL TIMES ****



MC

HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

The Rt. Hon. Adam Ingram MP
Minister of State for the Armed Forces
Ministry of Defence
Main Building
Whitehall
London
SW1A 2HB

Please quote ref: DEF/35/L

11 July 2006

Dear Adam,

I write regarding a letter I have recently received from [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Gt Torrington, Devon, [REDACTED]

While camping in North Devon on 16th July 2003, [REDACTED] noticed some unusual
aerial phenomenon. I thought I should pass along a copy of his observations for your
information, and in case anyone had made similar observations regarding
Unidentified Aerial Phenomena.

Thank you for your kind attention to this matter.

Yours Sincerely,

[REDACTED]
Nick Harvey MP
Liberal Democrat Defence Spokesman

RECEIVED BY
PARLIAMENTARY BRANCH
DATE: 11 JULY 2006
KEYWORD: UFOs
BRANCH: DAS(CA) P&P
ED TO:
ATTACHED TO:
CLERK:

1117 MAY 2006

[REDACTED]
Frithelstock,
Torrington,
Devon, [REDACTED]
Tel: [REDACTED]

Nick Harvey MP,
House of Commons,
London, SW1A 0AA.

Ref: 14/LETTERS/19
Date: 8th May 2006

Dear Mr Harvey,

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE U.A.P. SURVEY
With Reference to Sitings in North Devon

I have never had a particular interest in Unidentified Aerial Phenomena (or even U.F.O.'s). However, a few years ago I witnessed something which I think, in retrospect, might be of less interest to meteorologists (whom I thought at the time would be the most concerned) and of more interest to those who monitor U.A.P.'s. You will be aware, I expect that the MOD has just published some of the results of its four year survey of these phenomena.

I am writing to you as a defence spokesman who might wish to pass on my information to the MOD department responsible and because my siting seemed to place the phenomena something like a mile above Barnstaple and the lower Taw valley.

Last year, I wrote to the Secretary of the Norman Lockyer Observatory in Sidmouth to ask for his comments. This would seem to be rather belated but I had previously written to the New Scientist and a national newspaper letters page, neither of which sent any reply. Although the reply from the Observatory did not throw any further light on the matter, it led me to realise that what I saw was possibly something other than a magnetic field anomaly (my immediate assumption). Before I received the letter I was somehow dismissing from my mind the concept of 'UFO's' as extra-terrestrial visitations and was almost more embarrassed by what I saw than excited. I attach a copy of my letter to the Observatory to provide the description of the U.A.P.

Yours sincerely, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
Frithelstock,
Gt Torrington,
Devon, [REDACTED]

The Secretary,
[REDACTED]

Sidmouth,
Devon, [REDACTED]

Ref: 11/Mail/6

Date: 19/07/05

Dear Sir,

About two years ago, I witnessed something in the night sky which prompted me to write to the letters page of a newspaper and then to the 'New Scientist'. I received no reply from either and must assume that the editors believed that I must have been intoxicated by some substance of doubtful legality. Belatedly, I have come to the conclusion that your society would have been the ideal body to which to write and make enquiries.

The following is an extract of my letters and I would be most grateful if you would compare the description of my siting with any similar sitings that your members may have made around mid July, 2003:

"Whilst camping in North Devon, (Wednesday 16th July), I saw something in the night sky that seemed to be an aurora, and which at first reminded me of the spectacle of the Northern Lights. However, I was surprised that I should see such a thing in mid summer, that it took the form that it did, and that it was towards the south. I know little of such phenomena but I was reminded of a quite recent TV programme, (Horizon, BBC 2), that surveyed recent discoveries concerning erratic behaviour within the earth's magnetic field prior to magnetic pole reversal.

The form that this enormous 'light show' took was not so much as a curtain of glowing ionised particles but as a short necklace of huge 'holes' through which the radiance beamed through towards the north. Each beam was short lived with three, four or five showing at one time and for a period of about five seconds. Then all would stop for about five seconds before commencing again in a similar position and for a similar period of time."

Page one

I should add that the colours of the light and the way that it "shimmied" or oscillated as it streamed through the sky was very similar to what I have seen of the aurora borealis on television. I observed it for about a half hour and it must have been active for some hours.

I would be most grateful to receive comments from any interested members of your society. I really cannot see how it could have been missed by everybody as it occurred around ten o' clock in the evening. I would be pleased, despite the delay in writing to you, to know whether there were similar observations and whether any theories have been put forward.

I am not so much worried that lack of corroboration would indicate that I suffer from delusions, as much as that the lack of any discussion with regard to such sightings would be a missed opportunity. Such phenomena must surely be of importance, particularly if they are relatively new. I enclose a stamped addressed envelope.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]



LOOSE MINUTE

D/DAS/64/4

7 June 2006

Ministerial Correspondence Unit
(through DAS-SecAD)

MINISTERIAL CORRESPONDENCE – US03294/2006 –
ALISTAIR CARMICHAEL MP

1. In response to a Freedom of Information request the Directorate of Air Staff and the Defence Intelligence Staff have recently jointly released a large, previously classified, report detailing a study carried out by DIS into 'Unidentified Aerial Phenomena in the UK Air Defence Region'. The study was conducted during a policy review on the handling of UAP (also known as UFO) reports and its purpose was to establish once and for all whether such reports had any value to the work of DIS. The conclusion of the study was that these reports were not of any value to DIS and since December 2000 UFO sighting reports have not been forwarded to DIS.
2. The report consists of some 465 pages divided into three volumes and an Executive Summary. The document was previously classified Secret UK Eyes Only. Some information has been withheld in accordance with Sections of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, namely; Section 26(Defence), Section 27 (International Relations) and Section 40 (Personal Information). The original requester, [REDACTED] has asked for an internal review concerning the withholding of information under S26 and S27 and this is currently being undertaken by Info-AccessPol3.
3. The release of this report has, as anticipated, attracted media and public interest. A scanned copy has been placed on the MOD website in order to make the report available to as wide an audience as possible and to avoid the cost to the department of photocopying and posting such a large document to many requesters. In accordance with Section 21 of the Freedom of Information Act the MOD is not obliged to provide information which is reasonably accessible to an applicant by other means.
4. A draft reply for US of S to send to Alistair Carmichael MP is attached.



[REDACTED]
DAS-FOI
5-H [REDACTED] ction 40
MB [REDACTED] n 40

Drafted by:
Authorised by:



DAS-FOI
DAS-SecAD

US 03294/2006

DRAFT REPLY TO ALISTAIR CARMICHAEL MP

Thank you for your letter of 26 May to Des Browne, enclosing a letter from [REDACTED], Mossbank, Shetland, requesting a copy of a Ministry of Defence report on Unidentified Flying Objects. I am replying as this matter falls within my area of responsibility.

The MOD report referred to by [REDACTED] is entitled "Unidentified Aerial Phenomena in the UK Air Defence Region" and has recently been released in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000. In order to make the report available to as wide an audience as possible, it has been placed on the MOD website and can be accessed at

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

As this document consists of some 465 pages it would not be the best use of public funds to produce paper copies for every individual who would like a personal copy. The document is, of course, available for your constituent to download or print from the MOD website should he wish.

I hope this is helpful.

Tom Watson MP

Alistair Carmichael MP

****DRAFTS TO BE NO MORE THAN 2 PAGES – SEE GUIDANCE****



MINISTERIAL CORRESPONDENCE

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TO: **DAS(LA)P&P**

MC REF NUMBER: 03294/2006

Copy to:

MINISTER REPLYING: US

DRAFT REQUIRED BY: 14/6/06

DATE: 05/06/2006

FROM: [REDACTED] Ministerial Correspondence Unit

Floor 5, Zone A, MB

TEL: [REDACTED]

FAX: [REDACTED]

YOU WILL BE HELD ACCOUNTABLE FOR THE DRAFT ANSWER AND ADVICE THAT YOU PROVIDE - IT MUST BE ACCURATE AND NOT MISLEADING IN ANY WAY.

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Number of pages sent by fax: 3

****DRAFTS TO BE NO MORE THAN 2 PAGES – SEE GUIDANCE****

**** TO BE GIVEN PRIORITY AT ALL TIMES ****

**** TO BE GIVEN PRIORITY AT ALL TIMES ****



AC/BW

26 May 2006

HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

Please reply to:
31 Broad Street
Kirkwall
Orkney
KW15 1DH

Rt Hon Des Browne MP
Secretary of State for Defence
Ministry of Defence
Main Building
Whitehall
LONDON SW1A 2HB



Des Browne

I have received representations from my constituent [REDACTED], Mossbank, Shetland, and enclose a copy of his letter for your information. [REDACTED] has requested a copy of Ministry of Defence report on Unidentified Flying Objects and I would be grateful if you could provide this.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours truly

**RECEIVED BY
PARLIAMENTARY BRANCH**

ON:

MINISTER REPLYING: *US*

KEYWORDS: *UFOS*

LEAD BRANCH: *DAS (A) P&P*

COPIED TO:

RELATED CASE:

CLERK:

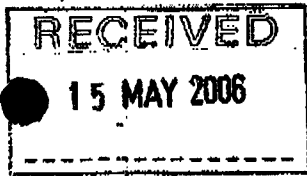


Tel: 020 7219 8307 Fax: 020 7219 1787

Email: carmichaela@parliament.uk Website: www.alistaircarmichael.org.uk

Constituency Offices: 31 Broad Street, Kirkwall, Orkney KW15 1DH
171 Commercial Street, Lerwick, Shetland ZE1 0HX

Tel: 01856 876541 Fax: 01856 876162
Tel: 01595 690044 Fax: 01595 690055



7/5/06

UFO -
report
BY MOD -

Freedom of Information

Dear [REDACTED]

If possible,

could you send copy sheets
on report, over years, about
UFOs, which MOD now deny
exist?

It's been reported on radio/TV,
and now available.

Many thanks.

[REDACTED]



LOOSE MINUTE

D/DAS/64/4

15 March 2005

Ministerial Correspondence Unit
(through DAS-SecAD)

MINISTERIAL CORRESPONDENCE – US1387/2005 – TIM LOUGHTON MP

1. So far as we aware, this constituent has not contacted the MOD before about 'UFOs' and he will not therefore be aware that the MOD does not have any expertise or role in respect of 'UFO/flying saucer' matters or to the question of the existence or otherwise of extraterrestrial lifeforms. The MOD's interest in these matters is limited to whether sighting reports provide any evidence of a breach of UK airspace by hostile or unauthorised air activity. Unless there is such evidence, we do not attempt to identify exactly what was seen.

2. The points [REDACTED] is making to his MP come from a US based organisation called "The Disclosure Project". This group was founded by Mr Steven Greer MD and since 1993 has been gathering statements, video and tape recordings from people who claim to have seen or been involved with extraterrestrial lifeforms. Many of these 'witnesses' are said to be military or ex-military serviceman / women and government officials. The Disclosure Project has a website where they accuse the US Congress of concealing information from the public about new energy and propulsion technologies which they have gathered from extraterrestrial sources. They also demand that the US Government hold secrecy free hearings so that these 'witnesses' can swear on oath to what they have experienced. This group encourage other like minded people around the world to lobby their own governments and this is what [REDACTED] appears to be doing. It appears that [REDACTED] is largely using a template letter suggested by the Disclosure Project, hence references to the President and Congress. Three other people contacted the MOD with similar letters in 2001.

3. I enclose a draft reply for US of S to send to Tim Loughton MP in response to his letter of 4 March to The Lord Bach of Lutterworth, enclosing a letter from his constituent, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
DAS-FOI
5-H [REDACTED] ction 40
MB [REDACTED] n 40

Drafted by:
Authorised by:



DAS-FOI
DAS-SecAD

DRAFT REPLY TO TIM LOUGHTON MP

Thank you for your letter of 4 March enclosing one from your constituent, [REDACTED], Worthing, West Sussex, who has raised a number of issues concerning 'Unidentified Flying Objects' and an organisation known as The Disclosure Project. I am replying as this matter falls within my area of responsibility.

First, it may be helpful if I explain that the Ministry of Defence examines any reports of UFO sightings solely to establish whether there is any evidence that the United Kingdom's airspace might have been compromised by hostile or unauthorised air activity. I should add that 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, and the MOD remains vigilant for any potential threat. Unless there is evidence of a potential threat to the United Kingdom from an external source, and to date no UFO reported to us has revealed such a threat, 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.

The MOD recognises that there is a public interest in this subject and we are entirely open about our policy and the information we hold on UFO matters. Since 1994 the MOD has operated in accordance with the Code of Practice

on Access to Government Information (the Code) and my officials regularly answer enquiries and requests for information from the public. On 1 January 2005 the Freedom of Information Act 2000 superseded the Code and the MOD has been proactive by releasing UFO information in to the MOD Freedom of Information Publication Scheme which can be found on the internet at www.foi.mod.uk.

With regard to [REDACTED] comments about the need for secrecy free hearings so that military and government witnesses may testify to their sightings, you may wish to inform your constituent that anyone, whether they are a member of the public or in the Armed Forces is able to report a sighting to the MOD and their report will be examined in light of our defence interest as detailed above. There is therefore no need to hold hearings to take witness reports.

In his letter, [REDACTED] also refers to new energy and propulsion technologies relating to extraterrestrial phenomena. To date the MOD knows of no evidence which substantiates the existence of extraterrestrial lifeforms. We are therefore unable to comment on technologies which we do not know exist.

I hope this explains the situation.

IVOR CAPLIN MP

Tim Loughton MP

**** TO BE GIVEN PRIORITY AT ALL TIMES ****



MINISTERIAL CORRESPONDENCE

Detailed guidance on handling Ministerial Correspondence can be found on the Defence Intranet at http://main.defence.mod.uk/min_parl/ParlBrch/MCguid.htm

If you do not have access to the Intranet, please inform the Ministerial Correspondence Unit.

TO: DAS (LA) P+P

MC REF NUMBER: US1378 /2005

Copy to:

MINISTER REPLYING: USOFS

DRAFT REQUIRED BY: 22 / 03 /2005

DATE: 11/03/2005

FROM: [REDACTED] Ministerial Correspondence Unit

Floor 5, Zone A, Main Building

TEL: [REDACTED]

FAX: [REDACTED]

YOU WILL BE HELD ACCOUNTABLE FOR THE DRAFT ANSWER AND ADVICE THAT YOU PROVIDE - IT MUST BE ACCURATE AND NOT MISLEADING IN ANY WAY.

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Number of pages sent by fax: 4

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TRANSLATION IN FRENCH



**** TO BE GIVEN PRIORITY AT ALL TIMES ****

**** TO BE GIVEN PRIORITY AT ALL TIMES ****

MC

HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

4 March 2005

Dear Lord Bach,

I enclose a copy of a letter I have received from my constituent [REDACTED] n 40
[REDACTED] of [REDACTED] Worthing, West Sussex [REDACTED] in
which he expresses great concern about information gleaned from an
organisation called The Disclosure Project.

In the light of his serious concerns I would be most grateful for your
views. You will see that he is anxious to have hearings at which these
matters can be fully discussed.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

RECEIVED BY
PARLIAMENTARY BRANCH
ON:
MINISTER REPLYING: US
KEY WORDS: UFOs
LEAD BRANCH: DAB(LA)POP
LOHED TO:
RELATED CASE:
CLERK:

The Lord Bach of Lutterworth,
Parliamentary Secretary,
Ministry of Defence,
Main Building, Whitehall,
London SW1A 2HB

The East Worthing and Shoreham Constituency includes
Coombes, Fishersgate, Kingston Buci, Lancing, Shoreham, Sompting, Southwick,
and the eastern wards of Worthing: Broadwater, Gaisford, Offington and Selden.

[REDACTED]
Worthing
West Sussex
[REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

Friday 25 February 2005

Dear Tim Loughton,

I have learned that a nonprofit organization, The Disclosure Project (www.DisclosureProject.org) has identified over 450 military, intelligence and corporate contractor witnesses to UFO events and projects, as well as other evidence proving that UFOs and extraterrestrial intelligence are real.

The secrecy surrounding this subject has eroded our constitutional form of government, and illegal projects unsupervised by the Congress and the President continue to withhold from the public this important information. I have also learned that these projects have illegally classified and withheld from the public new energy and propulsion technologies that could replace our need for foreign oil, and eliminate much of the pollution in the world.

The tragic events of September 11, 2001 underscore the need to disclose this information so that the world may at last have a practical replacement for oil and the internal combustion engine. For too long, our mid-east and foreign policy has been driven by the need to secure an endless supply of cheap oil - and yet these rogue projects are withholding from us the very technologies that can realistically replace all fossil fuel use.

I am asking that you immediately instruct your staff to study this matter and that you call for open, secrecy-free hearings at which these highly decorated military and government witnesses may testify under oath. I know that a certain level of government secrecy is necessary, but the excessive, illegal secrecy associated with these 'black' budget projects is a threat to our way of life, our democracy and now to our national security. It is time for it to stop.

This is page 1/2. This message was sent by WriteToThem.com, the successor to FaxYourMP.com. WriteToThem.com is currently being tested. If you have had any problems receiving this message, please email team@writetothem.com or call [REDACTED] we'll get back to you as soon as possible. See www.writetothem.com for details about the new service and what features it will provide. We have sent this fax to [REDACTED] if this number is out of date please phone or email us so that we can update our records.

These witnesses can prove that these objects are real, that some are of extraterrestrial origin, and that the technologies related to their energy and propulsion systems are known but are withheld from a world sorely in need of their disclosure. The time has come to let the truth be known and it is your responsibility to the people to see that fair and open hearings are held on this important matter. So many hearings have taken place on so many matters less important than this - is it not time to let these heroes of our country tell the truth openly?

With so many bona fide top-secret witnesses, astronauts, government documents and other evidence in hand, a simple denial of the reality of this subject by the government, NASA or your office will no longer do. Please study this matter urgently and sponsor open hearings in the immediate future. To receive briefing materials on this matter, please contact the Disclosure Project office at 540-456-8302 or 301-249-3915.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

6a2a3126fdea430e0b31db550584fa6d22ba01d8

(Signed with an electronic signature in accordance with subsection 7(3) of the Electronic Communications Act 2000.)



LOOSE MINUTE

D/DAS/64/4

18 October 2004

Ministerial Correspondence Unit
(through DAS-SecLAAD)

Ministerial Correspondence – MC 04733/2004 – Yvette Cooper MP

1. I enclose a draft reply to US of S to send to Yvette Cooper MP in response to her letter of 20 September, enclosing an email message from her constituent, [REDACTED]
2. [REDACTED] has corresponded with the MOD twice in 2001 and once in 2003, on the subject of UFOs.

[REDACTED] *(Original Signed)*

DAS-FOI
5th Floor, Zone H, [REDACTED] 0
[REDACTED]

Drafted by:
Authorised by:



DAS-FOI
DAS-SecLAAD

US 04733/2004

DRAFT REPLY TO YVETTE COOPER MP

Thank you for your letter of 20 September to Adam Ingram, enclosing an email message from [REDACTED] of [REDACTED] Knottingley, West Yorkshire, [REDACTED] concerning Ministry of Defence policy on 'unidentified flying objects'. I am replying as this matter falls within my area of responsibility.

First, it may be helpful if I explain that 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 and the MOD remains vigilant for any potential threat. My Department's sole concern, therefore, with reports of unusual aerial sightings is to establish 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' reported to us has revealed such a threat, we do not attempt to identify the precise nature of each reported sighting. We believe that rational explanation, such as aircraft lights or unusual meteorological events, could be found for them if resources were diverted for this purpose, but it is not the function of the MOD to provide this kind of aerial identification service.

With regard to the events at Rendlesham Forest, Suffolk, you may wish to inform [REDACTED] that the MOD documents on these events have been

released into the public domain and can be viewed via the MOD Freedom of Information Publication Scheme at www.foi.mod.uk.

Finally, I must say that my Department has no expertise or role in respect of 'UFO/flying saucer' matters, or the question of the existence or otherwise of extraterrestrial lifeforms, about which it remains totally open-minded. But I should add to date the MOD knows of no evidence which substantiates the existence of these alleged phenomena.

I hope this explains the situation.

IVOR CAPLIN MP

Yvette Cooper MP

**** TO BE GIVEN PRIORITY AT ALL TIMES ******MINISTERIAL CORRESPONDENCE**

Detailed guidance on handling Ministerial Correspondence can be found on the Defence Intranet at
http://main.defence.mod.uk/min_parl/ParlBrch/MCguid.htm

If you do not have access to the Defence Intranet, please inform the Ministerial Correspondence Unit.

TO: DAS(LA)P&P**MC REF NUMBER: 04733/2004**

Copy to:

MINISTER REPLYING: US**DRAFT REQUIRED BY: 18/10/04****DATE: 07/10/2004****FROM: [REDACTED] Ministerial Correspondence Unit****Floor 5, Zone A, MB****TEL: [REDACTED]****FAX: [REDACTED]**

YOU WILL BE HELD ACCOUNTABLE FOR THE DRAFT ANSWER AND ADVICE THAT YOU PROVIDE - IT MUST BE ACCURATE AND NOT MISLEADING IN ANY WAY.

E-MAIL DRAFTS ON DII TO 'MINISTERIAL CORRESPONDENCE' (or Ministerial-Correspondence@mod.uk externally) -

NOT TO MC CLERKS OR PRIVATE OFFICES.

(Please ensure sensitivity of your email message is 'Normal'.)

- **ENSURE THE DEADLINE IS MET:** THE DEPARTMENT IS COMMITTED TO ANSWERING 90% OF ITS CORRESPONDENCE WITHIN 15 WORKING DAYS. EVERY EFFORT MUST THEREFORE BE MADE TO REPLY SUBSTANTIVELY ON TIME. HOWEVER, IF IT IS OBVIOUS THAT YOU WILL BE UNABLE TO REPLY IN FULL WITHIN THE DEADLINE, AN INTERIM MUST BE PROVIDED. YOU SHOULD THEN AIM TO FORWARD A FINAL REPLY WITHIN A FURTHER 8 WORKING DAYS.
- **A NAMED OFFICIAL** AT PAY BAND B2 LEVEL OR ABOVE MUST CLEAR ALL DRAFTS. OTHER GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS OR MOD DIVISIONS SHOULD BE CONSULTED AS NECESSARY.
- **IF THIS CORRESPONDENCE SHOULD BE DEALT WITH BY ANOTHER BRANCH, PLEASE LIAISE WITH THEM IMMEDIATELY BEFORE PASSING IT ON AND INFORMING US. IF YOU ARE AN AGENCY, THE MINISTER'S OFFICE HAS DIRECTED THAT THIS LETTER SHOULD RECEIVE A MINISTERIAL - NOT CHIEF EXECUTIVE - REPLY.**

Number of pages sent by fax: ____

**** TO BE GIVEN PRIORITY AT ALL TIMES ******** TO BE GIVEN PRIORITY AT ALL TIMES ******** TO BE GIVEN PRIORITY AT ALL TIMES ****

4733/04



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

Please reply to:
Constituency Office
2 Wesley Street
Castleford
WF10 1AE
tel: 01977-553388
fax: 01977-551981Email: coopery@parliament.uk
Website: www.yvettecooper.com

The Rt Hon Adam Ingram MP
Minister of State (Armed Forces)
Ministry of Defence
Old War Office Building
Whitehall
London
SW1A 2EU

MC 0545

Our Ref: [REDACTED] 024041272

20 September 2004

Dear Adam

Ref: [REDACTED] 0240

[REDACTED] Knottingley [REDACTED]

I enclose the copy of an email from one of my constituents and I wonder if you could advise me so that I can reply to my constituent.

Thank you for your help.

Best wishes

[REDACTED]
Yvette Cooper MP**RECEIVED BY
PARLIAMENTARY BRANCH**

ON:

MINISTER REPLYING: *us*KEYWORD(S): *Aircraft / UFOs*LEAD BRANCH: *DAS (L) PTP*

COPIED TO:

RELATED CASE:

CLERK:

[REDACTED]

From: COOPER, Yvette
Sent: 17 September 2004 10:35
To: [REDACTED] (A)
Cc:
Subject: RE: secrecy of certain information

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your message which is receiving attention.

Yours sincerely

Yvette Cooper MP

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

From: [REDACTED] [mailto:[REDACTED]]
Sent: 15 September 2004 05:31
To: COOPER, Yvette
Subject: secrecy of certain information

This message has been sent from the House of Commons WebSite Constituency Locata Service Your email address will not be divulged unless you reply by email to this message

why does the M.O.D maintain it does not consider the threat posed by "exotic" aircraft that penetrate our air space at will , have been tracked on radar and have been observed by trained military people.as an example the rendelsham forrest thing (obviously a solid craft landed/crashed).in the past i have received letters from air-staff 2a and 4a(the ufo desk in the mod)saying "we do not consider it a threat so we dont investigate"(ha)is the truth that shocking? i even enquired about any civillian jobs within the air-staff(no reply)i do not belong to any "group" or organisation i just want to know for myself.

The sender left the following as their name and address:

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] knottingley, west yorkshire, [REDACTED]

Message Ends.

This email has been generated from a service on the House of Commons website and is maintained by the House of Commons Information Office. If you have any comments or suggestions please contact hcinfo@parliament.uk

From:
To:
Sent:
Subject:

18 October 2004 15:02
Read: Draft MC

Your message

To: Ministerial Correspondence
Subject: Draft MC
Sent: 18/10/2004 14:40

was read on 18/10/2004 15:02.



Ministry of Defence
MONDAY 24 APRIL 2006

Norman Baker Esq MP (LEWES) (LIB DEM)

WRITTEN

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, pursuant to the Answer of 18th April 2006 to Question 63392, on Mr Nick Pope, if he will list the persons employed since 1994 to investigate unidentified aerial phenomena. 65363

Minister replying Don Touhig MP

Mr Pope was succeeded in post in July 1994 by Miss Kerry Philpott who filled the post until October 1998. This post was vacant for a period and the task of examining reports of unidentified aerial phenomena to establish whether they contained anything of defence significance was covered by a member of support staff, Miss Gaynor South, until the post was filled by Mr Adrian Nash in January 1999. Mr Nash left the post in October 1999 and these duties were again covered by Miss South until the present incumbent of the post, Mrs Linda Unwin, took up office in February 2000.



BACKGROUND NOTE

Norman Baker MP is the Liberal Democrat MP for Lewes Constituency, East Sussex and is the Liberal Democrat Shadow Environment and Rural Affairs Secretary. He has posed two previous questions to the Secretary of State for Defence regarding Unidentified Flying Objects and the role of the post Mr Pope held in Secretariat (Air Staff)2a. The question referred to in this question and the Department's reply is shown below. This reply was written on 18 April 2006 and has been approved by the Minister. It is due to be printed in Hansard in the near future.

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, in what capacity Mr Nick Pope was employed by his Department between 1991 and 1994. [63392]

Mr Touhig: From 1991 to 1994 Mr Pope worked as a Civil Servant within Secretariat (Air Staff). He undertook a wide range of secretariat tasks relating to central policy, political and parliamentary aspects of non-operational RAF activity. Part of his duties related to the investigation of unidentified aerial phenomena reported to the Department to see if they had any defence significance.

DATA PROTECTION ACT 1998

Under the terms of the Data Protection Act all the holders of this post were consulted to establish whether they were content for their names to be given in this reply. Although Mr Pope seeks publicity and regularly comments in the public domain about his former role, those who have succeeded him have no desire to make themselves such public figures. However, given that each of them would have conducted correspondence with the public during their time in post, they have all reluctantly given their consent for the release of their names on this occasion. Should however, this lead to further questions from this MP regarding future posts and careers of those named, this personal information will be withheld in accordance with the Data Protection Act.

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

Please send to PARLIAMENTARY QUESTIONS.

DRAFTED BY:

[REDACTED]

TEL:

[REDACTED]

DAS-FOI

AUTHORISED BY:

[REDACTED]

TEL:

[REDACTED]

DAS-DD

GRADE/RANK:

G6

BRANCH:

Directorate of
Air Staff

[REDACTED]

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

WRITTEN PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION URGENT ACTION REQUIRED

OUTLINE AND PROCEDURES

MPs can table written PQs to Government Departments on a daily basis when the House is in Session. MPs can table as many Ordinary Written Question to a Department as they wish at any one time, but only five Named Day Questions are allowed per MP, per day, per Department.

Detailed guidance on the procedures and timetable for Top Day is available on the Ministers and Parliamentary website at:

http://main.defence.mod.uk/min_parl/ParlBrch/WAPQC.htm

Contact Parliamentary Branch if you have any queries not covered in this guidance.

DATE FOR RETURN	:	12:00 ON 25 April 2006
PQ REFERENCE	:	PQ 3968S
PQ TYPE	:	WRITTEN
MINISTER REPLYING	:	US OF S

LEAD BRANCH:	.	DAS(SEC)
COPY ADDRESSEE(S)	:	
PS/2nd PUS		
D CP HR OPS		
D DEF SY		
DGMC		

- **The answer and background note must be authorised by a Senior Civil Servant or a military officer at one-star level or above who is responsible for ensuring that the information and advice provided is accurate and reflects Departmental Instructions on answering PQs.**
- **Those contributing information for PQ answers and background notes are responsible for ensuring the information is accurate.**
- **The checklists should be used by those drafting PQ answers and background material, those contributing information and those responsible for authorising the answer and background note as an aid to ensuring that departmental policy is adhered to.**
- **If you or others concerned are uncertain about how PQs are answered seek advice from a Senior Civil Servant in or closely associated with your area.**

MP's DETAIL: Norman Baker Esq MP (LIB DEM)(LEWES)

QUESTION

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, pursuant to the Answer of 18th April 2006 to Question

GUIDANCE

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Asst Parliamentary Clerk: _____

Parliamentary Clerk: _____

S of S/PS: _____

Min(AF)/PS: _____

Min(DP)/PS: _____

USofS/PS: _____

GUIDANCE

-NOTFOUND-

- Only **answer the question** asked; you need go no further than this. It is acceptable to use one-word answers such as 'No' – if in doubt, you should check with the appropriate Minister's office to clarify their Principal's preferred style.
- The **only** Minister who can refer to *my Department* is the Secretary of State.
- The suggested draft reply should be **concise** and **unambiguous**. If information (i.e. statistics) needs to be set in context then do so.
- Use **clear** and **direct language**, short everyday words and short sentences are best. Avoid clichés, MOD speak and Service jargon. Use abbreviations only after using the words or name in full and abbreviating it in brackets afterward.
- The answer should be **factual** and have a **positive** tone where possible.
- Ensure the information provided is **meticulously accurate**. Ministers are held to account for all information given to Parliament and consequences for misleading the House can be very serious.
- Check **consistency** with previous replies on same subject. If you discover that wrong information has been provided you should advise the front office immediately.
- If the information is not held or not held in an easily accessible way that could be used to answer the question, it is acceptable to use sentences such as:

This information is not held in the format requested...

If appropriate, you could use the information that *is* available to answer as much of the question as possible. If the information is available, but a large amount of effort will be required to extract or recall the data, you should check whether this falls into the disproportionate cost category.

- The answer must be unclassified.
- If you refer to a previous PQ answer or document, you must send a copy.
- All answers are printed in the **Official Report (Hansard)** and are accessible to MPs and Peers as well as the **Press and the public** both in written form and on the Parliament website at: <http://www.parliament.uk/hansard/hansard.cfm>. You should therefore always bear this audience in mind when drafting a response and shape your answer accordingly.

GUIDANCE

CHECKLIST

DO

Use plain and precise language

- is the answer clear and free from jargon?

Be open, straightforward and honest

- have you included all the facts necessary for a thorough answer?
- do you fully understand the policy governing the answering of PQs? See attached note on Government Policy
- can any exclusions be justified under FOI? For more info on FOI, consult: <http://centre.defence.mod.uk/dgi/FOI/access.htm>

Check sources and double check evidence is available to back up answers

- does anybody outside your management area need to be involved? Have you consulted them?

Compare previous answers on the same subject

Make clear the basis on which you are answering the question

- if you have gone beyond a literal interpretation of the question have you made it clear?

DON'T

Under any circumstances rely on hearsay or guesswork

- are you confident that the information provided will stand up to detailed scrutiny?

Be resolute unless you have the proof

- think very carefully before you say "all" or "never" or "not possible"
- does it differ from the views of outside experts, if so why?

BACKGROUND NOTE

Ministers **must** receive a short note explaining the facts and thinking behind the suggested reply.

You should provide:

- **Biographical information** on the MP asking the question:
 - Political affiliation & any relevant House committee membership
 - Career history (if relevant – Armed Forces service etc)
 - Previous questions asked by MP & areas of declared interest.
- **Context.** The answer may stand up on its own, but it is normal practise to provide policy/political background for the Minister in order to put the draft into context.
- You must explain fully if your answer differs from a previous answer or statement given

GUIDANCE

previously. If new information comes to light in your research which might affect this or previous answers or statements you must ring the Minister's Private Office **AT ONCE** as well as stating this clearly in the background note.

- **Caveat information.** If the background note or any part of the background note is restricted, you must mark it thus.

If you are not a policy area (i.e. a statistical provider) but have been asked to draft a reply, make sure your policy area contributes to the background content. **It must be in the format outlined above; there is no excuse.**

CHECKLIST

DO

Keep it relevant

- does the background explain the judgements made and any doubts or caveats?

Make it clear if information is being released for the first time or if it is different from information released previously

- have you sought and included advice on the wider implications (including PR)?

Give a clear explanation for withholding information

- details of disproportionate cost included?
- have you explained your justification for exclusion under FOI?

Record the sources relied on in preparing your proposed answer

- have you included details of those who have provided you with information?

DON'T

Under any circumstances rely on hearsay or guesswork

- are you confident that the information provided will stand up to detailed scrutiny?

Be resolute unless you have the proof

- think very carefully before you say "all" or "never" or "not possible"
- does it differ from the views of outside experts, if so why?

TYPES OF WRITTEN PQS

Named Day Written

- MPs can specify the date for answer and **must** be answered on that date.

Ordinary Written

- Should be answered on the date specified by the MP, but no later than **5** working days after that date.

GUIDANCE

RETURNING YOUR DRAFT

- Replies should be sent by DII email to Parliamentary Questions
- **Do not use privacy markings**
- Divisions not on DII should send their drafts by fax to the Parliamentary Branch [REDACTED] and telephone [REDACTED] to advise that it is being sent.
- **Covering email:** always quote the PQ number & the MP's name in the subject field, and include the names and telephone numbers of the person who drafted the reply and the Senior Official who approved it within the covering email.

IF YOU REQUIRE ANY ADVICE, PLEASE CALL [REDACTED]

DEADLINE FOR REPLY

Parliamentary Branch sets the deadlines for reply in line with Guidance provided by the Cabinet Office and seeks to provide the Branch with an acceptable amount of time for reply.

- If, **exceptionally**, you cannot meet the deadline, you are obliged to contact Parliamentary Branch to discuss whether a holding reply can be given, or whether the draft can be handed in late – extensions are **not** granted. You should do this no later than **1100 hours** on the day on which the PQ answer is due.
- You must provide a full explanation of why you cannot meet the deadline.
- A substantive reply **must** be given no later than **5** working days of the date on which a holding reply is given.

OPEN GOVERNMENT

The Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) came into effect on 1 January 2005. Current guidance is set out at <http://centre.defence.mod.uk/dgi/FOI/access.htm> and guidance on drafting PQs following the implementation of FOIA is attached.

PQs are not FOI Requests For Information and replies must be drafted in accordance with this guidance. If you are recommending to Ministers that some or all of the information requested cannot be released to the House, the draft answer should not quote the FOIA or cite the FOIA exemptions as the reason for withholding information. Instead, the draft answer should use language drawn from that surrounding the exemptions in the FOIA. For example, "the information requested is being withheld because it relates to internal discussion and formulation of policy".

It is **NOT** acceptable to rely on past practice. If you have any doubts about the release of information in oral questions, you should seek advice quickly from **Parliamentary Branch**.

GUIDANCE

PARTIAL REPLIES

If a full reply to the question asked is not available, you should answer the question as fully as possible providing what information *is* available, and explain what is not.

COST OF GIVING A REPLY – DISPROPORTIONATE COST

If the cost of giving a reply will exceed £600 you can recommend to Ministers that the reply should be along the lines of "*This information [is not held centrally] and could only be provided at disproportionate cost*". You must explain in the background note how these costs - usually staff costs - would arise. The decision whether or not then to give an answer depends on the merits of the case.

As a rough guide, use these hourly rates¹:

Payband E1 (AO)	- £11
Payband D (EO)	- £13
Payband C2 (HEO)	- £16
Payband C1 (SEO)	- £20
Payband B2 (G7)	- £28
Payband B1	- £34
SCS (Grade 5)	- £39
OF 1	- £16
OF 2	- £22
OF 3	- £28
OF 4	- £38
OF 5	- £43
OF 6	- £51
OF 7	- £57

PROVISION OF STATISTICAL INFORMATION

PQ's asking for statistical information should be sent to the Chief Executive of DASA as well as to the relevant policy branch(es). If DASA does not hold the relevant data, it will advise you accordingly. Statistical data relating to personnel, whether Service or Civilian, should ordinarily be rounded to a multiple of 10 to prevent the inadvertent disclosure of personal information either now or in the future (when it might be combined with other information as yet unreleased). DASA should be consulted on the appropriate process to use so that data are not issued that conflict with previously published numbers.

DG Info are responsible for guidance on the release of information (including statistics) under the Freedom of Information Act where this applies.

¹ Rates derived from the DGFM average capitation rates. Calculations based on basic pay only at 7.3 hours per day

GUIDANCE

REFERRING TO PREVIOUS ANSWERS

Occasionally MPs table questions that have been asked in a similar way before that Parliamentary Session by colleagues. There is no need to substantively answer these questions again and in such cases an *I refer the hon Member* answer can be given. This should follow the following format:

"I refer the hon Member/my hon Friend to the answer I gave on [...] (Official Report, column xxx) to the hon Member for [constituency] (Mr/Ms...)".

GROUPED PQS

PQs that will receive similar answers can be grouped together and given a single answer. Parliamentary Branch can advise on *grouping* although in essence, the question text should be given as set out on the template with the grouped questions following in HOC reference number order.

TRANSFER OF PQS – TO ANOTHER MOD BRANCH & TO OGD

➤ To an OGD

If you think this PQ is not primarily a matter for MOD you must inform Parli Branch IMMEDIATELY.

NOTE: You should provide the Parli Branch with the name, section and telephone number of an official in the department you believe to be more appropriately placed to deal with the question – and to whom you should have liaised. Parliamentary Branches in OGDs will only agree to accept transfers on this basis.

➤ To another Branch

If a PQ has been sent to you incorrectly, please discuss the transfer with the appropriate branch and if agreed, forward on the template. You should inform Parli Branch of the PQ's transfer and provide contact details of the official who has accepted the transfer.

INFORMATION ALREADY AVAILABLE FROM PUBLIC SOURCES

PQs are expensive in terms of Ministers' and officials' time, and Ministers are keen to encourage MPs to get information from published sources where it is already available. In such cases the reply is along these lines *"The information requested is contained in para X of the Statement on Defence Estimates 1996 (Cm 3223), a copy of which is available in the Library of the House"*.

LONG REPLIES

Previously, if a proposed reply was long (i.e. would have filled more than a page of Hansard) it was often recommended that the information be given in letter format to the MP and a copy of the letter placed in the Library of the House. However, **all** answers are now printed in the Official Report following new guidance from the Leader's office.

GUIDANCE

If a reply contains information that is particularly long and would be better presented as a separate document this can be done and referenced in the draft answer. You should provide Parliamentary Branch with 20 copies of the document to place in the Library of the House.

DOCUMENTS FOR THE LIBRARY

We need **20** copies of any document placed in the Library. Copies have to be widely disseminated within the House to areas including the House Libraries and the Press Gallery.

SEARCHING FOR YOUR ANSWER

You will notice that each PQ carries two identification numbers:

- **Commons UIN** – this is found at the end of the question text and can be used in searching for answers on the Hansard website at <http://www.parliament.uk/hansard/hansard.cfm>
- **Parliamentary Branch reference number** – this should be quoted when telephoning Parliamentary Branch with any queries about the question. The letter at the end of the question denotes in which Parliamentary session the question was tabled.

GUIDANCE

MOD GUIDANCE – FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT

The Cabinet Office issued guidance in February 2005 for officials to follow in drafting answers to Parliamentary Questions. The guidance has been updated to take account of full implementation of the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) in January 2005.

It is possible that the Cabinet Office will issue an explanatory document to sit alongside the guidance setting out in greater detail some of the issues raised in relation to handling Parliamentary Questions alongside the Freedom of Information Act. In the meantime, however, officials may find the following points useful. Any enquiries on the handling of Parliamentary Questions should be directed to the Parliamentary Branch, Main Building Floor 5, Zone A, Tels [REDACTED]

1. Are Parliamentary Questions that request information to be dealt with in the same way as routine requests for information under the Freedom of Information Act?

No. Parliamentary Questions are not Freedom of Information requests. They should be handled by officials in the conventional way and not logged on the MOD's Access to Information Toolkit. Staff should be guided by the principle of openness, but they should continue to regard the PQ process as separate and distinct from other requests for information. The reasoning behind this policy is that the deadlines for answering PQs are generally too short to allow the full process of consideration required by the FOIA. There would also be implications for Parliamentary privilege, because PQ answers are not subject to the FOIA appeals mechanism.

2. We have 20 working days to respond to an FOI request; does this mean that we now have longer to answer PQs?

No. PQs still have to be answered by the usual deadlines: in the House of Commons, a Named Day question should receive a response by the day named and an ordinary written question should receive a response within a working week of it being tabled. In the House of Lords, questions for written answer are expected to receive a response within 14 days of being tabled. If an MP/Peer tables a question and has also submitted a separate request under FOI, paragraph 8 of the attached guidance explains that it is reasonable to reply by stating that the issue is currently under consideration.

3. If the information requested in a PQ is to be withheld, should the FOIA exemptions be used?

No. Answers to PQs should not quote the FOIA or cite the FOIA exemptions as the reason for withholding information. Instead, where officials are recommending that the information requested in a PQ should be withheld, the draft answer should use language drawn from that surrounding the exemptions in the FOIA. For example, "the information requested is being withheld because it relates to internal discussion and formulation of policy".

4. Should the rationale for refusing information be explained in the PQ Background Note?

Yes, Ministers needs to understand the basis on which the reply has been drafted. The Background Note should therefore explain which exemption the reply alludes to and why it is considered to be relevant. It will also be important to say whether the issue is or has been the subject of a FOI request, and to confirm what information is already in the public domain.

5. What if information is withheld in a PQ answer, but later on, in response perhaps to an FOI request, the Department decides that it is appropriate to release that same information?

It is important that officials answering PQs should be aware of parallel FOI requests for the same information either from the same or a different MP, or from any other applicant. It is important that there is consistency in the decisions to release or withhold the information. However, as the guidance explains at paragraph 9, where release of information has been refused in answer to a PQ, but a subsequent change of policy means that the information is to be released, there will be a requirement to write to the MP to inform him/her. If appropriate, consideration should also be given to informing Parliament through a Written Ministerial Statement explaining that previously withheld information is now to be released. There is no need to do a pursuant answer to the PQ.

GUIDANCE

6. What happens if the information requested in a PQ is not held?

Unlike FOI requests which are answered on the basis of information that is held by the department, we must answer PQs (subject to the rules on disproportionate cost), regardless of whether information already exists in the format requested. In some cases this may require the compilation of material from a number of sources in order to bring it into the form needed to answer the PQ.

7. What if a PQ asking for the release of information is given an "I will write" answer? Does the follow-up letter follow PQ principles for withholding information (no exemptions cited) or FOI principles (specific exemption cited and option to pursue the FOI appeal process)?

A letter following up an "I will write" answer given to a PQ requesting the release of information would follow PQ handling principles.

8. Can an MP/Peer appeal about the answer to a PQ?

There are well-established parliamentary routes that can be followed when an MP/Peer is dissatisfied with the answer to a PQ. Alternatively, they can write to the relevant Minister describing the information they are seeking. Any such communication will then be treated as an FOI request. If the MP/Peer remains dissatisfied with the response they can then follow the normal FOI internal review process and, if they wish, go on to make an appeal to the Information Commissioner. Any such appeal will therefore relate to the written request for information rather than to the original PQ.

9. Does FOI change the way Oral PQs are answered?

No, but when preparing supplementary material the principles outlined above will be relevant. Accordingly, any supplementary question that relates to the refusal to disclose information should draw from the wording of the relevant exemption in the FOI Act in describing the basis of the refusal.

GUIDANCE

CABINET OFFICE GUIDANCE – DRAFTING ANSWERS TO PARLIAMENTARY QUESTIONS

1. Never forget Ministers' obligations to Parliament which are set out in the *Ministerial Code*:

“It is of paramount importance that Ministers give accurate and truthful information to Parliament, correcting any inadvertent error at the earliest opportunity. Ministers who knowingly mislead Parliament will be expected to offer their resignation to the Prime Minister.

Ministers should be as open as possible with Parliament and the public, refusing to provide information only when disclosure would not be in the public interest.”

2. It is a civil servant's responsibility to Ministers to help them fulfil those obligations. It is the Minister's right and responsibility to decide how to do so. Ministers want to explain and present Government policy and actions in a positive light. Ministers will rightly expect a draft answer that does full justice to the Government's position.
3. Approach every question predisposed to give relevant information fully, as concisely as possible and in accordance with guidance on disproportionate cost. If there appears to be a conflict between the requirement to be as open as possible and the requirement to protect information whose disclosure would not be in the public interest, you should consult your FOI liaison officer if necessary.
4. Where information is being refused on the grounds of disproportionate cost, there should be a presumption that any of the requested information which is readily available should be provided.
5. Do not omit information sought merely because disclosure could lead to political embarrassment or administrative inconvenience.
6. Where there is a particularly fine balance between openness and non-disclosure, and when the draft answer takes the latter course, this should be explicitly drawn to the Minister's attention. Similarly, if it is proposed to reveal information of a sort which is not normally disclosed, this should be explicitly drawn to Ministers' attention. The Minister should also be advised of any relevant FOI cases which are under consideration which could impact on the way the PQ should be answered.
7. If you conclude that material information must be withheld and the PQ cannot be fully answered as a result, draft an answer which makes this clear and explains the reasons, such as disproportionate cost or the information not being available, or explains in terms similar to those in the Freedom of Information Act (without resorting to explicit reference to the Act itself or to section numbers) the reason for the refusal. For example, “The release of this information would prejudice commercial interests”. Take care to avoid draft answers that are literally true but likely to give rise to misleading inferences.
8. Where an MP/Peer tables a question and has also submitted a separate request to the department under FOI, it is reasonable to reply in terms that the issue is currently under consideration. Once a decision has been reached, the MP/Peer should be informed of the answer and a copy of the letter placed in the Libraries of the House. Consideration should also be given to a written ministerial statement in both Houses.
9. Where a decision on an FOI case results in a change of policy and that information which was previously withheld is now being released, consideration should be given to informing both Houses, for example, through written ministerial statement.
10. PQs should be answered within the normal deadlines. In the House of Commons, a Named Day question should receive a substantive response on the day named and an Ordinary Written question should receive a substantive response within a working week of it being tabled. In the House of Lords, questions for Written Answer are expected to be answered within 14 days. Consideration of a parallel FOI request is not a reason to delay an answer to a Parliamentary Question.

BACKGROUND NOTE

Norman Baker MP is the Liberal Democrat MP for Lewes Constituency, East Sussex and is the Liberal Democrat Shadow Environment and Rural Affairs Secretary. He has not written to the MOD about Unidentified Flying Objects before.

It is most likely that Mr Baker has asked this Question, having seen recent press articles in the Daily Mail, the Metro and on various internet websites in which Mr Nick Pope, a serving Civil Servant, has been widely quoted on the topic of the MoD's "UFO Project".

The MoD has never operated anything described as "the UFO Project". In the early post World War 2 era, when there was a rise in the number of reports of "UFOs" from the public, a working party was set up at the instigation of Sir Henry Tizard to consider whether there was anything credible in such reports. The working party concluded in 1951 that "*...no further investigation of reported mysterious aerial phenomena be undertaken unless and until some material evidence becomes available*". In other words, there was insufficient evidence of the existence of UFOs to warrant any further official investigation. Nevertheless, the public continued to report such sightings, and it was decided that they would be handled by a branch responsible for Air Force issues, solely with a view to determining whether any reports might indicate some threat to UK air defence. That remains the situation up to today, with approximately 100 reports being received each year.

Mr Pope at one time served as an EO (Band D) in the Secretariat Air Staff (the precursor of the Civilian element within DAS). Mr Pope left Sec (AS) in 1994 (he is currently serving in D Def Sy) and his knowledge of this issue, other than from publicly available sources, must be regarded as dated. Mr Pope elected to describe his position as the "Head of the MoD's UFO Project", a term entirely of his own invention, and he has used his experience and information he gathered (frequently by going beyond the official remit of his position) to develop a parallel career as a pundit on the topic, including writing several books, some purportedly non-fiction. Mr Pope constantly puts himself forward in various parts of the media, solicited and unsolicited, as an "expert" (despite his lack of recent knowledge about the work carried on in the branch concerned) and seeks credit amongst other aficionados for having "forced" MoD to reveal its "secret" files on the subject. The latter is far from the truth, as we had begun publishing details of the most "popular" reports in the Publication scheme, prior to the advent of the Freedom of Information Act. Mr Pope's activities have nevertheless resulted in the generation of considerable workload for the staff currently employed in responding to queries on this topic.

DRAFTED BY: [REDACTED], DAS-FOI
AUTHORISED BY: [REDACTED] DAS-DD
GRADE/RANK: G6
BRANCH: Directorate of Air Staff

TEL: [REDACTED]
TEL: [REDACTED]

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

● **TEMPLATE TO BE USED FOR REPLY**

Ministry of Defence
WEDNESDAY 22 MARCH 2006

Norman Baker Esq MP (LEWES) (LIB DEM)

WRITTEN

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, whether his Department's UFO project is still extant; and if he will make a statement. 60875

Minister replying Don Touhig MP

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

The Ministry of Defence has never operated an UFO Project. UFO sightings reported to the MOD are examined solely within the context of controlling the integrity of the UK's airspace. The MOD does not attempt to identify the precise nature of each sighting, unless there is evidence of a risk to this integrity. Examination of UFO sighting reports is a task performed by desk officers within the Directorate of Air Staff.

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



April 06

PQ Ref 3670S

[REDACTED]
From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 25 April 2006 11:16
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Draft PQ

[REDACTED]
This is ok.

[REDACTED] 40

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 25 April 2006 11:09
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Draft PQ

[REDACTED]
Here is my draft PQ which names you both. My deadline is 12 noon so I would be grateful if you could look at it straight away. Please give me a call with any comments or just to let me know you are content.

Regards

[REDACTED] 40

DAS-FOI

5-H- [REDACTED] Section 40
[REDACTED]

25/04/2006

[REDACTED]
From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 25 April 2006 11:12

To: [REDACTED]

Subject: FW: Draft PQ

That's fine by me thanks.

[REDACTED] h 40

[REDACTED]
SP Pol SC - Equal Opportunities 3

7-B [REDACTED] Main Building

Internal e-mail: SPPol SC-EO3

External e-mail: [REDACTED]@mod.uk

Tel: [REDACTED] Fax: [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 25 April 2006 11:09

To: [REDACTED]

Subject: Draft PQ

[REDACTED]
Here is my draft PQ which names you both. My deadline is 12 noon so I would be grateful if you could look at it straight away. Please give me a call with any comments or just to let me know you are content.

Regards

[REDACTED] h 40

DAS-FOI

5-H [REDACTED] Section 40

25/04/2006

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 25 April 2006 10:49

To: [REDACTED]

Subject: Norman Baker PQ

Importance: High

[REDACTED] 40

Further to our various telephone conversations about this Norman Baker PQ I am writing to confirm that if the Department must name me (as [REDACTED] in this PQ answer then I am aware and reluctantly accept this. I can also confirm that I have spoken to [REDACTED] who took over from me in the job in [REDACTED] on temporary and geographical promotion until [REDACTED] got the job (she thinks sometime during [REDACTED] NY40 took over from [REDACTED] in [REDACTED] 40

As you know [REDACTED] left the employ of the MOD in [REDACTED] This is to confirm that [REDACTED] is [REDACTED] aware of this PQ and like me agrees that it is probably better to just let this run its course rather than give this tiresome issue any more mileage than it deserves by objecting to our names being released. You will of course now need to speak to [REDACTED] h 40
[REDACTED] to [REDACTED] views [REDACTED] 40

Thanks for keeping me informed and the best of luck!! If you could copy to me the wording of the PQ once it goes up to Ministers so that I can keep [REDACTED] informed.

[REDACTED] 40

SP Pol SC - Equal Opportunities 3

7-B [REDACTED] Main Building

Internal e-mail: SPPol SC-EO3

External e-mail: [REDACTED]@mod.uk

Tel: [REDACTED] Fax: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 24 April 2006 17:20
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Parliamentary Questions

[REDACTED] 40

[REDACTED] 40 confirmed that personal data (albeit not necessarily names) has been withheld previously in reply to PQs and that in doing so the Data Protection Act has been cited. Unfortunately it has proved difficult to find immediate chapter and verse, but I have every confidence in [REDACTED] 40 memory. I therefore suggest that you might reply on the following lines:

"Mr Pope was succeeded in post in [] 1994, and the current incumbent took up office when the post again became vacant in []. As this is a relatively junior post at Band D (Executive Officer) level, the two individuals have been consulted about the request for publication of their names in the Official Report. They have refused their consent and I am therefore withholding this information under the terms of the Data Protection Act 1998."

As we discussed, DCA have taken the view in the FOI context that officials do not have an absolute right to anonymity. It is therefore possible that the line I have proposed could be subject to challenge. The fact that your post is more public facing than many in the department could increase this possibility. Against this, a name linked to a post does constitute personal data and the post is at a relatively junior level. Given that you said you are personally relaxed, an alternative approach would be to confirm your name and withhold that of your predecessor (more easy to justify on the grounds that she now has no association with the subject). However, if you do go down this road, you should consider the possibility that it will set an unwelcome precedent for your successor in due course.

I am copying this reply to [REDACTED] in case she would like to add anything.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 24 April 2006 14:39
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Parliamentary Questions
Importance: High

[REDACTED]

Here is the PQ I have and the previous one answered by [REDACTED]

Regards

[REDACTED] 40
DAS-FOI



Ministry of Defence

TUESDAY 18 APRIL 2006

MR NORMAN BAKER MP (LEWES) (LIB DEM)

158

WRITTEN

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, in what capacity Mr Nick Pope was employed by his Department between 1991 and 1994. (63392)

Don Touhig MP

From 1991 to 1994 Mr Pope worked as a Civil Servant within Secretariat (Air Staff). He undertook a wide range of secretariat tasks relating to central policy, political and parliamentary aspects of non-operational RAF activity. Part of his duties related to the investigation of unidentified aerial phenomena reported to the Department to see if they had any defence significance.

BACKGROUND NOTE

In addition to being a MoD Civil Servant Mr Pope is a published author of several works, both Fiction and Non-Fiction, and regularly provides interviews to both the print and electronic media on the subject of unexplained aerial phenomenon and the possibilities of extra terrestrial life in general.

Between 1991 and 1994 Mr Pope was posted to Secretariat (Air Staff) as an Executive Officer into the post of Secretariat (Air Staff) 2a. While the bulk of the tasks carried out by this post involved general secretariat functions one aspect of the duties was to record sightings of unidentified aerial phenomena and investigate the reports for any Defence significance. Mr Pope was promoted from this post in 1994.

Hansard records a question regarding Unidentified Flying Objects was posed to the Secretary of State for Defence on 28 March 2006 by the same MP. The text below is taken from Hansard:

Unidentified Flying Objects

Normal Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether his Department's unidentified flying objects project is extant; and if he will make a statement. [60875]

Mr. Touhig: The Ministry of Defence has never operated an UFO project. UFO sightings reported to the MOD are examined solely within the context of controlling the integrity of the UK's airspace. The MOD does not attempt to identify the precise nature of each sighting, unless there is evidence of a risk to this integrity. Examination of UFO sighting reports is a task performed by desk officers within the directorate of air staff.

DATA PROTECTION ACT

Under the terms of the Data Protection Act (DPA) the information above has been read by Mr. Pope and his permission has been granted to allow this information regarding his career to be released as it is widely available in the public domain. As this permission has been sought and gained Director General Information Policy (Assistant Director), policy lead for DPA issues, is content that no adverse precedent has been set.

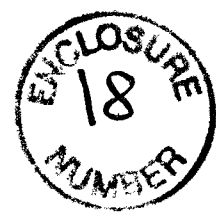
REMEMBER you are accountable for the accuracy and timeliness of the advice you provide. Departmental Instructions on answering PQs can be viewed on the Ministers and Parliamentary DII intranet site: http://main.defence.mod.uk/min_parl/.

Please send to PARLIAMENTARY QUESTIONS.

DRAFTED BY: [REDACTED]
AUTHORISED BY: Doug King
GRADE/RANK: Grade 5
BRANCH: Director
Employment
Framework

TEL: [REDACTED]
TEL: [REDACTED]

DECLARATION: I have satisfied myself that the above answer and background note are



TEMPLATE TO BE USED FOR REPLY

Ministry of Defence
WEDNESDAY 22 MARCH 2006

Norman Baker Esq MP (LEWES) (LIB DEM)

WRITTEN

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, whether his Department's UFO project is still extant; and if he will make a statement. 60875

Minister replying Don Touhig MP

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

The Ministry of Defence has never operated an UFO Project. UFO sightings reported to the MOD are examined solely within the context of controlling the integrity of the UK's airspace. The MOD does not attempt to identify the precise nature of each sighting, unless there is evidence of a risk to this integrity. Examination of UFO sighting reports is a task performed by desk officers within the Directorate of Air Staff.

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



March 06

PQ Ref 3670S

BACKGROUND NOTE

Norman Baker MP is the Liberal Democrat MP for Lewes Constituency, East Sussex and is the Liberal Democrat Shadow Environment and Rural Affairs Secretary. He has not written to the MOD about Unidentified Flying Objects before.

It is most likely that Mr Baker has asked this Question, having seen recent press articles in the Daily Mail, the Metro and on various internet websites in which Mr Nick Pope, a serving Civil Servant, has been widely quoted on the topic of the MoD's "UFO Project".

The MoD has never operated anything described as "the UFO Project". In the early post World War 2 era, when there was a rise in the number of reports of "UFOs" from the public, a working party was set up at the instigation of Sir Henry Tizard to consider whether there was anything credible in such reports. The working party concluded in 1951 that "*...no further investigation of reported mysterious aerial phenomena be undertaken unless and until some material evidence becomes available*". In other words, there was insufficient evidence of the existence of UFOs to warrant any further official investigation. Nevertheless, the public continued to report such sightings, and it was decided that they would be handled by a branch responsible for Air Force issues, solely with a view to determining whether any reports might indicate some threat to UK air defence. That remains the situation up to today, with approximately 100 reports being received each year.

Mr Pope at one time served as an EO (Band D) in the Secretariat Air Staff (the precursor of the Civilian element within DAS). Mr Pope left Sec (AS) in 1994 (he is currently serving in D Def Sy) and his knowledge of this issue, other than from publicly available sources, must be regarded as dated. Mr Pope elected to describe his position as the "Head of the MoD's UFO Project", a term entirely of his own invention, and he has used his experience and information he gathered (frequently by going beyond the official remit of his position) to develop a parallel career as a pundit on the topic, including writing several books, some purportedly non-fiction. Mr Pope constantly puts himself forward in various parts of the media, solicited and unsolicited, as an "expert" (despite his lack of recent knowledge about the work carried on in the branch concerned) and seeks credit amongst other aficionados for having "forced" MoD to reveal its "secret" files on the subject. The latter is far from the truth, as we had begun publishing details of the most "popular" reports in the Publication scheme, prior to the advent of the Freedom of Information Act. Mr Pope's activities have nevertheless resulted in the generation of considerable workload for the staff currently employed in responding to queries on this topic.

DRAFTED BY: [REDACTED] ^{tion 40} DAS-POI
AUTHORISED BY: [REDACTED] DAS-DD
GRADE/RANK: G6
BRANCH: Directorate of Air Staff

TEL: [REDACTED]
TEL: [REDACTED]

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

TEMPLATE TO BE USED FOR REPLY

Ministry of Defence
WEDNESDAY 22 MARCH 2006

Norman Baker Esq MP (LEWES) (LIB DEM)

WRITTEN

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, whether his Department's UFO project is still extant; and if he will make a statement. 60875

Minister replying Don Touhig MP

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

The Ministry of Defence has never operated an UFO Project. UFO sightings reported to the MOD are examined solely within the context of controlling the integrity of the UK's airspace. Unless there is evidence of a risk to this integrity, the MOD does not attempt to identify the precise nature of each sighting. Examination of UFO sighting reports is a task performed by desk officers within the Directorate of Air Staff.

Deleted: to establish whether there is any evidence of a threat to UK airspace.

Deleted: such

Deleted: minor

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March 06

PQ Ref 3670S

BACKGROUND NOTE

Norman Baker MP is the Liberal Democrat MP for Lewes Constituency, East Sussex and is the Liberal Democrat Shadow Environment and Rural Affairs Secretary. He has not written to the MOD about Unidentified Flying Objects before.

It is most likely that Mr Baker has asked this Question, having seen recent press articles in the Daily Mail, the Metro and on various internet websites in which Mr Nick Pope, a serving Civil Servant, has been widely quoted on the topic of the MoD's "UFO Project".

The MoD has never operated anything described as "the UFO Project". In the early post World War 2 era, when there was a rise in the number of reports of "UFOs" from the public, a working party was set up at the instigation of Sir Henry Tizard to consider whether there was anything credible in such reports. The working party concluded in 1951 that "*...no further investigation of reported mysterious aerial phenomena be undertaken unless and until some material evidence becomes available*". In other words, there was insufficient evidence of the existence of UFOs to warrant any further official investigation. Nevertheless, the public continued to report such sightings, and it was decided that they would be handled by a branch responsible for Air Force issues, solely with a view to determining whether any reports might indicate some threat to UK air defence. That remains the situation up to today, with approximately 100 reports being received each year.

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DRAFTED BY: [REDACTED] DAS-FOI
AUTHORISED BY: [REDACTED] DAS-DD
GRADE/RANK: G6
BRANCH: Directorate of Air Staff

TEL [REDACTED]
TEL [REDACTED]

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





10001
DAS
17 MAR 2006

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
FLOOR 5 ZONE B MAIN BUILDING
WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2HB

Telephone: 020 7218 9000 (Switchboard)

PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE FOR DEFENCE
AND MINISTER FOR VETERANS

DON TOUHIG MP

Nigel Waterson Esq MP
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

D/US of S/DT 1211/06/L/LN

15 March 2006

Dear Nigel,

Thank you for your letter of 21 February (reference: NW/slg) to John Reid enclosing one from your constituent, [REDACTED] of [REDACTED] Eastbourne, East Sussex, who has raised a number of issues concerning 'Unidentified Flying Objects' and an organisation known as The Disclosure Project. I am replying as this matter falls within my area of responsibility.

First, it may be helpful if I explain that the Ministry of Defence examines any reports of UFO sightings solely to establish whether there is any evidence that the United Kingdom's airspace might have been compromised by hostile or unauthorised air activity. I should add that 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, and the MOD remains vigilant for any potential threat. Unless there is evidence of a potential threat to the United Kingdom from an external source, and to date no UFO sighting report we have received has revealed such a threat, we do not attempt to identify the precise nature of each sighting. 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.

The MOD recognises that there is a public interest in this subject and we are entirely open about our policy and the information we hold on UFO matters. Between 1994 and 2004 the MOD operated in accordance with the Code of Practice on Access to Government Information (the Code) and my officials regularly answered enquiries and requests for information from the public. On 1 January 2005 the Freedom of Information Act 2000 superseded the Code and the MOD has released a great deal of UFO related information both in answer to Freedom of Information requests and proactively in to the MOD Freedom of Information Publication Scheme. Details of this information can be found on the MOD website at www.foi.mod.uk. In addition, there is a wealth of information fully open for viewing at The National Archives, the details of which can be found on The National Archives website at www.nationalarchives.gov.uk.



With regard to [REDACTED] comments about the need for secrecy free hearings so that military and government witnesses may testify to their sightings, you may wish to inform your constituent that anyone, whether they are a member of the public or in the Armed Forces is able to report a sighting to the MOD and their report will be examined in light of our defence interest as detailed above. There is therefore no need to hold hearings to take witness reports.

In his letter, [REDACTED] also refers to new energy and propulsion technologies relating to extraterrestrial phenomena. To date the MOD knows of no evidence which substantiates the existence of extraterrestrial lifeforms. We are therefore unable to comment on technologies which we do not know to exist.

I do hope that this explains the situation.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Don Touhig', written over a black rectangular redaction box.

DON TOUHIG MP



PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE FOR DEFENCE
AND MINISTER FOR VETERANS

DON TOUHIG MP

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
FLOOR 5 ZONE B MAIN BUILDING
WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2HB

Telephone: 020 7218 9000 (Switchboard)

DAS
102No.
13 DEC 2005
FILE

DAS 222
ENCLOSURE
17
NUMBER

Geraldine Smith Esq MP
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

D/US of S/DT 5467/05/C

13 December 2005

Dear Geraldine,

Thank you for your letter of 23 November (reference: GS/DR) to John Reid enclosing a letter and CD from your constituent, [REDACTED] of [REDACTED] Lancaster, concerning 'unidentified flying objects' and 'The Disclosure Project'. I am replying as this matter falls within my area of responsibility.

First, it may be helpful if I explain that the Ministry of Defence has no expertise or role in respect of the existence or otherwise of extraterrestrial lifeforms. The MOD examines any reports of sightings solely to establish whether what was seen might have some defence significance. The MOD's only concern therefore is to establish whether there is any evidence that the United Kingdom's airspace might have been compromised by hostile or unauthorised air activity. I should add that 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, and the MOD remains vigilant for any potential threat. Unless there is evidence of a potential threat to the United Kingdom from an external military or terrorist source, and to date no UFO reported to us has revealed such a threat, we do not attempt to identify the precise nature of each sighting. We believe that rational explanations, such as aircraft lights or unusual meteorological events, could be found for them if resources were diverted for this purpose, but it is not the function of the MOD to provide this kind of aerial identification service.

With regard to "The Disclosure Project", officials are aware that many people have claimed to have seen or been involved with extra-terrestrial lifeforms. The MOD remains open minded, but to date we know of no evidence which substantiates the existence of such phenomena and the MOD certainly holds no evidence of retrieved alien craft or beings. Your constituent has suggested that the MOD keeps information about UFO sightings secret, but please assure [REDACTED] that the MOD has for many

Enclosure



years explained our role in this matter to members of the public and frequently releases information into The National Archives, our own Publication Scheme and also in relation to Freedom of Information requests that we receive. If [REDACTED] would like to view some of the information already available this can be found at www.foi.mod.uk. Details of information open for viewing at The National Archives can be found on their website at www.nationalarchives.gov.uk.

I hope this explains the situation and enclose [REDACTED] CD. I would be grateful if you could return it to him.

Gunn



DON TOUHIG MP



D/DAS/64/4

1st December 2005

Ministerial Correspondence Unit

through DAS- Sec AD

Ministerial Correspondence –MC05467/2005 – Geraldine Smith MP

1. I attach a self explanatory draft reply for US of S to send to Geraldine Smith MP.
2. I also attach the CD sent by the MP which should be returned to the constituent.

{Signed}

[REDACTED]
DAS-FOI

5-H- [REDACTED] tion 40

[REDACTED]
DII:DAS-FOI

Authorised by:

Telephone:

Grade:

Branch:

[REDACTED]
B2

DAS- AD (Secretariat)

Thank you for your letter of 23 November to John Reid enclosing a letter and CD from your constituent, [REDACTED] of [REDACTED] Lancaster, concerning 'unidentified flying objects' and 'The Disclosure Project'. I am replying as this matter falls within my area of responsibility.

First, it may be helpful if I explain that the Ministry of Defence has no expertise or role in respect of the existence or otherwise of extraterrestrial lifeforms.

The MOD examines any reports of sightings solely to establish whether what was seen might have some defence significance. The MOD's only concern therefore is to establish whether there is any evidence that the United Kingdom's airspace might have been compromised by hostile or unauthorised air activity. I should add that 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, and the MOD remains vigilant for any potential threat.

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

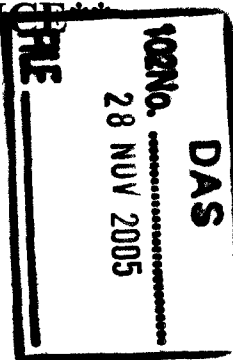
With regard to "The Disclosure Project", officials are aware that many people have claimed to have seen or been involved with extra-terrestrial lifeforms. The MOD remains open minded, but to date we know of no evidence which substantiates the existence of such phenomena and the MOD certainly holds no evidence of retrieved alien craft or beings. Your constituent has suggested that the MOD keeps information about UFO sightings secret, but please assure [REDACTED] that the MOD has for many years explained our role in this matter to members of the public and frequently releases information into The National Archives, our own Publication Scheme and also in relation to Freedom of Information requests that we receive. If [REDACTED] would like to view some of the information already available this can be found at www.foi.mod.uk. Details of information open for viewing at The National Archives can be found on their website at www.nationalarchives.gov.uk.

I hope this explains the situation and enclose [REDACTED] CD. I would be grateful if you could return it to him.

Don Touhig MP

Geraldine Smith MP

****DRAFTS TO BE NO MORE THAN 2 PAGES – SEE GUIDANCE****



MINISTERIAL CORRESPONDENCE

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

TO: DAS(LA)P&P

MC REF NUMBER: 05467/2005

Copy to:

MINISTER REPLYING: US

DRAFT REQUIRED BY: 07/12/05

DATE: 28/11/2005

FROM: [REDACTED] Ministerial Correspondence Unit

Floor 5, Zone A, MB

TEL: [REDACTED]

FAX: [REDACTED]

YOU WILL BE HELD ACCOUNTABLE FOR THE DRAFT ANSWER AND ADVICE THAT YOU PROVIDE - IT MUST BE ACCURATE AND NOT MISLEADING IN ANY WAY.

E-MAIL DRAFTS ON DII TO 'MINISTERIAL CORRESPONDENCE' (or

Ministerial-Correspondence@mod.uk externally) -

NOT TO MC CLERKS OR PRIVATE OFFICES.

(Please ensure sensitivity of your email message is 'Normal'.)

- **ENSURE THE DEADLINE IS MET:** THE DEPARTMENT IS COMMITTED TO ANSWERING 90% OF ITS CORRESPONDENCE WITHIN 15 WORKING DAYS. EVERY EFFORT MUST THEREFORE BE MADE TO REPLY SUBSTANTIVELY ON TIME. HOWEVER, IF IT IS OBVIOUS THAT YOU WILL BE UNABLE TO REPLY IN FULL WITHIN THE DEADLINE, AN INTERIM MUST BE PROVIDED. YOU SHOULD THEN AIM TO FORWARD A FINAL REPLY WITHIN A FURTHER 8 WORKING DAYS.
- A **NAMED** OFFICIAL AT PAY BAND B2 LEVEL OR ABOVE MUST CLEAR ALL DRAFTS. OTHER GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS OR MOD DIVISIONS SHOULD BE CONSULTED AS NECESSARY.
- IF THIS CORRESPONDENCE SHOULD BE DEALT WITH BY ANOTHER BRANCH, PLEASE LIAISE WITH THEM IMMEDIATELY BEFORE PASSING IT ON AND INFORMING US. IF YOU ARE AN AGENCY, THE MINISTER'S OFFICE HAS DIRECTED THAT THIS LETTER SHOULD RECEIVE A MINISTERIAL – **NOT** CHIEF EXECUTIVE – REPLY.

Number of pages sent by fax: 3

****DRAFTS TO BE NO MORE THAN 2 PAGES – SEE GUIDANCE****

**** TO BE GIVEN PRIORITY AT ALL TIMES ****

**** TO BE GIVEN PRIORITY AT ALL TIMES ****



Dr John Reid MP
Secretary of State
Ministry of Defence
Old War Office Building
Whitehall
London
SW1A 2EU

HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

23 November 2005

GS/DR

Dear John

Please find enclosed correspondence and enclosed^{*} CD from my constituent, [REDACTED] of [REDACTED] Lancaster. You will note on the last page of [REDACTED] letter that he wishes to raise the matter of Alien UFO contact with you.

I shall be most grateful if you would consider and respond to the concerns [REDACTED] has raised about this matter.

Yours sincerely

PP

[REDACTED]
Geraldine Smith
Member of Parliament

**RECEIVED BY
PARLIAMENTARY BRANCH**

1 On:

MINISTER REPLYING: US

KEYWORD(S): UFOS

LEAD BRANCH: DAS(CA)P/P

COPIED TO: * CD will be

RELATED CASE: posted.

CLERK:

CONSTITUENCY OFFICE
26/28 VICTORIA STREET, MORECAMBE LA4 4AJ
TEL: 01524 411367/411368 FAX 01524 411369

Can I point out that if you do not settle out of court, I will bring to the court every single one of your staff involved along with all of the many hundreds of documents you posses to court – and I will Sue the JCP along with the DWP for a significantly higher figure.

I can show that the DWP and JCP were clearly informed the money was from an ACCESS fund as far back as 13th November 2002, and that all that followed therefore could only have been malicious.

Indeed you knew the Hardship fund was the Access fund by another name throughout because the Higher Education Funding Council for England told you so even before you ever made contact - and this fact is well documented.

[REDACTED] please reply and disclose if you intend to resolve this matter without delay out of court, only an immediate settlement is acceptable.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

End *

End of the letter sent 07th July 05 → *

The DWP ignored letter after letter in the early stages and basically acted as if they were mafia criminals - not public servants - indeed, after reading the information released under the freedom of information act - I now have even more evidence to believe those people are white collar criminals and unfit to do the job of public servant.

[REDACTED]

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

PS: I was pleased to learn recently that a member of the Labour Party and not the Dodgy Conservatives in fact represents me. Thank you – please send me a new party membership form if you will (I was a party member when living in Rochdale and enjoyed helping at election time)

NB: Also enclosed with this letter is a CD with a video of an international news conference “the Disclosure project”. On this CD is a press conference whereby 21 credible military witnesses all of whom have checkable reputable credentials of the highest calibre - claim and swear by - during their government or military service – had Alien UFO Contact – one of whom was responsible for recovering and logging the bodies and alien craft. Why is this matter being kept secret and why are the public being kept in the dark about the 50 or so life forms of which our government and other governments have had contact with for over 50 years and of whom deny the existence of? (This issue is a significant defence matter and I ask you pass this to the defence minister and ask them to give me an official formal reply.)

This is a serious matter!



D/DAS/64/4

21st November 2005

Ministerial Correspondence Unit

through DAS- AD(Secretariat)

Ministerial Correspondence –MC05150/2005 – Michael Fabricant MP

1. I attach a self explanatory draft reply for US of S to send to Michael Fabricant MP.
2. It has not been possible to identify what aircraft activity [REDACTED] is witnessing without details of the dates and times of the over flights. If these are provided in the future, we may be able to assist him.

{Signed}

[REDACTED]

DAS-FOI

5-H- [REDACTED] ion 40

[REDACTED]

DII:DAS-FOI

Authorised by:

Telephone:

Grade:

Branch:

[REDACTED]

B2

DAS- AD (Secretariat)

MC 05150/2005

November 2005

Thank you for your letter of 9 November regarding your constituent,

[REDACTED] of [REDACTED] Armitage, Staffordshire, who is enquiring about triangular aircraft sighted over Cannock Chase.

My officials are aware of local media and internet articles concerning alleged UFOs around Cannock Chase, although I note that [REDACTED] does not believe these are UFOs; rather triangular shaped aircraft. Unfortunately, [REDACTED] Section 40 [REDACTED] has not provided any particular details regarding the dates, times and estimated height of these aircraft so it is not possible for officials to identify what activity he has witnessed. As you may know, there are some 400 planned military sorties per day within the UK Military Low Flying System (UKLFS) and it is essential that we have an approximate time and date of reported sighting if we are to examine the enquiry more closely.

It may help [REDACTED] if I explain a little about the UKLFS. The UKLFS covers the open airspace of the whole of the UK and surrounding overseas areas from the surface to 2,000 feet above ground or mean sea level. To administer the UKLFS the country is divided into Low Flying Areas (LFAs). Routine low level training for fixed wing aircraft in the LFAs is restricted at 250ft. Cannock Chase is within LFA 8. The area is of course, also over flown by civil aircraft.

If, in the future, [REDACTED] sees such aircraft again he may wish to pass the details of the activity, to the responsible Ministry of Defence officials who will investigate the nature of the activity he has noticed. They can be contacted on [REDACTED] or at:

Directorate of Air Staff

Complaints and Enquiries Unit

5th Floor, Zone H

Main Building

Whitehall

London SW1A 2HB

E-mail: lowflying@mod.uk

I hope this is helpful.

Don Touhig MP

Michael Fabricant MP

****DRAFTS TO BE NO MORE THAN 2 PAGES – SEE GUIDANCE****



MINISTERIAL CORRESPONDENCE

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http://main.defence.mod.uk/min_parl/ParlBrch/MCguid.htm

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TO: DAS(LA)P&P

MC REF NUMBER: 05150/2005

Copy to:

MINISTER REPLYING: US

DRAFT REQUIRED BY: 22/11/05

DATE: 11/11/2005

FROM: [REDACTED] Ministerial Correspondence Unit

Floor 5, Zone A, MB

TEL: [REDACTED]

FAX: [REDACTED]

YOU WILL BE HELD ACCOUNTABLE FOR THE DRAFT ANSWER AND ADVICE THAT YOU PROVIDE - IT MUST BE ACCURATE AND NOT MISLEADING IN ANY WAY.

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(Please ensure sensitivity of your email message is 'Normal'.)

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Number of pages sent by fax: 2

****DRAFTS TO BE NO MORE THAN 2 PAGES – SEE GUIDANCE****

**** TO BE GIVEN PRIORITY AT ALL TIMES ****

**** TO BE GIVEN PRIORITY AT ALL TIMES ****



Michael Fabricant MP

House of Commons
Westminster
London
SW1A 0AA

9 November, 2005

Mr Don Touhig, MP
Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State
Ministry of Defence
Main Building
Whitehall
London
SW1A 2HB**RECEIVED BY
PARLIAMENTARY BRANCH**

ON:

MINISTER REPLYING: US

KEYWORD(S): LOW FLYING UFOs

READ BRANCH: DAS(LA) P&P

COPIED TO:

RELATED CASE:

CLERK:

Dear Don

MINISTERIAL**10 NOV 2005****SUPPORT UNIT**

I have been contacted by my constituent, [REDACTED] of [REDACTED] on 40
[REDACTED] Armitage, Staffordshire.

[REDACTED] is aware of a number of sightings of triangular aircraft over Cannock Chase. Both his father and girlfriend have seen these craft and, under the Freedom of Information Act, he feels the public should be permitted to know what they are and for what purpose they are used. Incidentally, he does not believe they are UFOs.

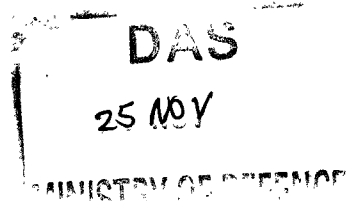
Your comments would be most welcome.

Yours ever

[REDACTED]

from the Member of Parliament for the Constituency of Lichfield

including the City of Lichfield, Abbots Bromley, Alrewas, Armitage, Burntwood, Chase Terrace, Chasetown, Colton, Fradley, Hammerwich, Handsacre, Kings Bromley, Longdon, the Ridwars, Streethay, Whittington, and Yoxall.
website and email form: www.michael.fabricant.mp.co.uk



MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
FLOOR 5 ZONE B MAIN BUILDING
WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2HB

Telephone: 020 7218 9000 (Switchboard)

PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE FOR DEFENCE
AND MINISTER FOR VETERANS

DON TOUHIG MP

Michael Fabricant Esq MP
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

D/US of S/DT 5150/05/L

23 November 2005

Dear Michael,

Thank you for your letter of 9 November regarding your constituent, [REDACTED] of [REDACTED] Armitage, Staffordshire, who is enquiring about triangular aircraft sighted over Cannock Chase.

My officials are aware of local media and internet articles concerning alleged UFOs around Cannock Chase, although I note that [REDACTED] does not believe these are UFOs; rather triangular shaped aircraft. Unfortunately, [REDACTED] has not provided any particular details regarding the dates, times and estimated height of these aircraft so it is not possible for officials to identify what activity he has witnessed. As you may know, there are some 400 planned military sorties per day within the UK Military Low Flying System (UKLFS) and it is essential that we have an approximate time and date of reported sighting if we are to examine the enquiry more closely.

It may help [REDACTED] if I explain a little about the UKLFS. The UKLFS covers the open airspace of the whole of the UK and surrounding overseas areas from the surface to 2,000 feet above ground or mean sea level. To administer the UKLFS the country is divided into Low Flying Areas (LFAs). Routine low level training for fixed wing aircraft in the LFAs is restricted at 250ft. Cannock Chase is within LFA 8. The area is of course, also over flown by civil aircraft.

If, in the future, [REDACTED] sees such aircraft again he may wish to pass the details of the activity, to the responsible Ministry of Defence officials who will investigate the nature of the activity he has noticed. They can be contacted on [REDACTED] or at:

Private Office



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE



Directorate of Air Staff
Complaints and Enquiries Unit
5th Floor, Zone H
Main Building
Whitehall
London
SW1A 2HB
E-mail: lowflying@mod.uk

I hope this is helpful.

Yours ever



DON TOUHIG MP

Ivor Caplin MP

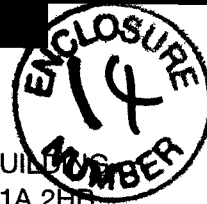


PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE FOR DEFENCE
AND MINISTER FOR VETERANS

DAS FOI- [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
FLOOR 5 ZONE B MAIN BUILDING
WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2HB

Telephone: 020 7218 9000 (Switchboard)

e-mail: ministers@mod.uk
website: www.mod.uk



Tim Loughton Esq MP
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

D/US of S/IC 1378/05/L

24th March 2005

See Tim,

Thank you for your letter of 4 March to Willy Bach enclosing one from your constituent [REDACTED] of [REDACTED] Worthing, who has raised a number of issues concerning 'Unidentified Flying Objects' and an organisation known as The Disclosure Project. I am replying as this matter falls within my area of responsibility.

First, it may be helpful if I explain that the Ministry of Defence examines any reports of UFO sightings solely to establish whether there is any evidence that the United Kingdom's airspace might have been compromised by hostile or unauthorised air activity. I should add that 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, and the MOD remains vigilant for any potential threat. Unless there is evidence of a potential threat to the United Kingdom from an external source, and to date no UFO reported to us has revealed such a threat, 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.

The MOD recognises that there is a public interest in this subject and we are entirely open about our policy and the information we hold on UFO matters. Since 1994 the MOD has operated in accordance with the Code of Practice on Access to Government Information (the Code) and my officials regularly answer enquiries and requests for information from the public. On 1 January 2005 the Freedom of Information Act 2000 superseded the Code and the MOD has been proactive by releasing UFO information in to the MOD Freedom of Information Publication Scheme which can be found on the internet at www.foi.mod.uk.

Private Office



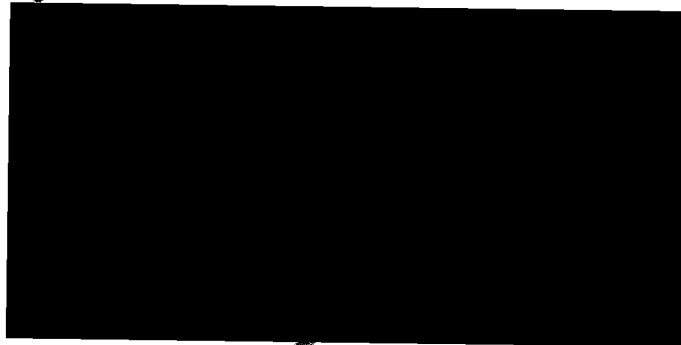
INVESTOR IN PEOPLE



With regard to [REDACTED] comments about the need for secrecy-free hearings so that military and government witnesses may testify to their sightings, you may wish to inform your constituent that anyone, whether they are a member of the public or in the Armed Forces is able to report a sighting to the MOD and their report will be examined in light of our defence interest as detailed above. There is therefore no need to hold hearings to take witness reports.

In his letter, [REDACTED] also refers to new energy and propulsion technologies relating to extraterrestrial phenomena. To date the MOD knows of no evidence which substantiates the existence of extraterrestrial lifeforms. We are therefore unable to comment on technologies which we do not know exist.

I hope this explains the situation.



LOOSE MINUTE

D/DAS/64/4

15 March 2005

Ministerial Correspondence Unit
(through DAS-SecAD)

MINISTERIAL CORRESPONDENCE – US1387/2005 – TIM LOUGHTON MP

1. So far as we aware, this constituent has not contacted the MOD before about 'UFOs' and he will not therefore be aware that the MOD does not have any expertise or role in respect of 'UFO/flying saucer' matters or to the question of the existence or otherwise of extraterrestrial lifeforms. The MOD's interest in these matters is limited to whether sighting reports provide any evidence of a breach of UK airspace by hostile or unauthorised air activity. Unless there is such evidence, we do not attempt to identify exactly what was seen.

2. The points [REDACTED] is making to his MP come from a US based organisation called "The Disclosure Project". This group was founded by Mr Steven Greer MD and since 1993 has been gathering statements, video and tape recordings from people who claim to have seen or been involved with extraterrestrial lifeforms. Many of these 'witnesses' are said to be military or ex-military serviceman / women and government officials. The Disclosure Project has a website where they accuse the US Congress of concealing information from the public about new energy and propulsion technologies which they have gathered from extraterrestrial sources. They also demand that the US Government hold secrecy free hearings so that these 'witnesses' can swear on oath to what they have experienced. This group encourage other like minded people around the world to lobby their own governments and this is what [REDACTED] appears to be doing. It appears that [REDACTED] is largely using a template letter suggested by the Disclosure Project, hence references to the President and Congress. Three other people contacted the MOD with similar letters in 2001.

3. I enclose a draft reply for US of S to send to Tim Loughton MP in response to his letter of 4 March to The Lord Bach of Lutterworth, enclosing a letter from his constituent. [REDACTED]



[REDACTED]
DAS-FOI

5-H- [REDACTED] tion 40

[REDACTED]
Drafted by:
Authorised by:

[REDACTED]
DAS-FOI
DAS-SecAD

DRAFT REPLY TO TIM LOUGHTON MP

Thank you for your letter of 4 March enclosing one from your constituent, [REDACTED] of [REDACTED] Worthing, West Sussex, who has raised a number of issues concerning 'Unidentified Flying Objects' and an organisation known as The Disclosure Project. I am replying as this matter falls within my area of responsibility.

First, it may be helpful if I explain that the Ministry of Defence examines any reports of UFO sightings solely to establish whether there is any evidence that the United Kingdom's airspace might have been compromised by hostile or unauthorised air activity. I should add that 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, and the MOD remains vigilant for any potential threat. Unless there is evidence of a potential threat to the United Kingdom from an external source, and to date no UFO reported to us has revealed such a threat, 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.

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With regard to [REDACTED] comments about the need for secrecy free hearings so that military and government witnesses may testify to their sightings, you may wish to inform your constituent that anyone, whether they are a member of the public or in the Armed Forces is able to report a sighting to the MOD and their report will be examined in light of our defence interest as detailed above. There is therefore no need to hold hearings to take witness reports.

In his letter, [REDACTED] also refers to new energy and propulsion technologies relating to extraterrestrial phenomena. To date the MOD knows of no evidence which substantiates the existence of extraterrestrial lifeforms. We are therefore unable to comment on technologies which we do not know exist.

I hope this explains the situation.

IVOR CAPLIN MP

Tim Loughton MP

Ivor Caplin MP



PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE FOR DEFENCE
AND MINISTER FOR VETERANS

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
FLOOR 5 ZONE B MAIN BUILDING
WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2HB

Telephone: 020 7218 9000 (Switchboard)

e-mail: ministers@mod.uk
website: www.mod.uk



Yvette Cooper MP
Constituency Office
2 Wesley Street
Castleford
WF10 1AE

D/US of S/IC 4733/04/L

20th October 2004

Thank you for your letter of 20 September (reference: [redacted] 020/041272) to Adam Ingram, enclosing an email message from your constituent [redacted] of [redacted] Knottingley, West Yorkshire, concerning Ministry of Defence policy on 'unidentified flying objects'. I am replying as this matter falls within my area of responsibility.

First, it may be helpful if I explain that 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 and the MOD remains vigilant for any potential threat. The MOD's sole concern, therefore, with reports of unusual aerial sightings is to establish 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 UK from an external source, and to date no 'UFO' reported to us has revealed such a threat, we do not attempt to identify the precise nature of each reported sighting. We believe that rational explanation, such as aircraft lights or unusual meteorological events, could be found for them if resources were diverted for this purpose, but it is not the function of the MOD to provide this kind of aerial identification service.

With regard to the events at Rendlesham Forest, Suffolk, you may wish to inform [redacted] that the MOD documents on these events have been released into the public domain and can be viewed via the MOD Freedom of Information Publication Scheme at www.foi.mod.uk.

Finally, I must say that the Ministry of Defence has no expertise or role in respect of 'UFO/flying saucer' matters, or the question of the existence or otherwise of extraterrestrial lifeforms, about which it remains totally open-minded. But I should add to date the MOD knows of no evidence which substantiates the existence of these alleged phenomena.

I hope this explains the situation.

Private Office



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Ivor Caplin MP



PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE FOR DEFENCE
AND MINISTER FOR VETERANS

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
OLD WAR OFFICE BUILDING
WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2EG

Telephone [redacted] (Direct Dialling)
[redacted] (Fax)
(020) 7218 9000 (Switchboard)



Dr Desmond Turner MP
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

D/US of S/IC 0643/04/A

25 February 2004

Des Des

Thank you for your letter of 3 February (reference: SB/DE/03/02/04/D) enclosing one from your constituent, [redacted] of [redacted] Brighton, concerning the release of information about UFOs.

First, it may be helpful if I explain that 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, and the Ministry of Defence remains vigilant for any potential threat. The MOD's sole concern, therefore, with reports of unusual aerial sightings is to establish whether there is any evidence that the 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 reported to us has revealed such a threat, 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 unusual meteorological events, could be found for them if resources were diverted for this purpose, but it is not the function of the MOD to provide this kind of aerial identification service.

With regard to the disclosure of information about UFO reports, you may wish to inform [redacted] that 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 and are transferred to The National Archive (formerly the Public Record Office) when 30 years have elapsed since the last action was taken. Any files from the 1950s and early 1960s which have survived are already available for examination by members of the public at The National Archive, Ruskin Avenue, Kew, Richmond, Surrey, TW9 4DU. Details of the records available can be seen by searching The National Archive on line catalogue, PROCAT, at www.pro.gov.uk. Copies of documents can also be requested.

Private Office



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE



For information less than 30 years old, the Ministry of Defence operates in accordance with the Code of Practice on Access to Government Information (the Code), which encourages the provision of information unless its disclosure would, for example, cause harm to defence, invade an individual's privacy, or if it would take an unreasonable diversion of resources to respond to a request. Information is supplied wherever possible providing it does not fall under one of the exemptions in the Code. The Freedom of Information Act 2000 will supersede the Code when it comes into force in 2005.

[REDACTED] also mentioned the alleged UFO incident at Rendlesham Forest and the lack of information about these events available to the public. That is not the case. The papers the MOD holds on this incident were initially released to a member of the public in May 2001 following a request made under the Code. Recognising the public interest in this event when the MOD launched its Freedom of Information Publication Scheme MOD officials ensured that these documents were included in the Scheme. They can be accessed via the internet at www.foi.mod.uk. A search for "Rendlesham Forest" will lead to the relevant documents or alternatively a search for "UFO" will show all the classes of information on UFOs in the Scheme. MOD officials are conducting a review of all the UFO related documents the MOD holds with a view to making further material available in the near future.

I hope this is useful.

Yours ever





LOOSE MINUTE

D/DAS/64/4

18 February 2004

Ministerial Correspondence Unit
(through DAS-SecAD)

MINISTERIAL CORRESPONDENCE – MC643/2004 – DR DESMOND TURNER MP

1. I enclose a draft reply for US of S to send to Dr Desmond Turner MP in response to his letter of 3 February, enclosing one from his constituent. [REDACTED]
2. [REDACTED] alleges that he is unable to obtain information about UFOs from the Public Record Office (now The National Archive), or the MOD and that the Freedom of Information Act will not apply to such information. He also mentions the lack of information available to the public concerning a well known UFO incident at Rendlesham Forest. We have therefore included details of MOD policy on disclosure of information and how [REDACTED] can access all these types of records.
3. Incidentally, this constituent has corresponded with the MOD on two previous occasions about UFOs. The first in January this year, following a BBC Documentary broadcast and the second on 6 February when he asked some questions about the response he received. I have replied to [REDACTED] on these points.

[REDACTED]
DAS-Sec3
MT6/73 [REDACTED]

Drafted by:
Authorised by:

[REDACTED]
DAS-Sec3
DAS-SecAD

DRAFT REPLY TO DR DESMOND TURNER MP

Thank you for your letter of 3 February enclosing one from your constituent, [REDACTED] of [REDACTED] Brighton concerning the release of information about 'unidentified flying objects'.

First, it may be helpful if I explain that 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 and the MOD remains vigilant for any potential threat. My Department's sole concern, therefore, with reports of unusual aerial sightings is to establish 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' reported to us has revealed such a threat, 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 unusual meteorological events, could be found for them if resources were diverted for this purpose, but it is not the function of the MOD to provide this kind of aerial identification service.

With regard to the disclosure of information about 'UFO' reports, you may wish to inform [REDACTED] that 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 and are transferred to The National Archive (formerly the Public Record Office) when 30 years have elapsed since the last action was taken. Any files from the 1950s and early 1960s which have survived are already available for examination by members of the public at The National Archive, Ruskin Avenue, Kew, Richmond, Surrey, TW9 4DU. Details of the records available can be seen by searching The National Archive on line catalogue, PROCAT, at www.pro.gov.uk. Copies of documents can also be requested.

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[REDACTED] also mentioned the alleged 'UFO' incident at Rendlesham Forest and the lack of information about these events available to the public. That is not the case. The papers the MOD holds on this incident were initially released to a member of the public in May 2001 following a request made under the Code. Recognising the public interest in this event when the MOD launched its Freedom of Information Publication Scheme my officials ensured

that these documents were included in the Scheme. They can be accessed via the internet at www.foi.mod.uk. A search for "Rendlesham Forest" will lead to the relevant documents or alternatively a search for "UFO" will show all the classes of information on UFOs in the Scheme. My officials are conducting a review of all the UFO related documents the MOD holds with a view to making further material available in the near future.

I hope this explains the situation.

IVOR CAPLIN MP

Dr Desmond Turner MP

**** TO BE GIVEN PRIORITY AT ALL TIMES ****



MINISTERIAL CORRESPONDENCE

Detailed guidance on handling Ministerial Correspondence can be found on dNet at
http://main.chots.mod.uk/min_parl/ParlBrch/MCguid.htm

If you do not have access to dNet, please inform the Ministerial Correspondence Unit.

TO: DAS (LA) P&P

MC REF NUMBER: 643 /2004

Copy to:

MINISTER REPLYING: USdS

DRAFT REQUIRED BY: 19/02/2004

DATE: 10/02/2004

FROM: [REDACTED] Ministerial Correspondence Unit

Room 222WH

TEL: [REDACTED]

FAX: [REDACTED]

YOU WILL BE HELD ACCOUNTABLE FOR THE DRAFT ANSWER AND ADVICE THAT YOU PROVIDE - IT MUST BE ACCURATE AND NOT MISLEADING IN ANY WAY.

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Number of pages sent by fax: 3

**** TO BE GIVEN PRIORITY AT ALL TIMES ****



INVEST FOR THE PEOPLE

**** TO BE GIVEN PRIORITY AT ALL TIMES ****

**** TO BE GIVEN PRIORITY AT ALL TIMES ****



Dr Desmond Turner MP
(Brighton Kemptown - Labour)

179 Preston Road, Brighton BN1 6AG

Tel:01273-330610 Fax:01273-500966

www.desturnermp.co.uk

turnerd@parliament.uk (please give your postal address)



3rd February 2004

Our Ref:SB/DE/03/02/04/D

Ivor Caplin MP
 Parliamentary Secretary
 Ministry of Defence
 Old War Office Building
 Whitehall
 London, SW1A.2EU.

RECEIVED

09 FEB 2004

USOF

RECEIVED
 5 FEB 2004

643/03

Dear Ivor,

Please find attached a self-explanatory e-mail from a constituent of mine.

I am sorry to raise this with you, but I have never heard of the 'Rendlesham Forest incident' or any of the allegations that my constituent makes.

I should be grateful for some brief comments on the Redlesham Forest incident and any restrictions on records of any similar 'incidents'.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Desmond Turner

DES TURNER MP

PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY MINISTRY OF DEFENCE OLD WAR OFFICE BUILDING WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2EU TEL: 01273 330610 FAX: 01273 500966 WWW.DESTURNERMP.CO.UK turnerd@parliament.uk COPIED TO: RELATED CASE: CLERK:

Dr. Desmond Turner MP represents the Brighton Kemptown Parliamentary Constituency
 (Palace Pier to Peacehaven, Marine Drive to Moulsecomb, Tenantry to Telscombe).

If you want advice or assistance from Des Turner please write to the above address, or come along to one of his
 five advice surgeries per month - let his office know if you want a list of where and when they take place.

From: [REDACTED]@aol.com
Sent: 31 December 2003 12:22
To: turnerd@parliament.uk
Subject: government secrecy and FOIA

Brighton
[REDACTED]

Dr. Turner,

I am one of your constituents living in Woodingdean. I have an interest in the subject of UFO's, (which I appreciate may be of no concern to you) but I find that the FOIA Act does not appear to allow the full disclosure of information relevant to this subject. I cannot quote specific instances, since I have not personally managed to obtain information from the Public Records Office, due to their obscure retrieval system.

From articles in the subject press and via the internet, it is apparent that not much information is being disclosed. I think the Rendlesham Forest incident which has been widely discussed in the popular press, but was denied by the MOD, indicates the level of secrecy still present in many government departments.

Any action that could be taken by yourself to bring to the attention of the ministers concerned the deep feelings of frustration experienced by the public in trying to obtain information which should now be in the public domain, would be greatly appreciated.

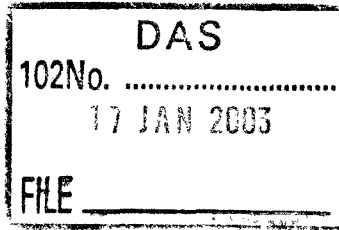
Thank you for your attention,

[REDACTED]

REGISTERED FILE No. Enclosure Jacket No9..... DATE OPENED (Date of First Enclosure) 		DIVISION / DIRECTORATE / BRANCH:	
SUBJECT: US 109 / 2003 MICHAEL FABRICANT MP			
Referred to	Date	Referred to	Date

USER NOTES

- 1. A MOD Form 262A (File Record Sheet) must be raised for each new Temporary Enclosure Jacket (TEJ) created. The TEJ should also include a minute sheet.
- 2. When a TEJ is incorporated into the parent file it should be placed in the file in date order (according to the date of the last action on the TEJ) and allocated an enclosure number.
- 3. The file minute sheet should be annotated to record the enclosure number of the TEJ along with details of the number of enclosures contained within it. The TEJ record sheet (MOD Form 262A) should be annotated to record the date on which the TEJ was incorporated into the parent file (JSP 441, paragraph 4.13 refers).



MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
OLD WAR OFFICE BUILDING
WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2EU

Telephone [REDACTED] (Direct Dialling)
[REDACTED] (Fax)
(020) 7218 9000 (Switchboard)

PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE FOR DEFENCE
AND MINISTER FOR VETERANS

D/US of S/LM 0109/03/P

15 January 2003

Dear Michael

Thank you for your letter of 19 December enclosing one from your constituent, [REDACTED] of [REDACTED] Yoxall, who has asked how she may access the papers released by the Ministry of Defence, concerning an alleged 'UFO' sighting in Rendlesham Forest, Suffolk in 1980.

The Ministry of Defence examines any reports of 'UFO' sightings solely to establish whether what was seen might have some defence significance. My Department's only concern is to establish whether there is any evidence that the United Kingdom's airspace might have been compromised by hostile or unauthorised air activity.

When the Ministry of Defence was informed of the events which are alleged to have occurred at Rendlesham Forest/RAF Bentwaters in December 1980, all available substantiated evidence was looked at in the usual manner by those within the MOD/RAF with responsibility for air defence matters. The judgement was that there was no indication that a breach of the United Kingdom's air defences had occurred on the nights in question and as there was no evidence to substantiate an event of defence concern, no further investigation into the matter was considered necessary.

Michael Fabricant Esq MP

Private Office



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE



The MOD Rendlesham Forest file, referred to by [REDACTED] consists of over 170 papers which were not originally on one file, but were gathered together some time after these events. Some papers are contemporary and others include later correspondence between members of the public and the MOD. A copy of the file was first released to a member of the public in May 2001, following a request made under the Code of Practice on Access to Government Information (the Code). Five papers were initially withheld under exemptions of the Code, but these were later released on appeal.

On the 29 November 2002 the MOD launched its Freedom of Information Publication Scheme. This is the first step in the introduction of the Freedom of Information (FOI) Act, which will supersede the Code in 2005. The FOI Publication Scheme has given my officials the opportunity to make the Rendlesham file more generally available to those who may not have previously been aware of its release. To access the MOD FOI Publication Scheme, you may wish to advise [REDACTED] to look at the website www.foi.mod.uk. A search under "Rendlesham Forest" will take her to the Rendlesham Forest papers, while a search on 'UFO' will show all the classes of information on UFOs included in the Scheme.

Best wishes



DR LEWIS MOONIE MP



DAS-LA-Ops+Pol1

To: Ministerial Correspondence
Subject: US 109/2003

Please find attached a draft reply to US 109/2003 which is due for reply by the 14 Jan 2003.



US 109.03 Micheal
Fabricant MP...



US 109.03 Micheal
Fabricant MP...


DAS-LA-Ops+Pol1
MT6/73 

DAS-LA-Ops+Pol1

From: PARLIAMENTARY TYPIST1 on behalf of Ministerial Correspondence
To: DAS-LA-Ops+Pol1
Sent: 13 January 2003 11:18
Subject: Read: US 109/2003

Your message

To: Ministerial Correspondence
Subject: US 109/2003
Sent: 13/01/03 10:49

was read on 13/01/03 11:18.

LOOSE MINUTE

D/DAS/64/4

10 January 2003

Ministerial Correspondence Unit

**MINISTERIAL CORRESPONDENCE – US 109/2003 –
MICHEAL FABRICANT MP**

1. The constituent has asked how they may access documents recently released by the MOD regarding a well known reported 'UFO' sighting in Rendlesham Forest, Suffolk in 1980.
2. These papers were first released to a member of the public in May 2001 following a request made under the Code of Practice on Access to Government Information. On 29 November 2002 they were included in the MOD Freedom of Information Publication Scheme and can now be accessed through the internet. A full explanation of the circumstances surrounding their release and how to access them has been included in the draft. The constituent has not contacted the MOD before about 'UFOs', so brief details of our policy has also been included.
3. I enclose a draft reply for US of S to send to Michael Fabricant MP in response to his letter of 19 December 2002, enclosing one from his constituent. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
DAS(LA)Ops+Poll
MT6/73 [REDACTED]

Drafted by:
Authorised by:

[REDACTED]

DAS-LA-Ons+Poll
DAS-LA- [REDACTED]

40
9/01

DRAFT REPLY TO MR MICHAEL FABRICANT MP

Thank you for your letter of 19 December 2002, enclosing a letter from your constituent [REDACTED] of [REDACTED] Yoxall, Staffordshire, who has asked how she may access the papers released by the Ministry of Defence, concerning an alleged 'UFO' sighting in Rendlesham Forest, Suffolk in 1980. I am replying as this matter falls within my area of responsibility.

First it may be helpful if I explain that the Ministry of Defence examines any reports of 'UFO' sightings solely to establish whether what was seen might have some defence significance. My Department's only concern is to establish whether there is any evidence that the United Kingdom's airspace might have been compromised by hostile or unauthorised air activity.

When the Ministry of Defence was informed of the events which are alleged to have occurred at Rendlesham Forest/RAF Bentwaters in December 1980, all available substantiated evidence was looked at in the usual manner by those within the MOD/RAF with responsibility for air defence matters. The judgement was that there was no indication that a breach of the United Kingdom's air defences had occurred on the nights in question and as there was no evidence to substantiate an event of defence concern no further investigation into the matter was considered necessary.

The MOD Rendlesham Forest file, referred to by [REDACTED] consists of over 170 papers which were not originally on one file, but were gathered together some time after these events. Some papers are contemporary and others include later

correspondence between members of the public and the MOD. A copy of the file was first released to a member of the public in May 2001, following a request made under the Code of Practice on Access to Government Information (the Code). Five papers were initially withheld under exemptions of the Code, but these were later released on appeal.

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I hope this is helpful.

DR LEWIS MOONIE MP

Michael Fabricant MP

**** TO BE GIVEN PRIORITY AT ALL TIMES ****

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http://main.chots.mod.uk/min_parl/ParlBrch/MCguid.htm

If you do not have access to MODWeb, please inform the Ministerial Correspondence Unit.

TO: DAS(LA) P & P

MC REF NUMBER: US 109 /2003

Copy to:

MINISTER REPLYING: USQS

DRAFT REQUIRED BY: 14 / 1 /2003

DATE: 3 / 1 /2003

FROM: [REDACTED] Ministerial Correspondence Unit

Room 222WH

TEL: [REDACTED]

FAX: [REDACTED]

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Number of pages sent by fax: 3

**** TO BE GIVEN PRIORITY AT ALL TIMES ****

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

Revised 2003 14-11-2003

**** TO BE GIVEN PRIORITY AT ALL TIMES ****

**** TO BE GIVEN PRIORITY AT ALL TIMES ****



Michael Fabricant MP

House of Commons
Westminster
London
SW1A 0AA

19 December, 2002

Dr Lewis Moonie, MP
Parliamentary Secretary
Ministry of Defence
Old War Office Building
Whitehall
London
SW1A 2EU

RECEIVED BY PARLIAMENTARY BRANCH
ON:
MINISTER REPLYING: JS
(OFFICIALS): UFOS
PARLIAMENTARY BRANCH: DAS (LA) P&P
NOTED TO:
RELATED CASE:
CLERK:

Dear Lewis

I am enclosing a letter I have received from my constituent, [REDACTED] of [REDACTED] Yoxall, Staffordshire.

As you will see from her letter, [REDACTED] has requested information on the report into the restricted Rendelsham File on the UFO RAF Woodbridge sighting.

Any information I can forward to my constituent would be appreciated.

Thank you very much for your help in this matter.

Yours sincerely

Michael Fabricant

encl.

from the Member of Parliament for the Constituency of Lichfield
including the City of Lichfield, Abbots Bromley, Alrewas, Armitage, Burntwood, Chase Terrace, Chasetown, Colton, Pradley, Hammerwich, Handsacre, Kings Bromley, the Ridwares, Streethay, Whittington, and Yoxall.

[REDACTED]
Yoxall
Staffs
[REDACTED]

Mr Michael Fabricant MP
House Of Commons
London

8.12.2002

Dear Mr Fabricant

As reported in the press from December 1 2002 the government was to release under the Freedom of Information Act classified information, one of these being, the MoD report into the restricted Rendelsham File on the UFO sighting at RAF Woodbridge Suffolk in 1980.

Please could you direct me to where I can find this report.

Many thanks

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

DAS-LA-Ops+Pol1

To: Ministerial Correspondence
Subject: US 109/2003

Please find attached a draft reply to US 109/2003 which is due for reply by the 14 Jan 2003.



US 109.03 Micheal
Fabricant MP...



US 109.03 Micheal
Fabricant MP...


DAS-LA-Ops+Pol1
MT6/73 

DAS-LA-Ops+Pol1

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To: DAS-LA-Ops+Pol1
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Your message

To: Ministerial Correspondence
Subject: US 109/2003
Sent: 13/01/03 10:49

was read on 13/01/03 11:18.

LOOSE MINUTE

D/DAS/64/4

10 January 2003

Ministerial Correspondence Unit

**MINISTERIAL CORRESPONDENCE – US 109/2003 –
MICHEAL FABRICANT MP**

1. The constituent has asked how they may access documents recently released by the MOD regarding a well known reported 'UFO' sighting in Rendlesham Forest, Suffolk in 1980.
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[REDACTED]

DAS(LA)Ops+Pol1
MT6/73 [REDACTED]

Drafted by:
Authorised by:

[REDACTED]

DAS-LA-Ops+Pol1
DAS-LA- [REDACTED]

40
701

January 2003

DRAFT REPLY TO MR MICHAEL FABRICANT MP

Thank you for your letter of 19 December 2002, enclosing a letter from your constituent [REDACTED] of [REDACTED] Yoxall, Staffordshire, who has asked how she may access the papers released by the Ministry of Defence, concerning an alleged 'UFO' sighting in Rendlesham Forest, Suffolk in 1980. I am replying as this matter falls within my area of responsibility.

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I hope this is helpful.

DR LEWIS MOONIE MP

Michael Fabricant MP

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MINISTERIAL CORRESPONDENCE

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TO: DAS(LA) POP

MC REF NUMBER: US 109 /2003

Copy to:

MINISTER REPLYING: US 25

DRAFT REQUIRED BY: 14 / 1 /2003

DATE: 3 / 1 /2003

FROM: [REDACTED] Ministerial Correspondence Unit

Room 222WH

TEL: [REDACTED]

FAX: [REDACTED]

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Number of pages sent by fax: 3

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DIRECTOR IN PEOPLE

Revised 2003 14 Jan 2003

** TO BE GIVEN PRIORITY AT ALL TIMES **

** TO BE GIVEN PRIORITY AT ALL TIMES **



Michael Fabricant MP

House of Commons
Westminster
London
SW1A 0AA

19 December, 2002

Dr Lewis Moonie, MP
Parliamentary Secretary
Ministry of Defence
Old War Office Building
Whitehall
London
SW1A 2EU

RECEIVED BY
PARLIAMENTARY BRANCH
ON:
MINISTER REPLYING: JS
KEYWORDS: UFOS
PARL. BRANCH: DAS (LA) P&P
OTHER FC:
RELATED CASE:
CLERK:

Dear Lewis

I am enclosing a letter I have received from my constituent, [REDACTED] of [REDACTED] Yoxall, Staffordshire.

As you will see from her letter, [REDACTED] has requested information on the report into the restricted Rendelsham File on the UFO RAF Woodbridge sighting.

Any information I can forward to my constituent would be appreciated.

Thank you very much for your help in this matter.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]
Michael Fabricant

encl.

from the Member of Parliament for the Constituency of Lichfield
including the City of Lichfield, Abbots Bromley, Alrewas, Armitage, Burntwood, Chase Terrace, Chasetown, Colton,
Pradley, Hammerwich, Handsacre, Kings Bromley, the Ridwares, Streechay, Whittington, and Yoxall.

[REDACTED]
Yoxall
Staffs
[REDACTED]

Mr Michael Fabricant MP
House Of Commons
London

8.12.2002

Dear Mr Fabricant

As reported in the press from December 1 2002 the government was to release under the Freedom of Information Act classified information, one of these being, the MoD report into the restricted Rendelsham File on the UFO sighting at RAF Woodbridge Suffolk in 1980.

Please could you direct me to where I can find this report.

Many thanks

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

RESTRICTED/UNCLASSIFIED

RESTRICTED/UNCLASSIFIED
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
TEMPORARY ENCLOSURE JACKET

MOD Form 174D
(Revised 5/99)

9

REGISTERED FILE No. Enclosure Jacket No ..8.....		DIVISION / DIRECTORATE / BRANCH:	
DATE OPENED (Date of First Enclosure)			
SUBJECT: DP 4516/02 LORD HILL NORTON GCB			
Referred to	Date	Referred to	Date

USER NOTES

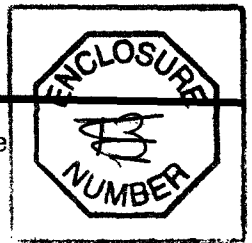
1. A MOD Form 262A (File Record Sheet) must be raised for each new Temporary Enclosure Jacket (TEJ) created. The TEJ should also include a minute sheet.
2. When a TEJ is incorporated into the parent file it should be placed in the file in date order (according to the date of the last action on the TEJ) and allocated an enclosure number.
3. The file minute sheet should be annotated to record the enclosure number of the TEJ along with details of the number of enclosures contained within it. The TEJ record sheet (MOD Form 262A) should be annotated to record the date on which the TEJ was incorporated into the parent file (JSP 441, paragraph 4.13 refers).

RESTRICTED/UNCLASSIFIED

RESTRICTED/UNCLASSIFIED

DAS-LA-Ops+Pol1

From: PARLIAMENTARY TYPIST3 on behalf of Ministerial Correspondence
To: DAS-LA-Ops+Pol1
Sent: 17 October 2002 11:10
Subject: Read: DP4516/2002



Your message

To: Ministerial Correspondence
Subject: DP4516/2002
Sent: 17/10/02 11:01

was read on 17/10/02 11:10.

***** -COMM. JOURNAL- ***** DATE 30-SEP-2002 ***** TIME 13:00 *** P.01

MODE = TRANSMISSION

START=30-SEP 12:58

END=30-SEP 13:00

STN NO.	COM	ABBR NO.	STATION NAME/TEL.NO.	PAGES	DURATION
001	OK	2	[REDACTED]	003	00:01'08"

-DIRECTORATE AIR STAFF -

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

Sunday Times

Begorra — Leeson pops up as a finance guru on Irish TV

Nick Leeson has landed a job as financial tipster. As career turnarounds go it's like Ann Widdecombe getting star billing at Stringfellows.

Leeson, who left the venerable Barings Bank with less bunce in its vaults than my two-year-old daughter Emilia has saved in her piggy bank, is to be a pundit on TV in Ireland. Now out of the clink, he lives in Galway and will dispense his wisdom on Ireland AM.

Leeson will have to pay half his earnings to the bank's liquidators. This uncongenial arrangement could last some time, however dazzling his punditry. The rogue trader lost Barings £850m.

□ As if Geoff "Buff" Hoon and the Ministry of Defence can afford any more embarrassment, up pops a letter from his underling, Lord Bach. In a reply to Lord Hill-Norton, former admiral, about a UFO spotted by naval crews in 1999, Bach says that alas the ship's log for the relevant time was blown overboard by a strong wind. "To this ancient mariner, it stinks," sighs Hill-Norton.

Lu!

Defence Exhibition

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for what the total cost of holding the Defence Systems Equipment International exhibition in September 2003 will be, broken down by (a) the Ministry of Defence, (b) the Department of Trade and Industry, (c) Trade Partners and (d) other government departments and agencies, and what statement he will make a statement.

Mr. Ingram: In reply to the hon. Member for Islington, North (Jeremy Corbyn) on 20 September 2003, *Official Report*, columns 677–78 W, I provided an estimate of the direct cost of the exhibition to the Ministry of Defence. The final cost remains to be established, but we do not expect it to be significantly above the estimated figure.

The Metropolitan police estimate a cost of £1.48 million in additional pay and other costs associated with policing the event. British Police estimate their cost of policing the event at £250,000. As above, the final cost remains to be established.

Neither the Department of Trade and Industry nor Trade Partners UK incurred costs.

Falkland Islands

Mr. Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for what the total cost of holding the Defence Systems Equipment International exhibition in September 2003 will be, broken down by (a) the Ministry of Defence, (b) the Department of Trade and Industry, (c) Trade Partners and (d) other government departments and agencies, and what statement he will make a statement.

Mr. Ingram: The armed forces of the United Kingdom and Argentina participate in a range of activities as part of a bilateral defence programme. We are unaware of any incidents between Argentinian military personnel and our own armed forces or residents of the Falkland Islands.

Mr. Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for what the total cost of holding the Defence Systems Equipment International exhibition in September 2003 will be, broken down by (a) the Ministry of Defence, (b) the Department of Trade and Industry, (c) Trade Partners and (d) other government departments and agencies, and what statement he will make a statement.

Mr. Ingram: Fisheries Protection Vessels are provided by the Falklands Islands Government. In addition, a Falkland Islands Patrol Vessel is permanently stationed in the Falkland Islands, with the exception of absences for visits and maintenance periods to South America. Maritime air patrol tasks are undertaken by assets permanently stationed in the Falkland Islands (currently a C-130 and a VC-10), and on other occasions over the past six years specialist maritime patrol aircraft have also been deployed to the Falkland Islands.

Mr. Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for what the strength of (a) the Army, (b) the Royal Marines and (c) the Royal Air Force in the Falkland Islands has been in each of the last six years.

Mr. Ingram: Force level in the Falkland Islands has been in each of the past six years, broken down by service, is shown in the following table. All figures are rounded to the nearest 10, and, due to rounding methods used, may not equal the sum of the individual components.

Alistair Burt: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will publish the report presented to him in September 2002 by Mr. Stephen Moore about events leading up to, and including, the fire at Yarl's Wood on 14 February 2002. [129681]

Beverley Hughes: No. The material gathered by Stephen Moore must be regarded as work in progress, which Stephen Shaw will draw on as part of his inquiry.

DEFENCE

Afghanistan

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to his answer of 8 September 2003, ref. 128526, on Afghanistan, if he will make a statement on (a) the strategic importance of the Afghan National Army in promoting stability in Afghanistan and (b) the development of the Afghan National Army. [130695]

Mr. Ingram: The Bonn Agreement of 5 December 2001 acknowledges that responsibility for security in Afghanistan lies with the Afghans themselves, but seeks international assistance in establishing and training new security forces. The creation of an effective and representative Afghan National Army is therefore an essential component in ensuring the future security and stability of Afghanistan. Development of the Afghan National Army continues.

Aircraft Carriers

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how the revised costing for the carrier programme will be accommodated within his Department's budget; and if he will make a statement. [128341]

Mr. Ingram: As announced by the Secretary of State for Defence in January this year, our estimate of the cost of the Demonstration and Manufacture (D and M) phase of the future carriers is around £3 billion. This estimate will be refined further during the remainder of the Assessment phase prior to establishing D and M contracting arrangements currently planned for Spring 2004.

Funding for this project has been already been set aside within the defence budget and is allocated to the Equipment Plan as is the case with all defence equipment projects.

Commissioned Ship Logs

Mr. Viggers: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence on how many occasions in the last 10 years logs of commissioned ships have been lost overboard. [130941]

Mr. Ingram: Ships logs, which are produced by all units on a monthly basis, are occasionally lost. This may be for a variety of reasons. There is however, no central record which could provide details of missing or lost logs. That information could be provided only at a disproportionate cost.

Number

5,786
7,266
17,288
23,203
19,877

DAS (LA) OPS & POL 1A

Fax

To: [REDACTED] From: [REDACTED] DAS (LA)Ops&Pol1
Fax: [REDACTED] Date: September 16, 2003
Phone: Pages: 14
Re: CC:

☐ Urgent ☐ For Review ☐ Please Comment ☐ Please Reply ☐ Please Recycle

•Comments:

[REDACTED] Please see DAS response to DP 4516 as requested, advice from Fleet So3 Sec 1 and associated papers, as requested. Sorry I cannot provide this to you on e-mail, we have unfortunately deleted this from our system. If you require anything else please do not hesitate to give me a call.

Regards

DAS(LA)Ops&Po1a

For information.

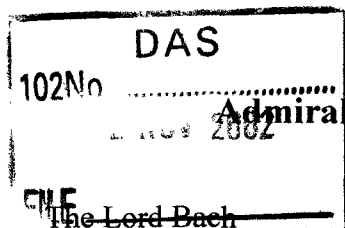
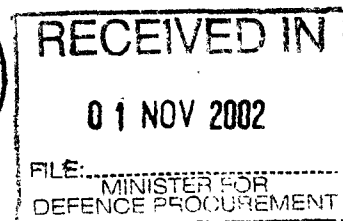
Please file with previous papers

Cin C Fleet Pol Sec

I note your careful use of the post-it sticker: very wise in these dangerous days of Pol. Pl spz on Friday.

They have logs, will take a few days to search.

There is a note in the February 1999 log that the log covering 1-13 Feb 1999 was lost overboard in Bodo, Norway.



Admiral of the Fleet The Lord Hill-Norton GCB
The Lord Bach
Ministry of Defence
Old War Office Building
Whitehall
London SW1A 2EU

To: DAS - LA Ops & Pol
Info only; no reply required.

Is the last para.
a threat -
what did we say?

29th October 2002

40

6.11.02

Dear Lord Bach,

Thank you for your letter of Trafalgar Day (did you know? Did any of your officials?).

I am grateful for the trouble you, and they, have taken, we shall now return to our informant, a member of the ship's company at the relevant time, and press him further. I am also in touch with Norwegian Naval people about the incident.

I have to tell you that in 49 years in the Royal Navy, which included more than 30 years at sea in more than 25 different ships, I have never heard of a rough deck log being blown over the side, more particularly in harbour (we do not say port in the Royal Navy - two new pieces of information in one letter).

Some less charitable persons than myself, might even consider it odd that this unique occurrence should have surrounded a perfectly legitimate enquiry about UFOs. Even my charitable mind finds that credulity is thereby strained pretty close to the limit. I hope your own has stood the remarkable strain so well.

I will return to the charge after we have been in touch with our eye-witness.

In the meantime your letter will be an unusual and perhaps useful addition to the dossier we are compiling.

Yours sincerely,



See enclosure 14 For info



MINISTER FOR
DEFENCE PROCUREMENT

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
OLD WAR OFFICE BUILDING
WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2EU

DAS

102N

Telephone [redacted] (Direct Dialling)
020 7218 9000 (Switchboard)

Fax [redacted]

File

[Handwritten signature]

FROM: LORD BACH

D/MIN(DP)/WB 4516/02/P

21 October 2002

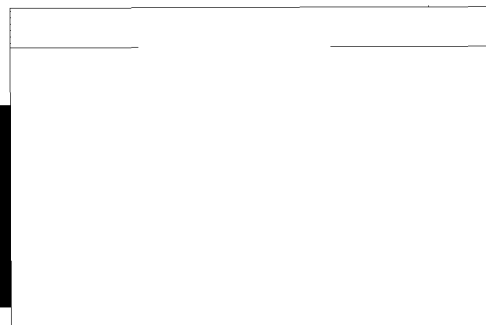
Dear Lord Hill - Norton,

You asked that HMS MANCHESTER's log for the periods 26 October to 6 November 1998 and 8 February to 3 March 1999 be scrutinised for references to unidentified aerial craft sighted by the ship's company. No such references have been found in any of the log entries which are available.

Unfortunately, I have to add the rider that HMS MANCHESTER's log covering the period 1 Feb until sunrise on 13 February 1999 was lost in Bodo, Norway, during the deployment. The log was positioned, as is the custom, at the head of the gangway when the vessel was alongside in port, and an unusually strong gust of wind carried it overboard. The circumstances are properly recorded and certified by HMS MANCHESTER's Commanding Officer in the log opened on 13 February following this loss. In light of the missing document, my officials have contacted the Commanding Officer of the MANCHESTER at the time. He has stated that nothing which could be remotely construed as an unusual event or sighting involving unidentified aerial craft occurred during this or any other of MANCHESTER's deployments while he was in command.



Yours Sincerely,



Admiral of the Fleet The Lord Hill-Norton GCB

Private Office



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE



MINISTER FOR
DEFENCE PROCUREMENT

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
OLD WAR OFFICE BUILDING
WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2EU

Telephone [redacted] (Direct Dialling)
020 7218 9000 (Switchboard)
Fax [redacted]

23 file
✓ for info.

[Handwritten signature]

FROM: LORD BACH

D/MIN(DP)/WB 4516/02/Y

11 October 2002

Dear Lord Hill-Norton,

Thank you for your letter of 24 September in which you have requested a search of HMS MANCHESTER's log for any mention of the ship encountering an unidentified aerial craft during a naval exercise, between either 26 October and 6 November 1998, or 8 February and 3 March 1999.

My officials have retrieved the ship's log for this period from the Defence archive and will be examining it over the next few days. As soon as the search of this and other Departmental records is complete, I will write to you again.

Yours sincerely,

[redacted signature]

Admiral of the Fleet The Lord Hill-Norton GCB

Private Office



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

LOOSE MINUTE

D/DAS/64/4

17 October 2002

Ministerial Correspondence Unit

MINISTERIAL CORRESPONDENCE – DP 4516/2002 – ADMIRAL OF THE FLEET THE LORD HILL-NORTON GCB

1. In his letter of 24 Sep 02, Lord Hill-Norton has asked that HMS MANCHESTER's log be searched for reference to an alleged incident where the ship is rumoured to have encountered an 'unidentified aerial craft'. The periods to which Lord Hill-Norton refer cover two separate naval exercises, between 26 Oct and 6 Nov 98, and 8 Feb and 3 Mar 99. A holding reply was sent by the Minister pending examination of the relevant log entries by CinCFleet. This search has now been completed.
2. No reference to any unidentified aerial craft has been found in the ship's log for the specified periods. Unfortunately, however, the log for the first part of Feb 99 was lost overboard at Bodo in Norway during the second exercise. The available record therefore does not begin until 08.26 hours on 13 Feb 99. It is nevertheless well documented elsewhere that HMS MANCHESTER left Portsmouth on 8 Feb 99 and carried out weapon training on passage to Bodo in Norway, where she arrived on 12 Feb.
3. Given the lack of a log for one of the periods in question, the Commanding Officer of HMS MANCHESTER at the time has been consulted. He has no recollection of any unusual activity during this or any other deployment by the MANCHESTER while under his command, that could be construed as involving 'unidentified aerial craft'.
4. Attached is a draft substantive reply for the Minister to send to Lord Hill-Norton.

[REDACTED]
DAS-LA-Ons+Pol1
MT 6/73 [REDACTED]

Drafted by:
Authorised by:

[REDACTED]

DAS-LA-Ops+Pol1
DAS-LA-[REDACTED]

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10

DRAFT REPLY TO ADMIRAL OF THE FLEET THE LORD HILL-NORTON GCB

You asked that HMS MANCHESTER's log for the periods 26 October to 6 November 1998 and 8 February to 3 March 1999 be scrutinised for references to unidentified aerial craft sighted by the ship's company. No such references have been found in any of the log entries which are available.

Unfortunately, I have to add the rider that HMS MANCHESTER's log covering the period 1 Feb until sunrise on 13 February 1999 was lost in Bodo, Norway, during the deployment. The log was positioned, as is the custom, at the head of the gangway when the vessel was alongside in port, and an unusually strong gust of wind carried it overboard. The circumstances are properly recorded and certified by HMS MANCHESTER's Commanding Officer in the log opened on 13 February following this loss. In light of the missing document, my officials have contacted the Commanding Officer of the MANCHESTER at the time. He has stated that nothing which could be remotely construed as an unusual event or sighting involving unidentified aerial craft occurred during this or any other of MANCHESTER's deployments while he was in command.

THE LORD BACH

Admiral of the Fleet The Lord Hill-Norton GCB

DAS-LA-Ops+Pol1

From: DAS4A1(SEC)
Sent: 15 October 2002 11:07
To: DAS-LA-Ops+Pol1
Subject: FW: FLEET INPUT TO DP4516

From: FLEET CS-SO3SEC1
Sent: Tuesday, October 15, 2002 11:05:14 AM
To: DAS4A1(SEC)
Subject: FLEET INPUT TO DP4516
Auto forwarded by a Rule



DP4516-Admiral of the
Fleet t...

Please see attached.

[REDACTED]
FLEET SO3 SEC 1
[REDACTED]

14 Oct 02

CINFLEET INPUT TO MINISTERIAL CORRESPONDENCE DP4516 2002-ADMIRAL OF THE FLEET (RETIRED) THE LORD HILL-NORTON GCB

1. In his letter of 24 Sep 02, Lord Hill-Norton has asked that HMS MANCHESTER's logs be searched for reference to an alleged incident where the ship is rumoured to have encountered an unidentified aerial craft. The periods to which Lord Hill-Norton refers are 2 separate naval exercises, from 26 Oct to 6 Nov 98 or from 8 Feb to 3 Mar 99. A holding reply was sent by the Minister while an examination of the relevant logs took place. This search has now been completed.
2. No reference to any unidentified aerial craft has been found in the ship's logs for the specified periods. Unfortunately, however, the log for the first part of Feb 99 was lost overboard at Bodo in Norway during the second exercise. The available record therefore does not begin until 08.26 hours on 13 Feb 99. It is nevertheless well documented elsewhere that HMS MANCHESTER left Portsmouth on 8 Feb 99 and carried out weapon training on passage to Bodo in Norway, where she arrived on 12 Feb.
3. Given the lack of a log for one of the periods in question, the Commanding Officer of HMS MANCHESTER at the time has been consulted. He has no recollection of any unusual sightings or occurrences during this or any other voyage of MANCHESTER under his command, which could be construed as involving unidentified aerial craft.
4. Attached is a draft reply to Lord Hill-Norton, the text of which has been approved by Fleet AD Pol Sec [REDACTED]



You asked that HMS MANCHESTER's logs for the periods 26 October to 6 November 1998 and 8 February to 3 March 1999 be scrutinised for references to unidentified aerial craft sighted by the ship's company. No such references have been found in any of the logs which are available.

Unfortunately, I have to add the rider that HMS MANCHESTER's log from 1 Feb until sunrise on 13 February 1999 was lost in Bodo, Norway, during the deployment. The log was positioned as is the custom at the head of the gangway when the vessel was alongside in the port, and an unusually strong gust of wind carried it overboard. The circumstances are properly recorded and certified by HMS MANCHESTER's Commanding Officer in the log opened on 13 February consequent to this loss. In light of the missing document, my officials have also contacted the Commanding Officer of MANCHESTER at the time in question. He has stated that nothing which could be remotely construed as an unusual event or sighting involving unidentified aerial craft occurred during this or any other of MANCHESTER's voyages under his command.

LOOSE MINUTE

D/DAS/64/4

8 October 2002

Ministerial Correspondence Unit

MINISTERIAL CORRESPONDENCE – DP 4516/2002 – ADMIRAL OF THE FLEET THE LORD HILL-NORTON GCB

1. Lord Hill-Norton, Chief of the Defence Staff from 1973 to 1976, has a long standing interest in 'unidentified flying objects'.
2. In his letter of 24th September, the Peer enquired about an alleged 'UFO' incident whereby the ship's company of HMS MANCHESTER encountered an 'unidentified aerial craft' during a naval exercise. This incident is reported to have occurred between either 26th October and 6th November 1998, or the 8th February and 3rd March 1999. Lord Hill-Norton has requested a search of the ship's log for any details of this incident.
3. The ship's log for the periods mentioned are held in archives. They have now been retrieved and will be examined over the next few days by CinC Fleet –Pol Sec staff. In order to allow time for a thorough search of the logs to be made, it is suggested that a holding reply is sent to Lord Hill-Norton and a draft is attached. A draft substantive reply will be provided as soon as the search is complete.


DAS-LA-Ops+Pol1
MT 6/73 

Drafted by:
Authorised by:


DAS-LA-Ops+Pol1
DAS-LA-

40
9/10

DRAFT REPLY TO ADMIRAL OF THE FLEET THE LORD HILL-NORTON

GCB

Thank you for your letter of 24th September in which you have requested a search of HMS MANCHESTER's log for any mention of the ship encountering an unidentified aerial craft during a naval exercise, between either 26th October and 6th November 1998, or 8th February and 3rd March 1999.

My officials have retrieved the ship's log for this period from the Defence archive and will be examining it over the next few days. As soon as the search of this and other Departmental records is complete, I will write to you again.

THE LORD BACH

Admiral of the Fleet the Lord Hill-Norton GCB

From: [REDACTED] DAS (LA) Ops+Pol
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Directorate Air Staff
Room 6/64, Metropole Building,
Northumberland Avenue
LONDON WC2N 5BP.

Telephone (Direct dial) [REDACTED]
(Switchboard) 020 7218 9000
(Fax) [REDACTED]
CHOTS - DAS-LA-Ops+Pol
E-mail: das-laopspol@defence.mod.uk
FAX MESSAGE

TO: [REDACTED] CINCFLEET Cmd Sec [REDACTED]

SUBJECT: MC - The Lord Hill-Norton

DATE: 30 September 2002

We spoke on the telephone. I now attach a copy of the MC sent to this Directorate. As you will see, it concerns recording in the HMS MANCHESTER's log of an unidentified craft.

As DAS leads on the subject of 'UFO', we have checked our database to see if there was any report made of an incident at sea between 26 October and 6 November 1998 or 8 February and 3 March 1999. We have found no trace of any such incident and would, therefore, be grateful if you would undertake appropriate research.

I remain open minded on the question of which Directorate might reply and suggest that we speak once you have enabled a search of MANCHESTER's log. If there is any requirement for an interim reply, perhaps you would let me know.

Signed [REDACTED]

**** TO BE GIVEN PRIORITY AT ALL TIMES ****



MINISTERIAL CORRESPONDENCE

Detailed guidance on handling Ministerial Correspondence can be found on MODWeb at
http://main.chots.mod.uk/min_parl/ParlBrch/MCguid.htm

If you do not have access to MODWeb, please inform the Ministerial Correspondence Unit.

TO: DAS(SEC)
 Copy to: NS SEC

MC REF NUMBER: DP4516 /2002

MINISTER REPLYING: DP

DRAFT REQUIRED BY: 9 / 10 / 2002

DATE: 30 / 9 / 2002

FROM: [REDACTED] Ministerial Correspondence Unit

Room 221WH

TEL: [REDACTED]

FAX: [REDACTED]

YOU WILL BE HELD ACCOUNTABLE FOR THE DRAFT ANSWER AND ADVICE THAT YOU PROVIDE - IT MUST BE ACCURATE AND NOT MISLEADING IN ANY WAY.

E-MAIL DRAFTS TO 'MINISTERIAL CORRESPONDENCE' - NOT TO MC CLERKS OR PRIVATE OFFICES.

(Please ensure sensitivity of your email message is 'Normal'.)

- **ENSURE THE DEADLINE IS MET:** THE DEPARTMENT IS COMMITTED TO ANSWERING 90% OF ITS CORRESPONDENCE WITHIN 15 WORKING DAYS. EVERY EFFORT MUST THEREFORE BE MADE TO REPLY SUBSTANTIVELY ON TIME. HOWEVER, IF IT IS OBVIOUS THAT YOU WILL BE UNABLE TO REPLY IN FULL WITHIN THE DEADLINE, AN INTERIM MUST BE PROVIDED. YOU SHOULD THEN AIM TO FORWARD A FINAL REPLY WITHIN A FURTHER 8 WORKING DAYS.
- **A NAMED OFFICIAL** AT PAY BAND B2 LEVEL OR ABOVE MUST CLEAR ALL DRAFTS. OTHER GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS OR MOD DIVISIONS SHOULD BE CONSULTED AS NECESSARY.
- **IF THIS CORRESPONDENCE SHOULD BE DEALT WITH BY ANOTHER BRANCH, PLEASE PASS IT ON AND INFORM US IMMEDIATELY. IF YOU ARE AN AGENCY, THE MINISTER'S OFFICE HAS DIRECTED THAT THIS LETTER SHOULD RECEIVE A MINISTERIAL - NOT CHIEF EXECUTIVE - REPLY.**

Number of pages sent by fax: 2

**** TO BE GIVEN PRIORITY AT ALL TIMES ****

[REDACTED] 0412.



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

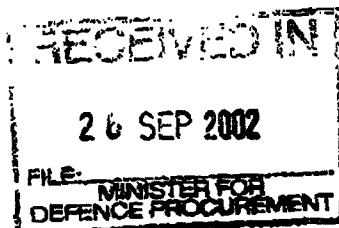
Revised 30th May 2002

**** TO BE GIVEN PRIORITY AT ALL TIMES ****

**** TO BE GIVEN PRIORITY AT ALL TIMES ****

**Admiral of the Fleet The Lord Hill-Norton GCB**

The Lord Bach
Ministry of Defence
Old War Office Building
Whitehall
London SW1A 2EU

24th September 2002

Dear Lord Bach

You will know of my keen interest in reports of incidents involving unidentified aerial craft, especially where such incidents involve the military, and are self-evidently therefore of defence significance.

I have recently been informed of one such incident which involved HMS Manchester. Apparently the ship encountered an unidentified craft during a naval exercise, with several hundred people in Manchester and other HM ships witnessing the event. At the same time, personnel on a Norwegian naval ship tracked the object on radar and were openly discussing the incident on the Operations Room communications network.

The ex-RN person who has recounted this incident is unsure of the precise date on which it occurred, but is reasonably certain that it fell between either 26th October and 6th November 1998 or 8th February and 3rd March 1999.

I ask, therefore, that you arrange for HMS Manchester's log to be searched for reference to this incident, and for copies of any such pages to be sent to me.

Yours sincerely
[REDACTED]

RECEIVED BY
PARLIAMENTARY

ON: 27/9

MINISTER REPLYING: DP

KEYWORD(S): UFOs

✓ LEAD BRANCH: DAS (SEC)

COPIED TO: NS (SEC)

RELATED CASE:

CLERK:

MODE = TRANSMISSION

START=16-SEP 12:01

END=16-SEP 12:05

STN NO.	COM	ABBR NO.	STATION NAME/TEL.NO.	PAGES	DURATION
001	OK	2	[REDACTED]	014	00:03'42"

-DIRECTORATE AIR STAFF -

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



LOOSE MINUTE

D/DAS/64/4

2 August 2002

APS1/ Minister (DP)
(through DAS-LA-AD)

DRAFT LETTER TO ADMIRAL OF THE FLEET THE LORD HILL- NORTON GCB

1. Lord Hill-Norton, Chief of the Defence Staff from 1973 to 1976, has a long standing interest in matters concerning 'unidentified flying objects' (UFOs).
2. On 16 May 2001, in answer to Ministerial Correspondence, Minister (DP) sent the peer a number of papers which had been released to the public under the Code of Practice on Access to Government Information (the Code). These concerned a well known 'UFO' sighting in Rendlesham Forrest, Suffolk in December 1980, an event for which Lord Hill-Norton was known to have a particular interest. Five documents were withheld under Exemptions of the Code. Two of these were later released following an appeal by a member of the public and these were also sent to Lord Hill-Norton on 16 October 2001. The remaining three continued to be withheld under Exemption 2 of the Code (information whose disclosure would harm the frankness and candour of internal discussion) as they were exchanges of correspondence between an MP and Ministers, and associated background material.
3. A member of the public has recently made a complaint to the Parliamentary Ombudsman concerning the decision to withhold these three documents. The Ombudsman recognised the strength of the argument that advice and recommendations contained in submissions to Ministers depend on candour for their effectiveness and concluded that the documents do fall under the scope of Exemption 2. However, in the particular circumstances of this case he recommended to PUS that the documents should nonetheless be released and the Department has accepted this. The Department also agreed to supply the documents to all those from whom they had previously been withheld and action on this has been taken by officials.
4. However in the case of Lord Hill-Norton, it is considered appropriate that he should receive his papers from the Minister and a draft letter is attached for Minister(DP) to send to the Peer, enclosing the newly released documents.

[REDACTED]
DAS-LA-Ops+Pol1
MT6/73 [REDACTED]

Drafted by:
Authorised by:

[REDACTED] DAS-LA-Ops+Pol1
DAS-AD-LA

August 2002

**DRAFT LETTER TO ADMIRAL OF THE FLEET THE LORD HILL-NORTON
GCB**

I am writing concerning papers that I sent to you with my letters of 16 May and 16 October 2001 regarding events in Rendlesham Forrest.

As you may recall, three papers were withheld under Exemption 2 of the Code of Practice on Access to Government Information. There has recently been an investigation by the Parliamentary Ombudsman into the decision to withhold these documents and the Ombudsman has concluded that the three documents do fall under the scope of Exemption 2. However, in the particular circumstances of this case he recommended that the documents should nonetheless be provided and the MOD has accepted this. The MOD agreed to not only supply the documents to the individual who had brought this case, but also to all those from whom they had previously been withheld, and I now therefore enclose them for your information. Some have been anonymised in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998.

I trust you will find these of interest.

THE LORD BACH

Admiral of the Fleet The Lord Hill-Norton GCB

Reference.....

REDACTION ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT

12/4 copy to: 12/2/11

M5

APS/US of S(AF)
through Sec(AS)2 [REDACTED]

1. US of S(AF) will recall recent correspondence on this matter with Lord Hill-Norton and Rt Hon Merlyn Rees MP. In both cases he took the line that we have nothing to add to what had already been said on the Woodbridge incident. Indeed, this was the line taken in previous correspondence with David Alton (See M3). The enclosed draft reply to Mr Alton once more follows this approach.
2. Mr Alton specifically requested a copy of the MOD official reply to [REDACTED] last letter. This is enclosed, together with an earlier letter to which it refers. There is no objection to passing this correspondence to Mr Alton.
3. You may wish to note that Mr Alton has apparently passed on both letters sent by Lord Trefgarne on 19 March 85, even though one of these was intended to be for his information only.

12 June 1985

[REDACTED]
Sec(AS)2
MB 8245

REDACTION ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT

DRAFT

D/US of S(AF)/DGT 5173

June 1985.

Thank you for your letter of 16 May to Michael Heseltine enclosing one from [REDACTED]. You asked to see a copy of the Department's reply to [REDACTED] letter of 25 February 1985 and this is enclosed, together with earlier correspondence to which it refers.

As I pointed out in my letter of 19 March, the MOD concerns itself only with the defence implications of reported UFO sightings. In this context, the report submitted by Col Halt in January 1981 was examined by those in the Department responsible for such matters and, as I have made clear in the past, it was considered to have no defence significance. We have since seen nothing to alter this view and there is nothing I can usefully add to the comments made in Sec(AS)'s letter or [REDACTED].

Lord Trefgarne

David Alton Esq MP

Job No 2-24



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

REDACTION ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT

16th May 1985

Dear Michael,

I enclose a letter I have received from [REDACTED] following on from enquiries I first raised with your Department in March.

I read [REDACTED] letter with great interest and it seems to me that the points he raises are quite reasonable and merit a reply.

I should be most grateful if you could let me have your comments and if you could let me see a copy of the reply to [REDACTED] own letter to your Department dated 25th February 1985.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

David Alton, MP.

The Rt. Hon. Michael Heseltine, MP.
Secretary of State
Ministry of Defence
Main Building
Whitehall
London SW1 2HB

REDACTION ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT

14th May, 1985

David Alton, Esq., MP,
House of Commons,
Westminster,
London SW1

Dear Mr. Alton,

[REDACTED] has kept me informed about her correspondence with you on the unusual incidents which were reported to the Ministry of Defence by USAF authorities at RAF Woodbridge in January 1981. I have also seen Lord Trefgarne's letters to you of 19th March.

[REDACTED] decided to write further to you about this puzzling and disquieting case, and she referred to me her enclosed letter of 31st March, which is addressed to you, in the hope that I might be able to add useful comments. Much to my regret I have had to spend much time out of London on other business in recent weeks and it is only now that I am able, very belatedly, to send on [REDACTED] letter to you.

My own background, in brief, is that I served in the Ministry of Defence from 1949 to 1977, leaving in the grade of Under Secretary of State. From 1969 to late in 1972 I headed a Division in the central staffs of the MOD which had responsibilities for supporting RAF operations. This brought me into touch with a proportion of the many reports which the Department receives about unidentified traces in British airspace.

I believe that [REDACTED] is right to remain very dissatisfied with the official line which the MOD has adopted on the Rendlesham Forest incidents of December 1980. I have myself said so on a number of public occasions, and I have pursued the matter in correspondence with the MOD - wholly without success.

At the risk of burdening you with an excessive amount of paper, I attach the most recent of my letters to the Ministry of Defence. You will see that this is dated 25th February 1985. I have so far received no answer, despite reminders. On a previous occasion it took the Department three and a half months to send me a wholly perfunctory reply.

[REDACTED] claims much collateral evidence for her own views; on this I am not competent to comment. My own position is, quite simply, that an extraordinary report was made to the Ministry of Defence by the Deputy Base Commander at RAF Woodbridge early in 1981; that the very existence of this report was denied by the MOD until persistent researchers in the US secured its release under the American Freedom of Information Act in 1983; and that the MOD's responses to questions since that time have been thoroughly unsatisfactory.

I cannot accept Lord Trefgarne's view that there is no Defence interest in this case. Unless Lt.Col. Halt was out of his mind, there is clear evidence in his report that British airspace and territory were intruded upon by an unidentified vehicle on two occasions in late December 1980 and that no authority was able to prevent this. If, on the other hand, Halt's report cannot be believed, there is equally clear evidence of a serious misjudgement of events by USAF personnel at an important base in British territory. Either way, the

REDACTION ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT

case can hardly be without Defence significance.

The dates in question are now rather remote, but I doubt that this should be taken to excuse the very perfunctory manner in which Lord Trefgarne has dealt with your letter. I hope that you may feel able to pursue the matter further, either in correspondence or in a PQ. The essence of the questions to be pressed seems to me to lie in my preceding paragraph. Seen in these terms, [REDACTED] article in the GUARDIAN (which Lord Trefgarne rather surprisingly falls back upon) is wholly irrelevant. If the USAF really are capable of hallucinations induced by a lighthouse which must surely be very familiar to them, then I shudder for that powerful finger which lies upon so many triggers...

My own letter to the MOD (enclosed) raises other more detailed questions. But I do not suggest that you should necessarily concern yourself with them, anyway at this stage. It would be nice if the MOD would answer letters, of course ! But the essence of the Defence interest which I suggest a responsible Member of Parliament might reasonably raise lies in the argument I have tried to present above.

If I can be of any assistance in discussion with you, I am at your disposal.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

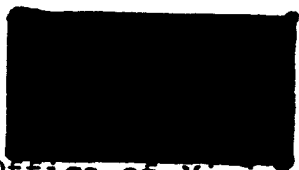
REDACTION ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT

M1

P10274

This non-oral question has been allocated to Minister(AF) for answer.

2. Would you please supply a draft reply and background note, together with any relevant Hansard extracts and Press cuttings, to reach this office at the time shown on the front cover.
3. Please submit a copy of the draft answer to PS/USofS(AF) when returning this, allowing sufficient time for USofS(AF) to comment.


Office of Minister(AF)
Room 6386 Main Building
Extension 

21-10-83

M2

APS/Minister(AF) (thro' DUS(Air))

Copy to:
APS/US of S(AF)
Ops(GE)2(RAF)

1. I have placed opposite a draft reply to PQ 7607C.
2. The same background note has been provided for PQ 7608C and PQ 7609C.

21 October 1983


DS 8


ES7

PQ 7067C

SIR PATRICK WALL (CONSERVATIVE) (BEVERLEY)

Sir Patrick Wall

- To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, if he has seen the United States Air Force memo dated 13 January 1981 concerning unexplained lights near RAF Woodbridge.

SUGGESTED ANSWER (Mr Stanley)

Yes.

(86)

Background Note

These three questions follow from the News of the World article of 2 October 1983 (Annex A) describing an alleged UFO sighting by USAF personnel at RAF Woodbridge in Suffolk on 27 December 1980.

The report of 13 January 1981 (Annex B) examined by the Air Staff and DS 8. It was concluded that there was nothing of defence interest in the alleged sighting.

There was, of course, no question of any contact with "alien beings" nor was any unidentified object seen on any radar recordings, as alleged in the News of the World.

A BBC investigation into the incident following publication of the News of the World Article concluded that a possible explanation for the lights seen by the USAF personnel was the pulsating light of the Orfordness lighthouse some 6 - 7 miles away.

The sole interest of the MOD in UFO reports is to establish whether they reveal anything of defence interest (eg intruding aircraft). MOD investigations are not pursued beyond the point at which we are satisfied that a report has no defence implications. No attempts are made to identify and catalogue the likely explanation for individual reports.

Last year, Lord Long, during a debate initiated by the Earl Clancarty, said that he would look into the possibility of publishing such reports as are received by the Ministry of

/...

Defence. US of S(AF) has now decided to release compilations of reports. They will be published on a quarterly basis and will be available to members of the public, at a small charge to cover costs. US of S(AF) had planned to make an announcement shortly in the House of Lords through an arranged PQ. Pending arrangements for an announcement in the Lords, US of S(AF) has agreed that we should indicate the decision in the Commons.

REDACTION ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT

M1

PRIORITY

This non-oral question has been allocated to Minister(AF) for answer.

2. Would you please supply a draft reply and background note, together with any relevant Hansard extracts and Press cuttings, to reach this office at the time shown on the front cover.

3. Please submit a copy of the draft answer to PS/USofS(AF) when returning this, allowing sufficient time for USofS(AF) to comment.

[REDACTED]
Office of Minister(AF)
Room 6386 Main Building
[REDACTED]
21.10.83

M2

APS/Minister(AF) (thro' DUS(Air))

Copy to:
APS/US of S(AF)
Ops(GE)2(RAF)

1. I have placed opposite a draft reply to PQ 7608C.
2. The same background note has been provided for PQ 7607C and PQ 7609C.

21 October 1983

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] DS 8
[REDACTED]

PQ 7608CSIR PATRICK WALL (CONSERVATIVE) (BEVERLEY)Sir Patrick Wall

- To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether, in view of the fact that the United States' Air Force memo of 13 January 1981 on the incident at RAF Woodbridge has been released under the Freedom of Information Act, he will now release reports and documents concerning similar unexplained incidents in the United Kingdom.

SUGGESTED ANSWER (Mr Stanley)

This has been considered. It is the intention to publish reports.

(281)

Background Note

These three questions follow from the News of the World article of 2 October 1983 (Annex A) describing an alleged UFO sighting by USAF personnel at RAF Woodbridge in Suffolk on 27 December 1980.

The report of 13 January 1981 (Annex B) examined by the Air Staff and DS 8. It was concluded that there was nothing of defence interest in the alleged sighting.

There was, of course, no question of any contact with "alien beings" nor was any unidentified object seen on any radar recordings, as alleged in the News of the World.

A BBC investigation into the incident following publication of the News of the World Article concluded that a possible explanation for the lights seen by the USAF personnel was the pulsating light of the Orfordness lighthouse some 6 - 7 miles away.

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From: DAS-LA OpsPol1
Sent: 25 July 2002 18:12
To: DAS-LA-Ops+Pol1
Subject: FW: Rendlesham

From: Info-Access2
Sent: Thursday, July 25, 2002 6:08:41 PM
To: DAS-LA OpsPol1; DAS-LA-Ops+Pol1
Subject: Rendlesham
Auto forwarded by a Rule

[REDACTED] 40

Please could you send copies of the newly released Rendlesham documents to the two contacts below. As I recall both asked us to review our decision to withhold the documents, even though from your records neither seems to have requested the Rendlesham file. Despite this, it is appropriate to acknowledge that they have shown an interest in these documents and there is little reason as I see it not to provide them as a courtesy at this stage.

If you disagree with this approach then please could you contact [REDACTED] (InfoExp-AccessAD) as I am on leave until Wednesday.

[REDACTED]
Southport
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
Preston-On-The-Hill
Cheshire
[REDACTED]

Many thanks,

[REDACTED]
Info-Access2
St Giles 830 [REDACTED]

On advice of [REDACTED]

D Info (Exp). whole file sent.
[REDACTED]



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

Telephone

(Direct dial)
(Switchboard)
(Fax)
(GTN)

020 7218 2140
020 7218 9000
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
Southport
[REDACTED]

Your Reference

Our Reference
D/DAS/64/3
Date
30th July 2002

Dear [REDACTED]

I am writing concerning the release of papers from the Ministry of Defence file on the alleged sighting of an 'Unidentified Flying Object' near Rendlesham Forest, Suffolk, in 1980.

I understand you have expressed an interest in these documents and the fact that three papers were withheld under Exemption 2 of the Code of Practice on Access to Government Information (the Code). You may, therefore, wish to be aware that there has recently been an investigation by the Parliamentary Ombudsman into the decision to withhold these documents and the Ombudsman has concluded that the three documents do fall under the scope of Exemption 2. However, in the particular circumstances of this case he recommended that the documents should nonetheless be provided to the individual who made the complaint, and MOD has accepted this. The MOD also agreed to supply the documents to all those from whom they had previously been withheld.

Our records show that you have not been sent any of the papers that have been released, so I enclose, for your information, a copy of the whole file, including the papers mentioned above, which I hope you will find of interest. Some of the documents have been anonymised in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998.

Yours sincerely,
[REDACTED]



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

Telephone

(Direct dial)
(Switchboard)
(Fax)
(GTN)

020 7218 2140
020 7218 9000
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
Preston-On-The-Hill
Cheshire
[REDACTED]

Your Reference

Our Reference
D/DAS/64/3
Date
30th July 2002

Dear [REDACTED]

I am writing concerning the release of papers from the Ministry of Defence file on the alleged sighting of an 'Unidentified Flying Object' near Rendlesham Forest, Suffolk, in 1980.

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Our records show that you have not been sent any of the papers that have been released, so I enclose, for your information, a copy of the whole file, including the papers mentioned above, which I hope you will find of interest. Some of the documents have been anonymised in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998.

Yours sincerely,
[REDACTED]

RESTRICTED/UNCLASSIFIED

RESTRICTED/UNCLASSIFIED
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
TEMPORARY ENCLOSURE JACKET

MOD Form 174D
(Revised 5/99)

8

REGISTERED FILE No.		DIVISION / DIRECTORATE / BRANCH:	
Enclosure Jacket No 7			
DATE OPENED (Date of First Enclosure)			
SUBJECT: US 3231/02 PHIL SAWFORD MP [REDACTED]			
Referred to	Date	Referred to	Date

USER NOTES

1. A MOD Form 262A (File Record Sheet) must be raised for each new Temporary Enclosure Jacket (TEJ) created. The TEJ should also include a minute sheet.
2. When a TEJ is incorporated into the parent file it should be placed in the file in date order (according to the date of the last action on the TEJ) and allocated an enclosure number.
3. The file minute sheet should be annotated to record the enclosure number of the TEJ along with details of the number of enclosures contained within it. The TEJ record sheet (MOD Form 262A) should be annotated to record the date on which the TEJ was incorporated into the parent file (JSP 441, paragraph 4.13 refers).

RESTRICTED/UNCLASSIFIED

RESTRICTED/UNCLASSIFIED



PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE FOR DEFENCE
AND MINISTER FOR VETERANS AFFAIRS

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
OLD WAR OFFICE BUILDING
WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2EU

Telephone [REDACTED] (Direct Dialling)
[REDACTED] (Fax)
(020) 7218 9000 (Switchboard)

D/US of S/LM 3231/02/C

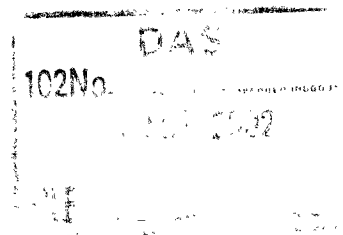
15 July 2002

Dear Phil

Thank you for your letter of 17 April (reference: [REDACTED] 040 020466) to David Blunkett enclosing one from your constituent, [REDACTED] of [REDACTED] Brixworth, about 'unidentified flying objects' and 'The Disclosure Project'. Your letter has been passed to the Ministry of Defence and I am replying as this matter falls within my area of responsibility.

The Ministry of Defence examines any reports of sightings solely to establish whether what was seen might have some defence significance. My Department's only concern is to establish whether there is any evidence that the United Kingdom's airspace might have been compromised by hostile or unauthorised air activity. I should add that 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, and the MOD remains vigilant for any potential threat. Unless there is evidence of a potential threat to the United Kingdom from an external military source, and to date no UFO reported to us has revealed such a threat, 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 unusual meteorological events, 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.

Phil Sawford Esq MP



Private Office



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE



With regard to 'The Disclosure Project', my officials are aware that many people have claimed to have seen or been involved with extra-terrestrial lifeforms. However, there is no need for my Department to hold hearings to take witness testimonies because anyone, whether they are a member of the public or in the Armed Forces is able to report a sighting to the MOD and their report will be examined in light of our defence interests. As for [REDACTED] request for disclosure of information concerning advanced energy and propulsion systems, to date the MOD knows of no evidence which substantiates the existence of extraterrestrial lifeforms and we are therefore unable to comment about technologies which we do not know exist.

Best wishes
[REDACTED]

DR LEWIS MOONIE MP





LOOSE MINUTE

D/DAS/64/4

10 July 2002

Ministerial Correspondence Unit

(through DAS-LA- [REDACTED] 40
10/7

MINISTERIAL CORRESPONDENCE – US 3231/2002 – PHIL SAWFORD MP

1. So far as we are aware, this constituent has not contacted the MOD before about 'UFOs' and he will not therefore be aware that the MOD's only interest in reported 'UFO' sightings is whether there is any evidence of a breach of UK airspace by hostile or unauthorised air activity.
2. The Disclosure Project is a group based in the USA. Since 1993 the founder has been gathering statements, video and tape recordings from people who claim to have seen or been involved with extraterrestrial lifeforms. Many of these 'witnesses' are said to be military or ex-military servicemen/women and government officials. The Disclosure Project have a website where they urge members of the public to press the US Congress and the leaders of other countries to hold hearings so that these people may testify on oath as to their experiences. They also believe that Governments hold information about new energy and propulsion systems which they are withholding from the public.
4. I enclose a draft reply for US of S to send to Phil Sawford MP in response to his letter of 17 April, enclosing a letter from his constituent, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
DAS-LA-Ops+Pol1

MB8245 [REDACTED]

Drafted by:
Authorised by:

[REDACTED] DAS-LA-Ops+Pol1
[REDACTED] DAS-LA-AD

*Please pass to P. Branch
Min (OP) would like to
reply.
Action: DASP.3*

Thanks,
[REDACTED]

DRAFT REPLY TO PHIL SAWFORD MP

Thank you for your letter of 17 April to David Blunkett enclosing one from your constituent [REDACTED] of [REDACTED] Brixworth, Northants, concerning 'unidentified flying objects' and 'The Disclosure Project'. Your letter has been passed to the Ministry of Defence and I am replying as this matter falls within my area of responsibility.

First, it may be helpful if I explain that the Ministry of Defence examines any reports of sightings solely to establish whether what was seen might have some defence significance. My Department's only concern is to establish whether there is any evidence that the United Kingdom's airspace might have been compromised by hostile or unauthorised air activity. I should add that 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, and the MOD remains vigilant for any potential threat.

Unless there is evidence of a potential threat to the United Kingdom from an external military source, and to date no UFO reported to us has revealed such a threat, 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 unusual meteorological events, 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.

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anyone, whether they are a member of the public or in the Armed Forces is able to report a sighting to the MOD and their report will be examined in light of our defence interests. As for [REDACTED] request for disclosure of information concerning advanced energy and propulsion systems, to date the MOD knows of no evidence which substantiates the existence of extraterrestrial lifeforms and we are therefore unable to comment about technologies which we do not know exist.

I hope this explains the situation.

DR LEWIS MOONIE MP

Phil Sawford MP

**** TO BE GIVEN PRIORITY AT ALL TIMES ****

MINISTERIAL CORRESPONDENCE

Detailed guidance on handling Ministerial Correspondence can be found on MODWeb at

http://main.chots.mod.uk/min_parl/ParlBrch/MCguid.htm

If you do not have access to MODWeb, please inform the Ministerial Correspondence Unit.

TO: DAS(LA) ops & Pol

MC REF NUMBER: US 3231 /2002

Copy to:

MINISTER REPLYING: USJS

DRAFT REQUIRED BY: 11 / 7 /2002

DATE: 2 / 7/2002

FROM: [REDACTED] Ministerial Correspondence Unit

Room 221WH

TEL: [REDACTED]

FAX: [REDACTED]

YOU WILL BE HELD ACCOUNTABLE FOR THE DRAFT ANSWER AND ADVICE THAT YOU PROVIDE - IT MUST BE ACCURATE AND NOT MISLEADING IN ANY WAY.

E-MAIL DRAFTS TO 'MINISTERIAL CORRESPONDENCE' - NOT TO MC CLERKS OR PRIVATE OFFICES.

(Please ensure sensitivity of your email message is 'Normal'.)

- **ENSURE THE DEADLINE IS MET:** THE DEPARTMENT IS COMMITTED TO ANSWERING 90% OF ITS CORRESPONDENCE WITHIN 15 WORKING DAYS. EVERY EFFORT MUST THEREFORE BE MADE TO REPLY SUBSTANTIVELY ON TIME. HOWEVER, IF IT IS OBVIOUS THAT YOU WILL BE UNABLE TO REPLY IN FULL WITHIN THE DEADLINE, AN INTERIM MUST BE PROVIDED. YOU SHOULD THEN AIM TO FORWARD A FINAL REPLY WITHIN A FURTHER 8 WORKING DAYS.
- A NAMED OFFICIAL AT PAY BAND B2 LEVEL OR ABOVE MUST CLEAR ALL DRAFTS. OTHER GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS OR MOD DIVISIONS SHOULD BE CONSULTED AS NECESSARY.
- IF THIS CORRESPONDENCE SHOULD BE DEALT WITH BY ANOTHER BRANCH, PLEASE PASS IT ON AND INFORM US IMMEDIATELY. IF YOU ARE AN AGENCY, THE MINISTER'S OFFICE HAS DIRECTED THAT THIS LETTER SHOULD RECEIVE A MINISTERIAL - NOT CHIEF EXECUTIVE - REPLY.

Number of pages sent by fax: 6

**** TO BE GIVEN PRIORITY AT ALL TIMES ****

INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

**** TO BE GIVEN PRIORITY AT ALL TIMES ****

**** TO BE GIVEN PRIORITY AT ALL TIMES ****

** JOB STATUS REPORT **

AS OF 01 JUL 2002 12:13 PM PAGE. 01

PARLIAMENTARY BRANCH

JOB #297

DATE	TIME	TO/FROM	MODE	MIN/SEC	PGS	STATUS
001	7/01 12:12P	DAS(SEC)	EC--S	01' 09"	004	OK



MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
PARLIAMENTARY BRANCH
ROOM 221, Old War Office

FROM: [REDACTED]

Telephone(ETN): [REDACTED]

Facsimile: [REDACTED]

DATE: 1 July 2002

TO: DAS(LA) P&P

FAX NO: [REDACTED]

NO OF PAGES: 4

Can you let me know if this is for you to deal with?

Phil Sawford MP

Letter dated 17/4/02

[REDACTED] phoned to say
DAS(LA) ops + Pol will lead. [REDACTED] 40/11/7.



MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
PARLIAMENTARY BRANCH
ROOM 221, Old War Office

FROM: [REDACTED]

Telephone(GTN): [REDACTED]

Facsimile: [REDACTED]

DATE: 1 July 2002

TO: DAS(LA) P&P

FAX NO: [REDACTED]

NO OF PAGES: 4

Can you let me know if this is for you to deal with?

Phil Sawford MP

Letter dated 17/4/02

29/06 2002 16:33 FAX [REDACTED]

016 (L) 819



Home Office

50 Queen Anne's Gate, London SW1H 9AT
Switchboard 020 7273 4000
Ministerial.Transfers@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk

FAX

To: MOD

From: [REDACTED]

Date: 29/6/2002

Time:

Fax number:

Number of pages:
(including this one)

3

If any part of this fax is unclear please telephone [REDACTED]

Message:

Re: ATTACHED MP'S CORRESPONDENCE

Please could you let me know whether the attached correspondence is a matter for your Department. If it is not please could you advise which Department it may be for.

Please e-mail responses to Ministerial.Transfers@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk

PLEASE RESPOND BY TELEPHONE WITHIN 48 HOURS AS IN ACCORDANCE WITH CABINET OFFICE DIRECTIVES.

Special Notes – if applicable:

Phil Sawford - Labour Member of Parliament for the Kettering Constituency



Our Ref: [REDACTED] 011020466

Wednesday, 17 April 2002

HOUSE OF COMMONS

The Rt. Hon David Blunkett MP LONDON SW1A 0AA
The Secretary of State for the Home Department
Home Office
50 Queen Anne's Gate
London
SW1H 9AT

Handwritten: FO
fm

Dear David

Re: [REDACTED] **Brixworth Northants** [REDACTED]

Please find the enclosed copy of fax from the above constituent regarding alternative sources of fuel and propulsion etc.

My constituent is concerned about, what he considers to be, the excessive secrecy of the American Government in these matters. I would ask what information the British Government may hold, and what can be disclosed on these subjects.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED Signature]

Phil Sawford MP

RECEIVED BY
PARLIAMENTARY BRANCH
DATE: 1/7/02
MINISTER REPLYING: US
KEYWORD(S): UFO
LEAD BRANCH: DAS (LA) ops & POL
COPIED TO:
RELATED CASE:
CLERK: [REDACTED]

Serving the **Kettering Constituency**
Working for **You**

Mr Phil Sawford
MP for Kettering
House Of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

Brixworth, Northants

@btinternet.com

Sunday 17 March 2002

Dear Mr Phil Sawford,

I have learned that a nonprofit organization, The Disclosure Project (www.DisclosureProject.org) has identified over 450 military, intelligence and corporate contractor witnesses to UFO events and projects, as well as other evidence proving that UFOs and extraterrestrial intelligence are real.

The secrecy surrounding this subject has eroded our constitutional form of government, and illegal projects unsupervised by the Congress and the President continue to withhold from the public this important information. I have also learned that these projects have illegally classified and withheld from the public new energy and propulsion technologies that could replace our need for foreign oil, and eliminate much of the pollution in the world.

The tragic events of September 11, 2001 underscore the need to disclose this information so that the world may at last have a practical replacement for oil and the internal combustion engine. For too long, our mid-east and foreign policy has been driven by the need to secure an endless supply of cheap oil - and yet these rogue projects are withholding from us the very technologies that can realistically replace all fossil fuel use.

I am asking that you immediately instruct your staff to study this matter and that you call for open, secrecy-free hearings at which these highly decorated military and government witnesses may testify under oath. I know that a certain level of government secrecy is necessary, but the excessive, illegal secrecy associated with these 'black' budget projects is a threat to our way of life, our democracy and now to our national security. It is time for it to stop.

These witnesses can prove that these objects are real, that some are of extraterrestrial origin, and that the technologies related to their energy and propulsion systems are known but are withheld from a world sorely in need of their disclosure. The time has come to let the truth be known and it is your responsibility to the people to see that fair and open hearings are held on this important matter. So many hearings have taken place on so many matters less important than this - is it not time to let these heroes of our country tell the truth openly?

With so many bona fide top-secret witnesses, astronauts, government documents and other evidence in hand, a simple denial of the reality of this subject by the government, NASA or your office will no longer do. Please study this matter urgently and sponsor open hearings in the immediate future. To receive briefing materials on this matter, please contact myself or visit the website <http://www.DisclosureProject.org>

Respectfully,



PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE FOR DEFENCE
AND MINISTER FOR VETERANS AFFAIRS

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
OLD WAR OFFICE BUILDING
WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2BT

Telephone [REDACTED] (Direct Dialling)
[REDACTED] (Fax)
(020) 7218 9000 (Switchboard)

D/US of S/LM 3275/02/P

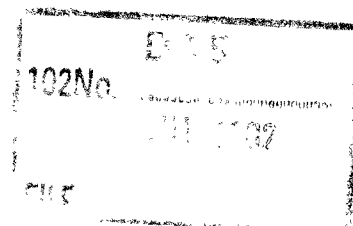
15 July 2002

Dear John

Thank you for your letter of 1 July enclosing an e-mail from your constituent [REDACTED] of [REDACTED] Reading, about reports of 'unidentified flying objects' in the UK.

The Ministry of Defence examines any reports of sightings solely to establish whether what was seen might have some defence significance. My Department's only concern is to establish whether there is any evidence that the United Kingdom's airspace might have been compromised by hostile or unauthorised air activity. I should add that 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 and the MOD remains vigilant for any potential threat. Unless there is evidence of a potential threat to the United Kingdom from an external military source, and to date no UFO reported to us has revealed such a threat, 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 unusual meteorological events, 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.

The Rt Hon John Redwood MP



Private Office



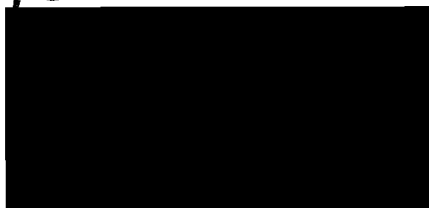
INVESTOR IN PEOPLE



With regard to the disclosure of information about 'UFO' reports, you may wish to be aware that the Ministry of Defence operates in accordance with the Code of Practice on Access to Government Information (the Code), which encourages the provision of information unless its disclosure would, for example, cause harm to defence, invade an individual's privacy, or if it would take an unreasonable diversion of resources to respond to a request. Information requested is supplied wherever possible providing it does not fall under one of the exemptions in the Code. The Freedom of Information Act 2000 will supersede the Code when it comes into force in 2005.

Finally, I must say that my Department has no expertise or role in respect of 'UFO/flying saucer' matters, or the question of the existence or otherwise of extraterrestrial lifeforms, about which it remains totally open-minded. But I should add that to date the MOD knows of no evidence which substantiates the existence of these alleged phenomena.

Best wishes



DR LEWIS MOONIE MP





LOOSE MINUTE

D/DAS/64/4

10 July 2002

Ministerial Correspondence Unit

(through DAS-LA- [redacted] n 40)

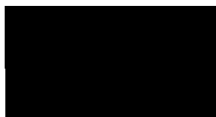
0/7

MINISTERIAL CORRESPONDENCE – US 3275/2002 – THE RT HON JOHN REDWOOD MP

1. As far as we are aware, this constituent has not contacted the MOD before about 'UFOs' and he will not therefore be aware that the MOD's only interest in reported 'UFO' sightings is whether there is any evidence of a breach of UK airspace by hostile or unauthorised air activity.
2. The constituent requests disclosure of information of particular events, so we have included details of our obligations under the Code of Practice on Access to Government Information, and the Freedom of Information Act 2000 in 2005.
3. I enclose a draft reply for US of S to send to the Rt Hon John Redwood MP in response to his letter of 1 July, enclosing one from his constituent [redacted]

[redacted]
DAS(LA)Ops+Pol1
MT 6/73 [redacted]

Drafted by:
Authorised by:



DAS-LA-Ops+Pol1
DAS- LA-AD

DRAFT REPLY TO THE RT HON JOHN REDWOOD MP

Thank you for your letter of 1 July enclosing one from your constituent,

[REDACTED] of [REDACTED] Reading concerning reports of 'unidentified flying objects' in the UK.

First, it may be helpful if I explain that the Ministry of Defence examines any reports of sightings solely to establish whether what was seen might have some defence significance. My Department's only concern is to establish whether there is any evidence that the United Kingdom's airspace might have been compromised by hostile or unauthorised air activity. I should add that 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 and the MOD remains vigilant for any potential threat. Unless there is evidence of a potential threat to the United Kingdom from an external military source, and to date no UFO reported to us has revealed such a threat, 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 unusual meteorological events, could be found for them if resources were diverted for this purpose, but it is not the function of the MOD to provide this kind of aerial identification service.

With regard to the disclosure of information about 'UFO' reports, you may wish to be aware that the Ministry of Defence operates in accordance with the Code of Practice on Access to Government Information (the Code), which encourages the provision of information unless its disclosure would, for example, cause harm to defence, invade an individual's privacy, or if it would take an unreasonable diversion of resources to



respond to a request. Information requested is supplied wherever possible providing it does not fall under one of the exemptions in the Code. The Freedom of Information Act 2000 will supersede the Code when it comes into force in 2005.

Finally, I must say that my Department has no expertise or role in respect of 'UFO/flying saucer' matters, or the question of the existence or otherwise of extraterrestrial lifeforms, about which it remains totally open-minded. But I should add that to date the MOD knows of no evidence which substantiates the existence of these alleged phenomena.

I hope this explains the situation.

DR LEWIS MOONIE MP

The Rt Hon John Redwood MP

**** TO BE GIVEN PRIORITY AT ALL TIMES ****



MINISTERIAL CORRESPONDENCE

Detailed guidance on handling Ministerial Correspondence can be found on MODWeb at

http://main.chots.mod.uk/min_parl/ParlBrch/MCguid.htm

If you do not have access to MODWeb, please inform the Ministerial Correspondence Unit.

TO: DAS(LA) OPS+POL

MC REF NUMBER: US 3275/2002

Copy to:

MINISTER REPLYING: USJS

DRAFT REQUIRED BY: 12/7/2002

DATE: 3/7/2002

FROM: [REDACTED] Ministerial Correspondence Unit

Room 221WH

TEL: [REDACTED]

FAX: [REDACTED]

YOU WILL BE HELD ACCOUNTABLE FOR THE DRAFT ANSWER AND ADVICE THAT YOU PROVIDE - IT MUST BE ACCURATE AND NOT MISLEADING IN ANY WAY.

**E-MAIL DRAFTS TO 'MINISTERIAL CORRESPONDENCE' -
NOT TO MC CLERKS OR PRIVATE OFFICES.**

(Please ensure sensitivity of your email message is 'Normal'.)

- **ENSURE THE DEADLINE IS MET:** THE DEPARTMENT IS COMMITTED TO ANSWERING 90% OF ITS CORRESPONDENCE WITHIN 15 WORKING DAYS. EVERY EFFORT MUST THEREFORE BE MADE TO REPLY SUBSTANTIVELY ON TIME. HOWEVER, IF IT IS OBVIOUS THAT YOU WILL BE UNABLE TO REPLY IN FULL WITHIN THE DEADLINE, AN INTERIM MUST BE PROVIDED. YOU SHOULD THEN AIM TO FORWARD A FINAL REPLY WITHIN A FURTHER 8 WORKING DAYS.
- A **NAMED** OFFICIAL AT PAY BAND B2 LEVEL OR ABOVE MUST CLEAR ALL DRAFTS. OTHER GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS OR MOD DIVISIONS SHOULD BE CONSULTED AS NECESSARY.
- IF THIS CORRESPONDENCE SHOULD BE DEALT WITH BY ANOTHER BRANCH, PLEASE PASS IT ON AND INFORM US IMMEDIATELY. IF YOU ARE AN AGENCY, THE MINISTER'S OFFICE HAS DIRECTED THAT THIS LETTER SHOULD RECEIVE A MINISTERIAL - NOT CHIEF EXECUTIVE - REPLY.

Number of pages sent by fax: 3

**** TO BE GIVEN PRIORITY AT ALL TIMES ****



**** TO BE GIVEN PRIORITY AT ALL TIMES ****



THE RT. HON. JOHN REDWOOD, MP

HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

Dr Lewis Moonie MP
PUSS & Minister for Veterans
MOD Old War Office Building
Whitehall
LONDON
SW1A 2EU

RECEIVED

02 JUL 2002

US OF S

1 July 2002

Dear Lewis

I attach correspondence from my constituent, [REDACTED]
of [REDACTED] Reading [REDACTED] about the
number of UFO sightings in the UK between 1998 to 2000.

I would welcome your comments on the points which my constituent
raises so that I may reply to him.

Yours ever

[REDACTED]
John Redwood

RECEIVED BY
PARLIAMENTARY BRANCH
ON: 2/7/02
REQUEST REPLYING: US
KEY WORD(S): UFO'S
LEAD BRANCH: DAS(LA)OPst POL
COPIED TO:
RELATED CASE:
CLERK: [REDACTED] 40

Dear Rt Hon John Redwood,

I note with interest that Lord Hill-Norton has asked many Parliamentary questions relating to UFO sightings in the UK and, according to Government records, the numbers of reported sightings in the UK between 1998 and 2000 is as follows:

1998: 193

1999: 229

2000: 210

No satisfactory explanation is ever given for the sightings reported nor does any formal investigation appear to be underway.

Unexplained UFO sightings are a disturbing phenomena and it appears that the first world governments are reluctant to disclose what is known. Inevitably, this lack of disclosure creates unnecessary disquiet and feeds the rumour/conspiracy mill.

As my MP, I would like to you pursue the full disclosure of government involvement and knowledge of these peculiar events. It would be more disturbing to discover that whatever is officially known is beyond democratic accountability and I trust that, with the help of your good offices, it will be possible to show that this is not the case.

I look forward to receiving your response and following your progress.

Yours faithfully,

[REDACTED]

7dfee310de37d1fb33174234f61913bd (Signed with an electronic signature in accordance with subsection 7(3) of the Electronic Communications Act 2000)



RESTRICTED/UNCLASSIFIED

RESTRICTED/UNCLASSIFIED
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
TEMPORARY ENCLOSURE JACKET

MOD Form 174D
(Revised 5/99)

REGISTERED FILE No.		DIVISION / DIRECTORATE / BRANCH:	
Enclosure Jacket No <u>5</u>			
DATE OPENED (Date of First Enclosure)			
SUBJECT: JS 1798/02 MR MARK CATEN MP [REDACTED]			
Referred to	Date	Referred to	Date

USER NOTES

1. A MOD Form 262A (File Record Sheet) must be raised for each new Temporary Enclosure Jacket (TEJ) created. The TEJ should also include a minute sheet.
2. When a TEJ is incorporated into the parent file it should be placed in the file in date order (according to the date of the last action on the TEJ) and allocated an enclosure number.
3. The file minute sheet should be annotated to record the enclosure number of the TEJ along with details of the number of enclosures contained within it. The TEJ record sheet (MOD Form 262A) should be annotated to record the date on which the TEJ was incorporated into the parent file (JSP 441, paragraph 4.13 refers).

RESTRICTED/UNCLASSIFIED

RESTRICTED/UNCLASSIFIED



PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE FOR DEFENCE
AND MINISTER FOR VETERANS AFFAIRS

~~See file for Mark~~

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
OLD WAR OFFICE BUILDING
WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2EU

Telephone [REDACTED] (Direct Dialling)
[REDACTED] (Fax)
(020) 7218 9000 (Switchboard)

D/US of S/LM 1798/02/Y

29 April 2002

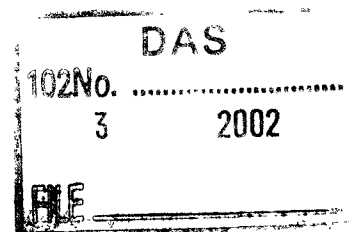
Dear Mark

Thank you for your letter of 2 April (reference: parl/cmo/ward) to Geoff Hoon enclosing one from your constituent, [REDACTED] of [REDACTED] Winchester, concerning a documentary she is making about 'Unidentified Flying Objects' for her BA degree. I am replying as this matter falls within my area of responsibility.

[REDACTED] has also written a similar letter to my officials and I would be grateful if she would accept this reply in answer to both letters.

First, it may be helpful if I explain that the Ministry of Defence examines any reports of 'UFO' sightings solely to establish whether what was seen might have some defence significance. My Department's only concern is to establish whether there is any evidence that the United Kingdom's airspace might have been compromised by hostile or unauthorised air activity. I should add that 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, and the MOD remains vigilant for any potential threat. Unless there is evidence of a

Mark Oaten Esq MP



Private Office



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE



potential threat to the United Kingdom from an external military source, and to date no 'UFO' reported to us has revealed such a threat, we do not attempt to identify the precise nature of each sighting. 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.

██████████ asked if there are currently parliamentary debates about UFOs. Since Lord Clancarty's debate in the House of Lords in 1979, various questions have been asked in parliament about UFOs, but there have been no further debates.

With regard to your enquiry about my Department's records on these matters, I can confirm that, as with other government files, MOD files are subject to the provisions of the Public Records Act of 1958 and 1967. This means that official files will generally remain closed from public viewing for 30 years after the last action has been taken. It was generally the case that 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. Any files from the 1950s and early 1960s which did survive are already available for examination by members of the public at the Public Record Office, Ruskin Avenue, Kew, Richmond, Surrey, TW9 4DU. Files from 1967 onwards will be routinely released to the Public Record Office at the 30 year point.

Finally, I must say that my Department has no expertise or role in respect of 'UFO/flying saucer' matters or, the question of the existence or otherwise of extraterrestrial lifeforms, about which it remains totally open-minded. I should add that to date the MOD knows of no evidence which substantiates the existence of these alleged phenomena.

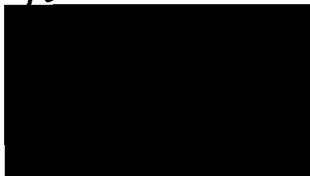




If [REDACTED] has any further questions concerning the MOD's role, or records of UFO reports, if she would like to write to my officials at the following address, they would be happy to assist wherever possible.

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

Best wishes



DR LEWIS MOONIE MP



Recycled Paper

DAS-LA-Ops+Pol1

From: PARLIAMENTARY TYPIST1 on behalf of Ministerial Correspondence
To: DAS-LA-Ops+Pol1
Sent: 19 April 2002 15:37
Subject: Read: MC Replies

Your message

To: Ministerial Correspondence
Subject: MC Replies
Sent: 19/04/02 15:34

was read on 19/04/02 15:37.

LOOSE MINUTE

D/DAS/64/4

19 April 2002

Ministerial Correspondence Unit

(through DAS Al [REDACTED] 40/4)

MINISTERIAL CORRESPONDENCE – US 1798/02 – MR MARK OATEN MP

1. Mr Oaten's constituent, [REDACTED] wrote to the MOD in March 2002 about a documentary she was making on the UFO phenomena for her BA studies. At the same time she also sent the letter to her MP. We have sent [REDACTED] a short letter acknowledging receipt of her letter to the Department and saying both letters would be addressed in the response to her MP.
2. [REDACTED] has not contacted the MOD before about UFO matters and will therefore not be aware of our limited interest.
3. I enclose a draft reply for US of S to send to Mark Oaten MP in response to his letter of 2 April, enclosing a letter from his constituent, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
DAS (LA) Ops+Pol1
MT6/73 [REDACTED]

Drafted by:
Authorised by:

[REDACTED]
DAS(LA)Ops+Pol1
DAS AD(LA)

DRAFT REPLY TO MARK OATEN MP

Thank you for your letter of 2 April to Geoff Hoon enclosing one from your constituent, [REDACTED] of [REDACTED] Winchester, concerning a documentary she is making about 'Unidentified Flying Objects' for her BA degree.

I am replying as this matter falls within my area of responsibility.

[REDACTED] has also written a similar letter to my officials and I would be grateful if she would accept this reply in answer to both letters.

First, it may be helpful if I explain that the Ministry of Defence examines any reports of 'UFO' sightings solely to establish whether what was seen might have some defence significance. My Department's only concern is to establish whether there is any evidence that the United Kingdom's airspace might have been compromised by hostile or unauthorised air activity. I should add that 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, and the MOD remains vigilant for any potential threat. Unless there is evidence of a potential threat to the United Kingdom from an external military source, and to date no 'UFO' reported to us has revealed such a threat, we do not attempt to identify the precise nature of each sighting. 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.

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If has any further questions concerning the MOD's role, or records of UFO reports, if she would like to write to my officials at the following address, they would

be happy to assist wherever possible.

Directorate of Air Staff (Lower Airspace) Operations & Policy 1

Room 6/73

Metropole Building

Northumberland Avenue

London

WC2N 5BP

DR LEWIS MOONIE MP

Mark Oaten MP

**** TO BE GIVEN PRIORITY AT ALL TIMES ****



MINISTERIAL CORRESPONDENCE

FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION

IMPORTANT - YOU MUST READ THIS GUIDANCE

TO: DAS (LA) P & P

MC REF NUMBER: US 1798 /2002

Copy to:

MINISTER REPLYING: US J/S

DRAFT REQUIRED BY: 15 / 4 /2002

DATE: 4 / 4 /2002

FROM: [REDACTED] Ministerial Correspondence Unit

Room 221WH

TEL: [REDACTED]

FAX: [REDACTED]

YOU WILL BE HELD ACCOUNTABLE FOR THE DRAFT ANSWER AND ADVICE, WHICH MUST BE ACCURATE AND NOT MISLEADING IN ANY WAY.

ENSURE THE DEADLINE IS MET: THE DEPARTMENT IS CURRENTLY COMMITTED TO ANSWERING 90% OF ITS MINISTERIAL CORRESPONDENCE WITHIN 15 WORKING DAYS. OUR PERFORMANCE IS REPORTED TO PARLIAMENT EACH YEAR.

A NAMED OFFICIAL AT PAY BAND B2 LEVEL OR ABOVE MUST CLEAR ALL DRAFTS. OTHER GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS OR MOD DIVISIONS SHOULD BE CONSULTED AS NECESSARY.

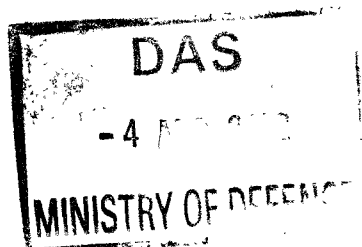
**E-MAIL DRAFTS TO 'MINISTERIAL CORRESPONDENCE',
NOT TO PE CLERKS OR PRIVATE OFFICES.**

(Please ensure sensitivity of your email message is 'Normal'.)

IF THIS CORRESPONDENCE SHOULD BE DEALT WITH BY ANOTHER BRANCH, PLEASE PASS IT ON AND INFORM US IMMEDIATELY.

Number of pages sent by fax: 5

**** TO BE GIVEN PRIORITY AT ALL TIMES ****



I spoke to [REDACTED] in MCU
Happy to extend deadline to 19 April.

5/4/02 .

**** TO BE GIVEN PRIORITY AT ALL TIMES ****

**** TO BE GIVEN PRIORITY AT ALL TIMES ****

**** TO BE GIVEN PRIORITY AT ALL TIMES ****

- *Ministers place great importance on the content, style and speed of replies. Letters should be polite, informal, to the point and in clear, simple language. Avoid acronyms and MOD jargon. Always emphasise the positive aspects of Government policy. No background note is required unless essential to explain the line taken in the draft reply.*
- *If you are an agency, the Minister's office has directed that this letter should receive a Ministerial – not Chief Executive – reply.*
- *A response at official level on the same case should be held until the Minister has sent a full reply. Please discuss any questions about the substance of the drafts, or other policy aspects, direct with the relevant Private Office.*
- **INTERIM REPLIES:** If it is obvious that you will be unable to reply in full within the deadline, an interim MUST be provided. **REMEMBER:** a substantive interim reply covering the majority of the issues raised – or answering as fully as possible at that particular point in time (eg. grievance or redress cases) – will help the Department's performance statistics. If you cannot meet the deadline, you should provide a reply that apologises for the delay, sets out the action being taken to answer the letter, and advises when a substantive reply can be expected. You should aim to provide a substantive draft reply within a further 8 working days. Interim replies should be used infrequently, as every effort must be made to reply substantively to Ministerial Correspondence on time.
- **LAYOUT:** Draft replies should be double-spaced. All should be in font size 12 and, with the exception of USofS, in Arial font (for USofS, use Courier). Always include the full reference number at the top left of the draft. Put the MP's full title at the bottom left of the first page.
- **MINISTER RESPONDING:** SofS will usually reply to Cabinet colleagues, Privy Councillors (the Rt Hon) and Opposition Defence spokesmen, unless they have written direct to a junior Minister. Correspondence from other MPs, MEPs and Peers will generally be handled by a junior Minister with the relevant policy responsibility.
- **OPENING AND CLOSING:** All Ministers prefer to start: *"Thank you for your letter of ... (MP's ref if given) on behalf of/enclosing one from your constituent, Mr ... of ... about ..."*
If a Minister is replying on behalf of another, start: *"Thank you for your letter of ... to the Prime Minister/Geoff Hoon/Adam Ingram/Willy Bach/Lewis Moonie on behalf etc"*
For Mr Ingram, add: *"I am replying in view of my responsibility for ..."*
For Lord Bach, add: *"I am responding because of my responsibility for this issue."* (or, in the case of letters from fellow Peers: *"I have been asked to respond."*)
For Dr Moonie, add: *"I am replying as this matter falls within my area of responsibility."*
Choose an appropriate ending (except for Dr Moonie, who will add his own) - such as:
"I hope this is helpful"; "I hope this explains the position/situation"; "I am sorry I cannot be more helpful"; or *"I am sorry to send what I know will be a disappointing reply"*.
- **OPEN GOVERNMENT:** Replies MUST be drafted in accordance with the *Code of Practice on Access to Government Information*. It is set out in DCI 232/01. If you are recommending to a Minister that some or all information is withheld, the answer must specify the law or exemption in the Code under which it is being withheld - eg "I am withholding the information requested under exemption 1 of Part II of the *Code of Practice on Access to Government Information*." It is NOT acceptable to rely on past practice. Further information is available from DG Info on [REDACTED]

**** TO BE GIVEN PRIORITY AT ALL TIMES ****



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Revised 1st February 2002

**** TO BE GIVEN PRIORITY AT ALL TIMES ****

**** TO BE GIVEN PRIORITY AT ALL TIMES ****



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA
MARK OATEN MP

The Rt. Hon. Geoffrey Hoon MP
Old War Office Building
Whitehall
London
SW1A 2EU

Ref: parl/cmo/ward
PLEASE QUOTE ALL REF. IN ALL CORRESPONDENCE

02 April 2002

Dear Geoffrey,

I have recently received a letter from a constituent regarding the Government's currently policies toward UFOs. After doing some of my own research, I found that on 13 May 2001, the Baroness Symons of Vernham Dean informed the Lord Hill-Norton that since 1967 all Government records regarding UFOs have been kept by your department. It would be very useful to my constituent if you could please send me a representative report on those records. Please find a copy of the letter enclosed.

I would be most grateful if you would write with your comments on these concerns at your earliest convenience.

Yours,



Mark Oaten MP.
(Dictated and signed in his absence.)

PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY
ON: 3/4/02
MINISTER REPLYING: US
KEYWORDS: UFOs /
LEAD BRANCH: DAS(LA) P+P
COPIED TO:
RELATED CASE:
CLEAR

The library should help with this one

1 MAR 2002

Winchester
HANTS

Mark Oaten MP
Southgate Street
Winchester
HANTS
SO23 9EH

Wednesday 6th March 2002

Dear Mr. Oaten,

Firstly, I would like to wish you belated congratulations on the election results last year. As a student at King Alfred's University, I felt you paid a great deal of attention to the student community of Winchester, which helped me, a first time voter, to understand what benefits your party have and would bring to the area, and secured my vote for you and the Liberal Democrats.

Due to this impression you left with me I wanted to write to you concerning my second year project for my BA degree in Drama, Theatre and Television.

I am in a group of five, who's task is to produce a 20 minute documentary on a certain community of our choice. My group and I are hoping to produce a piece on UFO (Unidentified Flying Objects) related phenomenon.

My particular research on this subject has lead me to look at the relationship between UFOs and the government. I have read several books on this topic. Some are from only one point of view, e.g. Open Skies, Closed Minds by former Ministry of Defense secretariat, Nick Pope. However, one particular book offers a range of views from a debate held in the House of Lords in 1979, (UFOs in the House of Lords, Edited by Tim Coates). Unfortunately this is quite dated information but proves to be extremely interesting. Earl Clancarty starts the debate by suggesting that the Government should set up an "intra-governmental study" which would be a "House of Lords UFO study group to meet periodically."

The challenge in my research seems to occur when trying to find more recent information on the governments view towards UFOs. I can not find out if such intra-governmental group was set up or still exists. I am aware that the Ministry of Defense deal mostly with UFO sightings or contact, nevertheless it appears impossible to find if debates such as the one in 1979 ever take place anymore. Obviously times have moved forward and I'm sure more is done

about this topic now than in 1979, however, I never hear the views on the subject from Members of Parliament.

I would be extremely grateful if you or a colleague could answer some questions I have on the subject. For example, is the subject spoken of amongst Liberal Democrats? Are there ever debates on the subject that you have attended? On a wider scale, do the Government rely on the Ministry of Defense to tackle the subject, or do certain Members of Parliament you know of try and get involved?

I appreciate that you are a busy man, with probably, many letters arriving to you each day. However, any information or comments that you could offer me would be deeply appreciated.

The documentary is to be presented in May, so whatever information or comments you may be able to offer me or not, you (or a representative) would be gratefully welcomed at the viewing of our final piece. Perhaps you could get an idea of what sort of work is produced at Winchester's University, and enjoy what interesting debates are sparked at these viewings.

Thank you for taking time to read this letter and I will be looking forward to your reply.

Yours Sincerely

[REDACTED]

Telephone: [REDACTED]

E-Mail: - [REDACTED]@hotmail.com

5

REGISTERED FILE No. Enclosure Jacket No4..... DATE OPENED (Date of First Enclosure) 		DIVISION / DIRECTORATE / BRANCH:	
SUBJECT: US 2025/02 KAREN BOCK MP 			
Referred to	Date	Referred to	Date

USER NOTES

- 1. A MOD Form 262A (File Record Sheet) must be raised for each new Temporary Enclosure Jacket (TEJ) created. The TEJ should also include a minute sheet.
- 2. When a TEJ is incorporated into the parent file it should be placed in the file in date order (according to the date of the last action on the TEJ) and allocated an enclosure number.
- 3. The file minute sheet should be annotated to record the enclosure number of the TEJ along with details of the number of enclosures contained within it. The TEJ record sheet (MOD Form 262A) should be annotated to record the date on which the TEJ was incorporated into the parent file (JSP 441, paragraph 4.13 refers).

~~See 65 for draft~~



PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE FOR DEFENCE
AND MINISTER FOR VETERANS AFFAIRS

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
OLD WAR OFFICE BUILDING
WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2EU

Telephone [REDACTED] (Direct Dialling)
(Fax)
(020) 7218 9000 (Switchboard)

D/US of S/LM 2025/02/Y

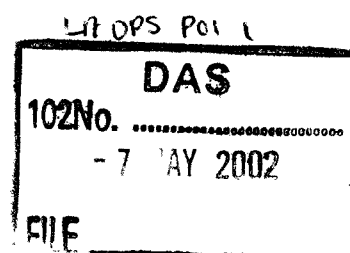
1 May 2002

Dear Karen

Thank you for your letter of 11 April (reference:
[REDACTED] 041/DB/020117) enclosing one from your constituent, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] of [REDACTED] London, concerning
'Unidentified Flying Objects' and an organisation known as the
'Disclosure Project'.

First, it may be helpful if I explain that the Ministry of Defence examines any reports of 'UFO' sightings solely to establish whether what was seen might have some defence significance. My Department's only concern is to establish whether there is any evidence that the United Kingdom's airspace might have been compromised by hostile or unauthorised air activity. I should add that 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, and the MOD remains vigilant for any potential threat. Unless there is evidence of a potential threat to the United Kingdom from an external military source, and to date no 'UFO' reported to us has revealed such a threat, we do not attempt to identify the precise nature of each sighting. 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.

Ms Karen Buck MP



Private Office



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE



With regard to [REDACTED] comments about the Disclosure Project and his request for "secrecy-free hearings" you may wish to assure him that we are aware that many people claim to have seen objects that they are not able to identify and believe to be of extraterrestrial origin. However anyone, whether they are a member of the public or in the Armed Forces is able to report UFO sightings to the Ministry of Defence and their report will be examined in light of our defence interest as detailed above. There is, therefore, no need to hold hearings so that witnesses can testify as to their experiences.

[REDACTED] also asked for public disclosure of information concerning "new energy and propulsion technologies that could replace our need for foreign oil and eliminate much of the pollution in the world". To date the MOD knows of no evidence which substantiates the existence of these alleged phenomena, therefore my officials are unable to comment on technologies which they do not know exist.

Finally, I must say that my Department has no expertise or role in respect of 'UFO/flying saucer' matters or, the question of the existence or otherwise of extraterrestrial lifeforms, about which it remains totally open-minded. We are satisfied that the procedures we have are sufficient for our defence needs and there are no plans to change them in the near future.

Best wishes



DR LEWIS MOONIE MP



DAS-LA-Ops+Pol1

From: PARLIAMENTARY TYPIST1 on behalf of Ministerial Correspondence
To: DAS-LA-Ops+Pol1
Sent: 19 April 2002 15:37
Subject: Read: MC Replies

5

Your message

To: Ministerial Correspondence
Subject: MC Replies
Sent: 19/04/02 15:34

was read on 19/04/02 15:37.

LOOSE MINUTE

D/DAS/64/4

19 April 2002

Ministerial Correspondence Unit

(through DAS AD ([REDACTED]) 40
[REDACTED] 11

MINISTERIAL CORRESPONDENCE – US 2025/2002– KAREN BUCK MP

1. So far as we are aware, this constituent has not contacted the MOD before concerning 'UFO' matters and he will not therefore be aware that the MOD's only interest in reported 'UFO' sightings is whether there is any evidence of a breach of UK airspace by hostile or unauthorised air activity.
2. The Disclosure Project is a US-based group that has since 1993 been gathering statements, video and tape recordings from people who claim to have seen or been involved with extraterrestrial lifeforms. Many of these 'witnesses' are said to be military or ex-military servicemen/women and government officials. The Disclosure Project urge the US Congress and the leaders of other countries to hold hearings so that these people can testify under oath as to their experiences. They also believe that the US, UK and other governments hold information about advanced energy and propulsion technologies produced by extraterrestrial lifeforms, which is withheld from the public.
4. I enclose a draft reply for US of S to send to Karen Buck MP in response to her letter of 11 April , enclosing a letter from her constituent, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
DAS (LA)Ops&Pol1
MT6/73 [REDACTED]

Drafted by: [REDACTED] DAS(LA)Ops&Pol1
Authorised by: [REDACTED] DAS AD (LA)

US 2025/2002

April 2002

DRAFT REPLY TO KAREN BUCK MP

Thank you for your letter of 11 April, enclosing a letter from your constituent, [REDACTED] of [REDACTED] London, concerning 'Unidentified Flying Objects' and an organisation known as the 'Disclosure Project'. I am replying as this matter falls within my area of responsibility.

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

With regard to [REDACTED] comments about the Disclosure Project and his request for "secrecy-free hearings" you may wish to assure him that we are aware that many people claim to have seen objects that they are not able to identify and believe to be of extraterrestrial origin. However anyone, whether they are a member of the public or in

the Armed Forces is able to report UFO sightings to the Ministry of Defence and their report will be examined in light of our defence interest as detailed above. There is, therefore, no need to hold hearings so that witnesses can testify as to their experiences.

██████████ also asked for public disclosure of information concerning “new energy and propulsion technologies that could replace our need for foreign oil and eliminate much of the pollution in the world’ . To date the MOD knows of no evidence which substantiates the existence of these alleged phenomena, therefore my officials are unable to comment on technologies which they do not know exist.

Finally, I must say that my Department has no expertise or role in respect of 'UFO/flying saucer' matters or, the question of the existence or otherwise of extraterrestrial lifeforms, about which it remains totally open-minded. We are satisfied that the procedures we have are sufficient for our defence needs and there are no plans to change them in the near future.

DR LEWIS MOONIE MP

Karen Buck MP

**** TO BE GIVEN PRIORITY AT ALL TIMES ****



MINISTERIAL CORRESPONDENCE

FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION

IMPORTANT - YOU MUST READ THIS GUIDANCE

TO: DAS(LA) PAP.

MC REF NUMBER: us 2025. /2002

Copy to:

MINISTER REPLYING: us 92

DRAFT REQUIRED BY: 25 / 4 /2002

DATE: 16 / 4 /2002

FROM

Ministerial Correspondence Unit

Room 221WH

TEL:

FAX:

YOU WILL BE HELD ACCOUNTABLE FOR THE DRAFT ANSWER AND ADVICE, WHICH MUST BE ACCURATE AND NOT MISLEADING IN ANY WAY.

ENSURE THE DEADLINE IS MET: THE DEPARTMENT IS CURRENTLY COMMITTED TO ANSWERING 90% OF ITS MINISTERIAL CORRESPONDENCE WITHIN 15 WORKING DAYS. OUR PERFORMANCE IS REPORTED TO PARLIAMENT EACH YEAR.

A NAMED OFFICIAL AT PAY BAND B2 LEVEL OR ABOVE MUST CLEAR ALL DRAFTS. OTHER GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS OR MOD DIVISIONS SHOULD BE CONSULTED AS NECESSARY.

**E-MAIL DRAFTS TO 'MINISTERIAL CORRESPONDENCE',
NOT TO PE CLERKS OR PRIVATE OFFICES.**

(Please ensure sensitivity of your email message is 'Normal'.)

IF THIS CORRESPONDENCE SHOULD BE DEALT WITH BY ANOTHER BRANCH, PLEASE PASS IT ON AND INFORM US IMMEDIATELY.

Number of pages sent by fax: 5

**** TO BE GIVEN PRIORITY AT ALL TIMES ****

**** TO BE GIVEN PRIORITY AT ALL TIMES ****



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

** TO BE GIVEN PRIORITY AT ALL TIMES **

- ❑ *Ministers place great importance on the content, style and speed of replies. Letters should be polite, informal, to the point and in clear, simple language. Avoid acronyms and MOD jargon. Always emphasise the positive aspects of Government policy. No background note is required unless essential to explain the line taken in the draft reply.*
- ❑ *If you are an agency, the Minister's office has directed that this letter should receive a Ministerial – not Chief Executive – reply.*
- ❑ *A response at official level on the same case should be held until the Minister has sent a full reply. Please discuss any questions about the substance of the drafts, or other policy aspects, direct with the relevant Private Office.*
- **INTERIM REPLIES:** If it is obvious that you will be unable to reply in full within the deadline, an interim MUST be provided. **REMEMBER:** a substantive interim reply covering the majority of the issues raised – or answering as fully as possible at that particular point in time (eg. grievance or redress cases) – will help the Department's performance statistics. If you cannot meet the deadline, you should provide a reply that apologises for the delay, sets out the action being taken to answer the letter, and advises when a substantive reply can be expected. You should aim to provide a substantive draft reply within a further 8 working days. Interim replies should be used infrequently, as every effort must be made to reply substantively to Ministerial Correspondence on time.
- **LAYOUT:** Draft replies should be double-spaced. All should be in font size 12 and, with the exception of USofS, in Arial font (for USofS, use Courier). Always include the full reference number at the top left of the draft. Put the MP's full title at the bottom left of the first page.
- **MINISTER RESPONDING:** SofS will usually reply to Cabinet colleagues, Privy Councillors (the Rt Hon) and Opposition Defence spokesmen, unless they have written direct to a junior Minister. Correspondence from other MPs, MEPs and Peers will generally be handled by a junior Minister with the relevant policy responsibility.
- **OPENING AND CLOSING:** All Ministers prefer to start: "Thank you for your letter of ... (MP's ref if given) on behalf of/enclosing one from your constituent, Mr ... of ... about ..." If a Minister is replying on behalf of another, start: "Thank you for your letter of ... to the Prime Minister/Geoff Hoon/Adam Ingram/Willy Bach/Lewis Moonie on behalf etc" For Mr Ingram, add: "I am replying in view of my responsibility for ..." For Lord Bach, add: "I am responding because of my responsibility for this issue." (or, in the case of letters from fellow Peers: "I have been asked to respond.") For Dr Moonie, add: "I am replying as this matter falls within my area of responsibility." Choose an appropriate ending (except for Dr Moonie, who will add his own) - such as: "I hope this is helpful"; "I hope this explains the position/situation"; "I am sorry I cannot be more helpful"; or "I am sorry to send what I know will be a disappointing reply".
- **OPEN GOVERNMENT:** Replies MUST be drafted in accordance with the *Code of Practice on Access to Government Information*. It is set out in DCI 232/01. If you are recommending to a Minister that some or all information is withheld, the answer must specify the law or exemption in the Code under which it is being withheld - eg "I am withholding the information requested under exemption 1 of Part II of the *Code of Practice on Access to Government Information*." It is **NOT** acceptable to rely on past practice. Further information is available from DG Info on [REDACTED]

** TO BE GIVEN PRIORITY AT ALL TIMES **

** TO BE GIVEN PRIORITY AT ALL TIMES **



INVESTOR IN PROTECTOR

MC

RECEIVED

USOF S

HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA**Karen Buck MP**Regent's Park &
Kensington North
Constituency
Tel. 0208 968 7999
Fax. 0208 960 0150
e-mail k.buck@rpkn-labour.co.ukDr Lewis Moonie MP
MOD
Old War Buildings
Whitehall
London
SW1A 2EU

April 11, 2002

Our Ref: DA S001/DB/020117

Dear Lewis

[REDACTED] London [REDACTED]

I have received the attached from my constituent. I am not sure if you are the Minister responsible however if I have got this wrong please do pass it on.

I would be grateful for a response that I can copy to my constituent.

Thank you for your assistance.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]
Karen Buck MP

RECEIVED BY	
PARLIAMENTARY BRANCH	
ON: 15/4/02	
MINISTER REPLYING:	US
KEYWORD(S):	UFOs
LEAD BRANCH:	DAS(LA) P+P
COPIED TO:	
RELATED CASE:	
CLERK:	[REDACTED] n 40

FOR THE ATTENTION OF:

London

Sunday 17 March 2002

Dear Ms Karen Buck,

I have learned that a nonprofits organization, The Disclosure Project (www.DisclosureProject.org) has identified over 450 military, intelligence and corporate contractor witnesses to UFO events and projects, as well as other evidence proving that UFOs and extraterrestrial intelligence are real.

The secrecy surrounding this subject has eroded our constitutional form of government, and illegal projects unsupervised by the Congress and the President continues to withhold from the public this important information. I have also learned that these projects have illegally classified and withheld from the public new energy and propulsion technologies that could replace our need for foreign oil, and eliminate much of the pollution in the world.

The tragic events of September 11, 2001 underscore the need to disclose this information so that the world may at last have a practical replacement for oil and the internal combustion engine. For too long, our mid-east and foreign policy has been driven by the need to secure an endless supply of cheap oil - and yet these rogue projects are withholding from us the very technologies that can realistically replace all fossil fuel use.

I am asking that you immediately instruct your staff to study this matter and that you call for open, secrecy-free hearings at which these highly decorated military and government witnesses may testify under oath. I know that a certain level of government secrecy is necessary, but the excessive, illegal secrecy associated with this 'black' budget projects are a threat to our way of life, our democracy and now to our national security. It is time for it to stop.

These witnesses can prove that these objects are real, that some are of extraterrestrial origin, and that the technologies related to their energy and propulsion systems are known but are withheld from a world sorely in need of their disclosure. The time has come to let the truth be known and it is your responsibility to the people to see that fair and open hearings are held on this important matter. So many hearings have taken place on so many matters less important than this - is it not time to let these heroes of our country tell the truth openly?

With so many bona fide top-secret witnesses, astronauts, government documents and other evidence in hand, a simple denial of the reality of this subject by the government, NASA or your office will no longer do. Please study this matter urgently and sponsor open hearings in the immediate future. To receive briefing materials on this matter, please contact the Disclosure Project office at 434-245-5006. <http://www.DisclosureProject.org>

Respe

Lond

To: Ms Karen Buck
MP for Regent's Park and Kensington North
House Of Commons
London
SW1A 1AA

Sunday 17 March 2002

Dear Ms Karen Buck,

Could you please if that is not inconvenient, forward me your communication FAX number. I have tried to FAX you before but it did not work.

You also can send the number to: info@faxyourmp.com or visit their website at: <http://www.FaxYourMP.com>

It seems like that your FAX number is not listed in their database for MPs.

Sincerely;

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the signature area.

London - UK

4

REGISTERED FILE No. Enclosure Jacket No 3 DATE OPENED (Date of First Enclosure)		DIVISION / DIRECTORATE / BRANCH:	
SUBJECT: US 1897/02 DAVID CHOGEY 			
Referred to	Date	Referred to	Date

USER NOTES

- 1. A MOD Form 262A (File Record Sheet) must be raised for each new Temporary Enclosure Jacket (TEJ) created. The TEJ should also include a minute sheet.
- 2. When a TEJ is incorporated into the parent file it should be placed in the file in date order (according to the date of the last action on the TEJ) and allocated an enclosure number.
- 3. The file minute sheet should be annotated to record the enclosure number of the TEJ along with details of the number of enclosures contained within it. The TEJ record sheet (MOD Form 262A) should be annotated to record the date on which the TEJ was incorporated into the parent file (JSP 441, paragraph 4.13 refers).

~~See 59 for draft~~



PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE FOR DEFENCE
AND MINISTER FOR VETERANS AFFAIRS

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
OLD WAR OFFICE BUILDING
WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2EU

Telephone [REDACTED] (Direct Dialling)
(Fax)
(020) 7218 9000 (Switchboard)

D/US of S/LM 1897/02/Y

24 April 2002

Dear David

Thank you for your letter of 30 March (reference: 140/ExS/2/5/3) to Adam Ingram enclosing one from your constituent, [REDACTED] of [REDACTED] Netley Abbey, about a video recording of unexplained lights over Southampton Water that he sent to the Ministry of Defence in November 2001. I am replying as this matter falls within my area of responsibility.

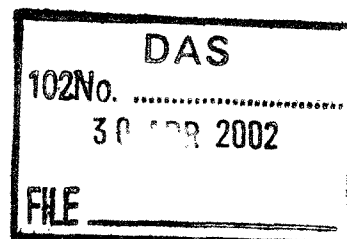
[REDACTED] has received two letters indicating that the tape had been viewed by officials in my Department, and returned to him. The opinion was that it did not appear to contain anything of defence interest. [REDACTED] will be aware from previous correspondence that once this has been established, the Ministry of Defence does not make any further attempt to identify what might have been seen. We believe that it is possible that a rational explanation could be found for such 'sightings', but it is not the function of the MOD to provide this kind of aerial identification service and we could not justify expenditure of public funds on investigations which go beyond our specific defence remit. I apologise that the tape was returned without an accompanying explanatory letter.

[REDACTED] may wish to be aware that the area surrounding Southampton Water is under the Air Traffic Control of Southampton Airport, whom he might like to contact for assistance with any further enquiries he has on this matter.

Best wishes

[REDACTED]
DR LEWIS MOONIE MP

David Chidgey CEng FICE Esq MP



Private Office



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

DAS-LA-Ops+Pol1a

From: PARLIAMENTARY TYPIST2 on behalf of Ministerial Correspondence
To: DAS-LA-Ops+Pol1a
Sent: 18 April 2002 10:26
Subject: Read: U/C - US 1897/2002

Your message

To: Ministerial Correspondence
Subject: U/C - US 1897/2002
Sent: 18/04/02 10:22

was read on 18/04/02 10:26.

LOOSE MINUTE

D/DAS/64/4

18th April 2002

Ministerial Correspondence Unit

(through DAS AD (I

40
3/4

MINISTERIAL CORRESPONDENCE – US 1897/2002 – DAVID CHIDGEY MP

1. [REDACTED] wrote sending a video of apparent 'UFO' activity to Min (AF) on 9 November 01. The tape was viewed by a member of Minister's staff and, as it did not appear to indicate anything of defence significance, was returned directly to him, probably under a compliments slip. Subsequently, [REDACTED] received a letter from officials (D/DAS/64/3 dated 8 March) and a reply to a further letter he sent, informing him that the tape had been viewed and returned.
2. I enclose a draft reply for US of S, through Min (AF)'s office, to send to David Chidgey MP in response to his letter of 30 March, which enclosed a letter from his constituent, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
DAS (LA)Ops&Pol1
MT6/73 [REDACTED]

Drafted by:
Authorised by:

[REDACTED]
DAS(LA)Ops&Pol1
DAS AD (LA)

DRAFT REPLY TO DAVID CHIDGEY MP

Thank you for your letter of 30 March, enclosing a letter from your constituent, [REDACTED] of [REDACTED] Netley Abbey, Southampton, [REDACTED] which concerns a video recording of unexplained lights over Southampton Water that he sent to the Ministry of Defence in November 2001. I am replying as this matter falls within my area of responsibility.

[REDACTED] has received two letters indicating that the tape had been viewed by officials in my Department, and returned to him. The opinion was that it did not appear to contain anything of defence interest. [REDACTED] will be aware from previous correspondence that once this has been established the Ministry of Defence does not make any further attempt to identify what might have been seen. We believe that it is possible that a rational explanation could be found for such 'sightings', but it is not the function of the MOD to provide this kind of aerial identification service and we could not justify expenditure of public funds on investigations which go beyond our specific defence remit. I apologise that the tape was returned without an accompanying explanatory letter.

[REDACTED] may wish to be aware that the area surrounding Southampton Water is under the Air Traffic Control of Southampton Airport, whom he might like to contact for assistance with any further enquiries he has on this matter.

DR LEWIS MOONIE MP

David Chidgey MP

DAS-LA-Ops+Pol1a

From: DAS-LA-Ops+Pol
Sent: 10 April 2002 16:52
To: DAS-LA-Ops+Pol1a
Subject: [REDACTED]

Importance: Low

[REDACTED] 40

David Chidgey MP has sent in a letter from [REDACTED] asking why he has not heard from Min AF about his video.

As we know, the video was sent by [REDACTED] 40 personally to Min AF's office and was viewed there before being passed to the Parliamentary Branch for return to direct to [REDACTED] then wrote in February 02 to Min AF's office asking for a comment on his film and that letter was passed to us.

Following receipt of this MC - to be answered by USofS, I checked with Parly branch that a transfer [from Min AF's office] had been arranged. I spoke to the PS [REDACTED] 40 to check that this was the case. He confirmed that it was and that, as the video had come to Min AF's office and was viewed there, the reply could be passed through that office on it's way to USofS.

The background note may be shorter as a result. Suggest something along the following lines:

". [REDACTED] 40 wrote sending the video to Min AF in ? October 01. The tape was viewed and as it did not appear to indicate anything of defence significance it was returned direct to [REDACTED] 40. Subsequently [REDACTED] 40 received two letters from officials . . .".

In the main letter, one might say "[REDACTED] 40 has received two letters from officials indicating that the tape has been viewed and returned to him. I apologise if the tape was returned with a compliment slip rather than an accompanying letter." We could mention the fact that the area surrounding Southampton Water is under the control of Southampton Airport and [REDACTED] 40 might wish to contact them.

If you would prepare a draft [REDACTED] 40 let's have a look and see how it reads.

**** TO BE GIVEN PRIORITY AT ALL TIMES ****

N.B. PS/mi (AP)
 passed 6 USAS for
 reply [REDACTED] 40

MINISTERIAL CORRESPONDENCE

FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION

IMPORTANT - YOU MUST READ THIS GUIDANCE

TO: DAS(LA) P&PMC REF NUMBER: 1897 /2002

Copy to:

MINISTER REPLYING: USASDRAFT REQUIRED BY: 19/04/2002DATE: 10/04/2002

FROM: [REDACTED] Ministerial Correspondence Unit

Room 221WH

TEL [REDACTED]

FAX: [REDACTED]

**YOU WILL BE HELD ACCOUNTABLE FOR THE DRAFT ANSWER AND ADVICE,
 WHICH MUST BE ACCURATE AND NOT MISLEADING IN ANY WAY.**

**ENSURE THE DEADLINE IS MET: THE DEPARTMENT IS CURRENTLY COMMITTED
 TO ANSWERING 90% OF ITS MINISTERIAL CORRESPONDENCE WITHIN 15
 WORKING DAYS. OUR PERFORMANCE IS REPORTED TO PARLIAMENT EACH
 YEAR.**

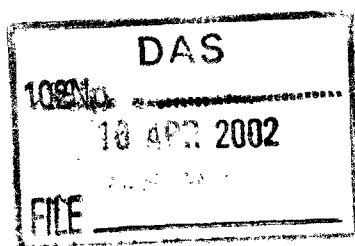
**A NAMED OFFICIAL AT PAY BAND B2 LEVEL OR ABOVE MUST CLEAR ALL
 DRAFTS. OTHER GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS OR MOD DIVISIONS SHOULD BE
 CONSULTED AS NECESSARY.**

**E-MAIL DRAFTS TO 'MINISTERIAL CORRESPONDENCE',
 NOT TO PE CLERKS OR PRIVATE OFFICES.**

(Please ensure sensitivity of your email message is 'Normal'.)

**IF THIS CORRESPONDENCE SHOULD BE DEALT WITH BY ANOTHER BRANCH,
 PLEASE PASS IT ON AND INFORM US IMMEDIATELY.**

Number of pages sent by fax: 5

**** TO BE GIVEN PRIORITY AT ALL TIMES ****

INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

**** TO BE GIVEN PRIORITY AT ALL TIMES ****

** TO BE GIVEN PRIORITY AT ALL TIMES **

- *Ministers place great importance on the content, style and speed of replies. Letters should be polite, informal, to the point and in clear, simple language. Avoid acronyms and MOD jargon. Always emphasise the positive aspects of Government policy. No background note is required unless essential to explain the line taken in the draft reply.*
- *If you are an agency, the Minister's office has directed that this letter should receive a Ministerial – not Chief Executive – reply.*
- *A response at official level on the same case should be held until the Minister has sent a full reply. Please discuss any questions about the substance of the drafts, or other policy aspects, direct with the relevant Private Office.*

- **INTERIM REPLIES:** If it is obvious that you will be unable to reply in full within the deadline, an interim MUST be provided. **REMEMBER:** a substantive interim reply covering the majority of the issues raised – or answering as fully as possible at that particular point in time (eg. grievance or redress cases) – will help the Department's performance statistics. If you cannot meet the deadline, you should provide a reply that apologises for the delay, sets out the action being taken to answer the letter, and advises when a substantive reply can be expected. You should aim to provide a substantive draft reply within a further 8 working days. Interim replies should be used infrequently, as every effort must be made to reply substantively to Ministerial Correspondence on time.
- **LAYOUT:** Draft replies should be double-spaced. All should be in font size 12 and, with the exception of USofS, in Arial font (for USofS, use Courier). Always include the full reference number at the top left of the draft. Put the MP's full title at the bottom left of the first page.
- **MINISTER RESPONDING:** SofS will usually reply to Cabinet colleagues, Privy Councillors (the Rt Hon) and Opposition Defence spokesmen, unless they have written direct to a junior Minister. Correspondence from other MPs, MEPs and Peers will generally be handled by a junior Minister with the relevant policy responsibility.
- **OPENING AND CLOSING:** All Ministers prefer to start: *"Thank you for your letter of ... (MP's ref if given) on behalf of/enclosing one from your constituent, Mr ... of ... about ..."*
If a Minister is replying on behalf of another, start: *"Thank you for your letter of ... to the Prime Minister/Geoff Hoon/Adam Ingram/Willy Bach/Lewis Moonie on behalf etc"*
For Mr Ingram, add: *"I am replying in view of my responsibility for ..."*
For Lord Bach, add: *"I am responding because of my responsibility for this issue."* (or, in the case of letters from fellow Peers: *"I have been asked to respond."*)
For Dr Moonie, add: *"I am replying as this matter falls within my area of responsibility."*
Choose an appropriate ending (except for Dr Moonie, who will add his own) - such as:
"I hope this is helpful"; "I hope this explains the position/situation"; "I am sorry I cannot be more helpful"; or "I am sorry to send what I know will be a disappointing reply".

- **OPEN GOVERNMENT:** Replies MUST be drafted in accordance with the *Code of Practice on Access to Government Information*. It is set out in DCI 232/01. If you are recommending to a Minister that some or all information is withheld, the answer must specify the law or exemption in the Code under which it is being withheld - eg *"I am withholding the information requested under exemption 1 of Part II of the Code of Practice on Access to Government Information."* It is **NOT** acceptable to rely on past practice. Further information is available from DG Info on [REDACTED]

** TO BE GIVEN PRIORITY AT ALL TIMES **



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

** TO BE GIVEN PRIORITY AT ALL TIMES **

** TO BE GIVEN PRIORITY AT ALL TIMES **

David Chidgey, C.Eng., FICE M.P. (Eastleigh)

Tel: 020 7219 6944

Fax: 020 7219 2810



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

Rt Hon Adam Ingram MP
Minister of State
Ministry of Defence
Main Building
Whitehall
LONDON SW1A 2HB

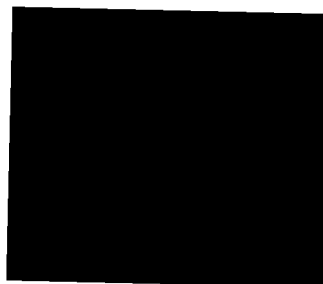
30th March 2002

Communication and Video

My constituent [REDACTED] has raised the above matter with me which is of some concern to him.

I enclose a copy of his letter which indicates that he is still awaiting a response from you relating to the issues he raised in November last year. I would be grateful if you could respond to the points that he raises as quickly as you are able.

Many thanks.



Ask
Min/AF
02/04/02
12:00
505

RECEIVED BY PARLIAMENTARY BRANCH
ON: 5.04.02
MINISTER REPLYING: UE F
KEYWORD(S): u f o s
LEAD BRANCH: DAS (CA) PTP
COPIED TO:
RELATED CASE: - 3156/00
CLERK [REDACTED]

Ref: 140/ExS/2/5/3

Constituency Office: 113 Leigh Road, Eastleigh, Hampshire SO50 9DS
Tel: 023 8062 0007 Fax: 023 8061 8245

6 MAR 2002

Friday 1st March 2002

[REDACTED]
Netley Abbey.
Southampton.[REDACTED]
Tel [REDACTED]

email [REDACTED]

Dear David:

Requesting your assistance..which is a "general" one..and reiterating my thanks for your invaluable assistance over the past years (!) I enclose a letter which will probably be self explanatory.

I chose this method of communication instead of The Lord Hill=Norton's advice.

The questions on those Southampton Water incidents you will recall..you got as far as Dr Lewis Moonie who denied all incidents including the lack of knowledge of the Spotter `plane if you recall. The incidents...both similar during 1999 and 2000..resulted in an admission in 2002 that the police spotter `plane WAS in fact in the disputed area at the confirmed time although no object was seen on either occasion apart from the police suggestion it might have been the planet Jupiter on one such!

The videos showed otherwise..police spotter `planes do not encircle Jupiter TWICE neither does the planet move up and down river and vanish as the `plane neared it on one occasion!

However, on November 9th 2001 I posted the video of all events..which included a sighting over Portsdown Hill too of a lighted object which reversed direction instantaneously before regaining its forward motion...as I said, the video
→ went to Lord Ingram at the MOD over three months ago for evaluation and after my recent request was returned to me two weeks ago although no letter accompanied it.

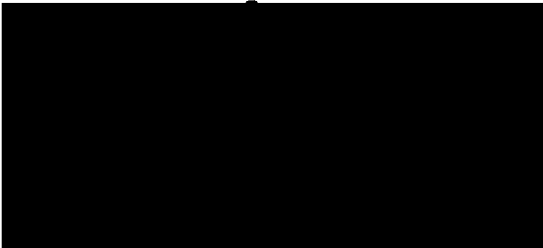
Thus I am doing as Lord Hill-Norton suggested and asking if you will ask Lord Ingram as to any reason why I have not had an explanation of ANY KIND while Lord Hill-Norton is intending to back this up.

Events far too complicated for this communication are still going on in increasing form here...my book is again at a publishers...

Trust all is going very well for you and the Party..we badly NEED someone we havent as yet given a chance to..the current

lot are in a mass of confusion. evasion. incompetence..let
alone lies! But then, I didnt expect anything different.

Yours Sincerely,



Admiral of the Fleet The Lord Hill-Norton G.C.B.

Fordingbridge (01425) 652392

**CASS COTTAGE,
HYDE,
FORDINGBRIDGE,
HAMPSHIRE SP6 2QH**

[REDACTED]
Netley Abbey
Southampton [REDACTED]

13th February 2002

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your letter, and the various enclosures, which I have read with interest.

I think your letter to Ingram is just about right. If you have not heard from him by the end of February ring up your MP and tell him to get you a reply. At the same time let me know and I will have a go from the other flank. There is a clear obligation, given to me so far as I remember, in writing, that he would view your video – and one must suppose, tell you (and me) what he and his people make of it.

I have not yet had time to read the cuttings, and I am just off for a fortnight's holiday, so they must wait.

For the same reason I am asking my secretary to sign this for me.

With my good wishes

[REDACTED]
Signed on behalf of
Lord Hill-Norton

3

REGISTERED FILE No. Enclosure Jacket No ...2..... DATE OPENED (Date of First Enclosure) 		DIVISION / DIRECTORATE / BRANCH:	
SUBJECT: US 1701 / 02 DAVID HINCHCLIFFE			
Referred to	Date	Referred to	Date

USER NOTES

- 1. A MOD Form 262A (File Record Sheet) must be raised for each new Temporary Enclosure Jacket (TEJ) created. The TEJ should also include a minute sheet.
- 2. When a TEJ is incorporated into the parent file it should be placed in the file in date order (according to the date of the last action on the TEJ) and allocated an enclosure number.
- 3. The file minute sheet should be annotated to record the enclosure number of the TEJ along with details of the number of enclosures contained within it. The TEJ record sheet (MOD Form 262A) should be annotated to record the date on which the TEJ was incorporated into the parent file (JSP 441, paragraph 4.13 refers).

See E3 for draft



PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE FOR DEFENCE
AND MINISTER FOR VETERANS AFFAIRS

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
OLD WAR OFFICE BUILDING
WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2EU

Telephone [redacted] (Direct Dialling)
[redacted] (Fax)
(020) 7218 9000 (Switchboard)

D/US of S/LM 1701/02/P

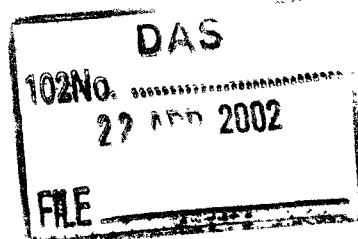
16 April 2002

Dear David

Thank you for your letter of 25 March (reference: DH/MH) enclosing one from your constituent, [redacted] of [redacted] Wakefield, about 'Unidentified Flying Objects' and an organisation known as the 'Disclosure Project'.

It may be helpful if I explain that the Ministry of Defence examines any reports of 'UFO' sightings solely to establish whether what was seen might have some defence significance. My Department's only concern is to establish whether there is any evidence that the United Kingdom's airspace might have been compromised by hostile or unauthorised air activity. 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, and the MOD remains vigilant for any potential threat. Unless there is evidence of a potential threat to the United Kingdom from an external military source, and to date no 'UFO' reported to us has revealed such a threat, we do not attempt to identify the precise nature of each sighting. 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.

David Hinchliffe Esq MP



Private Office



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE



With regard to [REDACTED] comments about the Disclosure Project and his request for "secrecy-free hearings" you may wish to assure him that we are aware that many people have claimed to have experienced various phenomena. However anyone, whether they are a member of the public or in the Armed Forces, is able to report a sighting to the Ministry of Defence and their report will be examined in light of our defence interest as detailed above. There is, therefore, no need to hold hearings so that witnesses can testify as to their experiences.

[REDACTED] also asked for public disclosure of information concerning "new energy and propulsion technologies that could replace our need for foreign oil and eliminate much of the pollution in the world". To date the MOD knows of no evidence which substantiates the existence of these alleged phenomena and I am, therefore, unable to comment further on his request.

Finally, I should add that my Department has no expertise or role in respect of either 'UFO/flying saucer' matters, or the question of the existence or otherwise of extraterrestrial lifeforms, about which it remains totally open-minded. We are, however, satisfied that the procedures we have in place for dealing with reported sightings are sufficient for our defence needs and there are no plans to change them.

Best wishes



DR LEWIS MOONIE MP



From: PARLIAMENTARY TYPIST3 on behalf of Ministerial Correspondence
To: DAS-LA-Ops+Pol1a
Sent: 15 April 2002 10:14
Subject: Read: MC 1701/2002

Your message

To: Ministerial Correspondence
Subject: MC 1701/2002
Sent: 15/04/02 10:03

was read on 15/04/02 10:14. / hard copy also sent on 10/04

LOOSE MINUTE

D/DAS/64/4

9 April 2002

Ministerial Correspondence Unit

(through DAS AD [redacted] n 40)

214

MINISTERIAL CORRESPONDENCE – US 1701/2002– DAVID HINCHLIFFE MP

1. So far as we are aware, this constituent has not contacted the MOD before concerning 'UFO' matters and he will not therefore be aware that the MOD's only interest in reported 'UFO' sightings is whether there is any evidence of a breach of UK airspace by hostile or unauthorised air activity.
2. The Disclosure Project is a US-based group that has, since 1993, been gathering statements, video and tape recordings from people who claim to have seen or been involved with extraterrestrial lifeforms. Many of these 'witnesses' are said to be military or ex-military servicemen/women and government officials. The Disclosure Project urge the US Congress and the leaders of other countries to hold hearings so that these people can testify under oath as to their experiences. They also believe that the US, UK and other governments hold information about advanced energy and propulsion technologies produced by extraterrestrial lifeforms, which is withheld from the public.
3. I enclose a draft reply for US of S to send to David Hinchliffe MP in response to his letter of 25 March, enclosing a letter from his constituent, [redacted]



[redacted]
DAS (LA)Ops&Pol1
MT6/73 [redacted]

Drafted by:
Authorised by:

[redacted]
DAS(LA)Ops&Pol1
DAS AD (LA)

DRAFT REPLY TO DAVID HINCHCLIFFE MP

Thank you for your letter of 25 March, enclosing a letter from your constituent, [REDACTED] of [REDACTED] Wakefield, concerning 'Unidentified Flying Objects' and an organisation known as the 'Disclosure Project'. I am replying as this matter falls within my area of responsibility.

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

With regard to [REDACTED] comments about the Disclosure Project and his request for "secrecy-free hearings" you may wish to assure him that we are aware that many people have claimed to have experienced various phenomena. However, anyone, whether they are a member of the public or in the Armed Forces is able to report a

sighting to the Ministry of Defence and their report will be examined in light of our defence interest as detailed above. There is, therefore, no need to hold hearings so that witnesses can testify as to their experiences.

██████████ also asked for public disclosure of information concerning “new energy and propulsion technologies that could replace our need for foreign oil and eliminate much of the pollution in the world” . To date the MOD knows of no evidence which substantiates the existence of these alleged phenomena and I am, therefore, unable to comment further on his request.

Finally, I should add that my Department has no expertise or role in respect of either 'UFO/flying saucer' matters, or the question of the existence or otherwise of extraterrestrial lifeforms, about which it remains totally open-minded. We are, however, satisfied that the procedures we have in place for dealing with reported sightings are sufficient for our defence needs and there are no plans to change them.

DR LEWIS MOONIE MP

David Hinchliffe MP

**** TO BE GIVEN PRIORITY AT ALL TIMES ******MINISTERIAL CORRESPONDENCE****FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION****IMPORTANT - YOU MUST READ THIS GUIDANCE**TO: DAS LA P&PMC REF NUMBER: 1701 /2002

Copy to:

MINISTER REPLYING: US&SDRAFT REQUIRED BY: 11 /04/2002DATE: 02/04/2002

FROM: [REDACTED] Ministerial Correspondence Unit

Room 222WH

TEL: [REDACTED]

FAX: [REDACTED]

YOU WILL BE HELD ACCOUNTABLE FOR THE DRAFT ANSWER AND ADVICE,
WHICH MUST BE ACCURATE AND NOT MISLEADING IN ANY WAY.

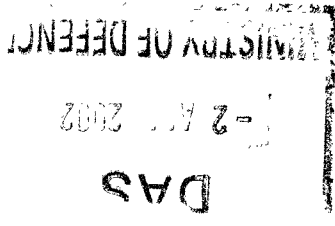
ENSURE THE DEADLINE IS MET: THE DEPARTMENT IS CURRENTLY COMMITTED
TO ANSWERING 90% OF ITS MINISTERIAL CORRESPONDENCE WITHIN 15
WORKING DAYS. OUR PERFORMANCE IS REPORTED TO PARLIAMENT EACH
YEAR.

A **NAMED** OFFICIAL AT PAY BAND B2 LEVEL OR ABOVE MUST CLEAR ALL
DRAFTS. OTHER GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS OR MOD DIVISIONS SHOULD BE
CONSULTED AS NECESSARY.

**E-MAIL DRAFTS TO 'MINISTERIAL CORRESPONDENCE',
NOT TO PE CLERKS OR PRIVATE OFFICES.**

(Please ensure sensitivity of your email message is 'Normal'.)

IF THIS CORRESPONDENCE SHOULD BE DEALT WITH BY ANOTHER BRANCH,
PLEASE PASS IT ON AND INFORM US IMMEDIATELY.

Number of pages sent by fax: 5**** TO BE GIVEN PRIORITY AT ALL TIMES ****

INVENTOR IN PROGRESS

**** TO BE GIVEN PRIORITY AT ALL TIMES ******** TO BE GIVEN PRIORITY AT ALL TIMES ****

** TO BE GIVEN PRIORITY AT ALL TIMES **

- *Ministers place great importance on the content, style and speed of replies. Letters should be polite, informal, to the point and in clear, simple language. Avoid acronyms and MOD jargon. Always emphasise the positive aspects of Government policy. No background note is required unless essential to explain the line taken in the draft reply.*
- *If you are an agency, the Minister's office has directed that this letter should receive a Ministerial – not Chief Executive – reply.*
- *A response at official level on the same case should be held until the Minister has sent a full reply. Please discuss any questions about the substance of the drafts, or other policy aspects, direct with the relevant Private Office.*
- **INTERIM REPLIES:** If it is obvious that you will be unable to reply in full within the deadline, an interim MUST be provided. **REMEMBER:** a substantive interim reply covering the majority of the issues raised – or answering as fully as possible at that particular point in time (eg. grievance or redress cases) – will help the Department's performance statistics. If you cannot meet the deadline, you should provide a reply that apologises for the delay, sets out the action being taken to answer the letter, and advises when a substantive reply can be expected. You should aim to provide a substantive draft reply within a further 8 working days. Interim replies should be used infrequently, as every effort must be made to reply substantively to Ministerial Correspondence on time.
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- **OPENING AND CLOSING:** All Ministers prefer to start: "Thank you for your letter of ... (MP's ref if given) on behalf of/enclosing one from your constituent, Mr ... of ... about ..." If a Minister is replying on behalf of another, start: "Thank you for your letter of ... to the Prime Minister/Geoff Hoon/Adam Ingram/Willy Bach/Lewis Moonie on behalf etc" For Mr Ingram, add: "I am replying in view of my responsibility for ..." For Lord Bach, add: "I am responding because of my responsibility for this issue." (or, in the case of letters from fellow Peers: "I have been asked to respond.") For Dr Moonie, add: "I am replying as this matter falls within my area of responsibility." Choose an appropriate ending (except for Dr Moonie, who will add his own) - such as: "I hope this is helpful"; "I hope this explains the position/situation"; "I am sorry I cannot be more helpful"; or "I am sorry to send what I know will be a disappointing reply".
- **OPEN GOVERNMENT:** Replies MUST be drafted in accordance with the *Code of Practice on Access to Government Information*. It is set out in DCI 232/01. If you are recommending to a Minister that some or all information is withheld, the answer must specify the law or exemption in the Code under which it is being withheld - eg "I am withholding the information requested under exemption 1 of Part II of the *Code of Practice on Access to Government Information*." It is **NOT** acceptable to rely on past practice. Further information is available from DG Info on [REDACTED]

** TO BE GIVEN PRIORITY AT ALL TIMES **



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

** TO BE GIVEN PRIORITY AT ALL TIMES **

** TO BE GIVEN PRIORITY AT ALL TIMES **



RECEIVED

US OF S

DAVID HINCHLIFFE MP
Constituency Office
6 Rishworth Street, Wakefield WF1 3BY
Tel: 01924 290590
Fax 01924 290690

DH/MH

25 March 2002

Dr Lewis Moonie MP
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State
Ministry of Defence
Old War Office Building
Whitehall, London SW1A 2EU

RECEIVED BY
PARLIAMENTARY BRANCH
ON: 29/3/02
MINISTER RELAYING: US
KEYWORD(S): UFOs
LEAD BRANCH: DAS LA & P.
COPIED TO:
RELATED CASE:
CLERK:

Dear Lewis,

I have received the attached letter from my constituent, [REDACTED] of [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Wakefield with regard to UFOs and "extra terrestrial
intelligence".

I would be most grateful for your comments on the points raised in order that I may
respond to his concerns.

Yours sincerely,

David Hinchliffe MP

[REDACTED]
Wakefield
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]@hotmail.com

Mr David Hinchliffe
MP for Wakefield
House Of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

Monday 18 March 2002

Dear Mr David Hinchliffe,

I have learned that a nonprofit organization, The Disclosure Project (www.DisclosureProject.org) has identified over 450 military, intelligence and corporate contractor witnesses to UFO events and projects, as well as other evidence proving that UFOs and extraterrestrial intelligence are real.

The secrecy surrounding this subject has eroded our constitutional form of government, and illegal projects unsupervised by the American Congress, President, UK Prime Minister and Government continue to withhold from the public this important information. I have also learned that these projects have illegally classified and withheld from the public new energy and propulsion technologies that could replace our need for foreign oil, and eliminate much of the pollution in the world.

The tragic events of September 11, 2001 underscore the need to disclose this information so that the world may at last have a practical replacement for oil and the internal combustion engine. For too long, our mid-east and foreign policy has been driven by the need to secure an endless supply of cheap oil - and yet these rogue projects are withholding from us the very technologies that can realistically replace all fossil fuel use.

I am asking that you immediately instruct your staff to study this matter and that you call for open, secrecy-free hearings at which these highly decorated military and government witnesses may testify under oath. I know that a certain level of government secrecy is necessary, but the excessive, illegal secrecy associated with these 'black' budget projects is a threat to our way of life, our democracy and now to our national security. It is time for it to stop.

These witnesses can prove that these objects are real, that some are of extraterrestrial origin, and that the technologies related to their energy and propulsion systems are known but are withheld from a world sorely in need of their disclosure. The time has come to let the truth be known and it is your responsibility to the people to see that fair and open hearings are held on this important matter. So many hearings have taken place on so many matters less important than this - is it not time to let these heroes of our country tell the truth openly?

With so many bona fide top-secret witnesses, astronauts, government documents and other evidence in hand, a simple denial of the reality of this subject by the government, NASA or your office will no longer do. Please study this matter urgently and sponsor open hearings in the immediate future. To receive briefing materials on this matter, please contact the Disclosure Project office at 434-245-5006. <http://www.DisclosureProject.org>

Please try to follow up this matter as the future of us all and our children depends on the disclosure of 'proven' suppressed technologies to solve the energy crisis. 50 years ago it didn't matter. There was no global warming or drastic climatic changes. The oil industry was a profitable market and ripe for the picking. Now we know the mistakes were made and the damage has been done but it's not ethically correct to keep it quiet any longer. It's up to our generation to do something about it and let the people who know the truth come out and tell the world that there 'is' something we can do about it.

Thanks for your time.

Greatfully.

[REDACTED]

FAO the MP: If you'd rather receive email please drop us a line at mps@faxyourmp.com and we'll replace these faxes with emails. We will not publish your email address. Alternatively you may send a fax or leave a voicemail on 0845 334 2041. We'd also like to hear from you if we've got your fax number wrong, or if you are receiving abusive faxes. Thanks - The FaxYourMP.com Team

LOOSE MINUTE

D/DAS/64/4

April 2002

Ministerial Correspondence Unit

(through DAS AD (LA))

probably under a new Ministerial slip

MINISTERIAL CORRESPONDENCE – US 1897/2002 – DAVID CHIDGEY MP

1. [REDACTED] wrote sending the video to Min AF on 9 November 01. The tape was viewed and as it did not appear to indicate anything of defence significance it was returned directly to him. Subsequently [REDACTED] received two letters from officials, reference D/DAS/64/3, dated 8 and 20 March, informing him that the tape had been viewed and returned.
2. I enclose a draft reply for US of S, through Min AF's office, to send to David Chidgey MP in response to his letter of 30 March which enclosed a letter from his constituent, [REDACTED]

DAS (LA)Ops&Pol1
MT6/73 [REDACTED]

Drafted by: [REDACTED] DAS(LA)Ops&Pol1
Authorised by: [REDACTED] DAS AD (LA)

US 1897/2002

April 2002

DRAFT REPLY TO DAVID CHIDGEY MP

Thank you for your letter of 30 March, enclosing a letter from your constituent, [REDACTED] of [REDACTED] Netley Abbey, Southampton, [REDACTED] which concerns a video recording of unexplained lights over Southampton Water that he sent to the Ministry of Defence in November 2001. I am replying as this matter falls within my area of responsibility.

[REDACTED] has received two letters from officials indicating that the tape had been viewed and returned to him. The opinion was that it did not appear to contain anything of defence interest. I apologise that the tape was returned ^{without} ~~enclosed with a~~ ^{explanatory} ~~compliment slip rather than an accompanying letter.~~ [REDACTED] may wish to be aware that the area surrounding Southampton Water is under the Air Traffic Control of Southampton Airport and he might like to contact them for assistance with any further enquiries he has on this matter.

DR LEWIS MOONIE MP

David Chidgey MP

2

REGISTERED FILE No. Enclosure Jacket No1..... DATE OPENED (Date of First Enclosure) 		DIVISION / DIRECTORATE / BRANCH:	
SUBJECT: US 5389/2001 MR GREGORY BARKER MP			
Referred to	Date	Referred to	Date

USER NOTES

- 1. A MOD Form 262A (File Record Sheet) must be raised for each new Temporary Enclosure Jacket (TEJ) created. The TEJ should also include a minute sheet.
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PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE FOR DEFENCE
AND MINISTER FOR VETERANS' AFFAIRS

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
OLD WAR OFFICE BUILDING
WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2EU

Telephone [REDACTED] (Direct Dialling)
[REDACTED] (Fax)
(020) 7218 9000 (Switchboard)

n 40

D/US of S/LM 5389/01/Y

13 December 2001

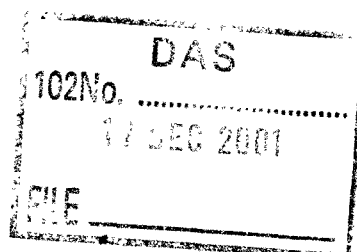
Dear Gregory

Thank you for your letter of 28 November enclosing one from your constituent, [REDACTED] of [REDACTED] Bexhill-on-Sea, who is enquiring as to whether a D notice has been issued concerning a 'UFO' sighting over the UK in the past five years.

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

With regard to [REDACTED] questions concerning D notices, I can inform you that the Defence Advisory Notice (formerly known as D Notice) system is a means of providing advice and guidance to the media about defence and counter-terrorist information, the publication of which would be damaging

Gregory Barker Esq MP



Private Office



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE



to national security. DA Notices are issued by the Defence Press and Broadcasting Advisory Committee (DPBAC), which is made up of senior civil servants, editors from national and regional newspapers, periodicals, news agencies, television and radio companies. If you or your constituent are interested in further information on the work of the DPBAC, they have a website at www.dnotice.org.uk. You may wish to advise [REDACTED] that the Secretary of the DPBAC has confirmed that no DA Notice about 'UFO' sightings over the UK has been issued in the past five years.

Best wishes



DR LEWIS MOONIE MP



LOOSE MINUTE

D/DAS/64/4

12 December 2001

Ministerial Correspondence Unit
(through DAS AD ([REDACTED]))

MINISTERIAL CORRESPONDENCE – US 5389/2001 – MR GREGORY BARKER MP

1. As far as we are aware, this constituent has not contacted the MOD before about 'UFOs' and he will not therefore be aware that the MOD's only interest in reported 'UFO' sightings is whether there is any evidence of a breach of UK airspace by hostile or unauthorised air activity. Unless there is such evidence we do not attempt to identify precisely what was seen. We believe that rational explanations such as aircraft lights or natural phenomena could be found for these sightings if resources were diverted for this purpose, but it is not the function of the MOD to provide an aerial identification service.

2. The constituent asks if a D Notice had been issued concerning a large 'UFO' seen over the UK. Defence Advisory Notices (formerly known as D Notices) are issued by the Defence Press and Broadcasting Advisory Committee (DPBAC) as a means of providing advice and guidance to the media about defence and counter-terrorist information, the publication of which would be damaging to national security. We have consulted the Secretary of the DPBAC who confirmed that no such notices in respect of 'UFO' sightings have been issued in the past 5 years.

3. I enclose a draft reply for US of S to send to Gregory Barker MP in response to his letter of 28 November, enclosing a letter from his constituent, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
DAS (LA)Ops+Pol 1
MT6/73 [REDACTED]

Drafted by: [REDACTED]
Authorised by: [REDACTED]

DAS(LA)Ops+Pol1
DAS AD(LA)

DRAFT REPLY TO MR GREGORY BARKER MP

Thank you for your letter of 28 November, enclosing a letter from your constituent,

[REDACTED] of [REDACTED] Bexhill-on-Sea, who is enquiring as to whether a D notice has been issued concerning a 'UFO' sighting over the UK in the past five years. I am replying as this matter falls within my area of responsibility.

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

With regard to [REDACTED] questions concerning D notices, I can inform you that the Defence Advisory Notice (formerly known as D Notice) system is

a means of providing advice and guidance to the media about defence and counter-terrorist information, the publication of which would be damaging to national security. DA Notices are issued by the Defence Press and Broadcasting Advisory Committee (DPBAC), which is made up of senior civil servants, editors from national and regional newspapers, periodicals, news agencies, television and radio companies.

If you or your constituent are interested in further information on the work of the DPBAC, they have a website at www.dnotice.org.uk. You may wish to advise

 that the Secretary of the DPBAC has confirmed that no DA Notice about 'UFO' sightings over the UK has been issued in the past five years.

DR LEWIS MOONIE MP

Gregory Barker MP

**** TO BE GIVEN PRIORITY AT ALL TIMES ****



MINISTERIAL CORRESPONDENCE

FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION

IMPORTANT - YOU MUST READ THIS GUIDANCE

TO: DAS(LA) P&P

MC REF NUMBER: US 5389 /2001

Copy to:

MINISTER REPLYING: USQFS

DRAFT REQUIRED BY: 12/12/2001

DATE: 03/12/2001

FROM: [REDACTED], Ministerial Correspondence Unit

Room 221WH

TEL: [REDACTED]

FAX: [REDACTED]

**YOU WILL BE HELD ACCOUNTABLE FOR THE DRAFT ANSWER AND ADVICE,
WHICH MUST BE ACCURATE AND NOT MISLEADING IN ANY WAY.**

**ENSURE THE DEADLINE IS MET: THE DEPARTMENT IS CURRENTLY COMMITTED
TO ANSWERING 90% OF ITS MINISTERIAL CORRESPONDENCE WITHIN 15
WORKING DAYS. OUR PERFORMANCE IS REPORTED TO PARLIAMENT EACH
YEAR.**

**A NAMED OFFICIAL AT PAY BAND B2 LEVEL OR ABOVE MUST CLEAR ALL
DRAFTS. OTHER GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS OR MOD DIVISIONS SHOULD BE
CONSULTED AS NECESSARY.**

**E-MAIL DRAFTS TO 'PARLIAMENTARY ENQUIRIES',
NOT TO PE CLERKS OR PRIVATE OFFICES.**

(Please ensure sensitivity of your email message is 'Normal'.)

**IF THIS CORRESPONDENCE SHOULD BE DEALT WITH BY ANOTHER BRANCH,
PLEASE PASS IT ON AND INFORM US IMMEDIATELY.**

Number of pages sent by fax: 4

**** TO BE GIVEN PRIORITY AT ALL TIMES ****

**** TO BE GIVEN PRIORITY AT ALL TIMES ****



** TO BE GIVEN PRIORITY AT ALL TIMES **

- Ministers place great importance on the content, style and speed of replies. Letters should be polite, informal, to the point and in clear, simple language. Avoid acronyms and MOD jargon. Always emphasise the positive aspects of Government policy. No background note is required unless essential to explain the line taken in the draft reply.
- If you are an agency, the Minister's office has directed that this letter should receive a Ministerial – not Chief Executive – reply.
- Action at official level on the same case should be held until the Minister has sent a full reply. Please discuss any questions about the substance of the drafts, or other policy aspects, direct with the relevant Private Office.
- **INTERIM REPLIES:** If it is obvious that you will be unable to reply in full within the deadline, an interim **MUST** be provided. **REMEMBER:** a substantive interim reply covering the majority of the issues raised – or answering as fully as possible at that particular point in time (eg. grievance or redress cases) – will help the Department's performance statistics. If you cannot meet the deadline, you should provide a reply that apologises for the delay, sets out the action being taken to answer the letter, and advises when a substantive reply can be expected. You should aim to provide a substantive draft reply within a further 8 working days. Interim replies should be used infrequently, as every effort must be made to reply substantively to Ministerial Correspondence on time.
- **LAYOUT:** Draft replies should be double-spaced. All should be in font size 12 and, with the exception of USofS, in Arial font (for USofS, use Courier). Always include the full reference number at the top left of the draft. Put the MP's full title at the bottom left of the first page.
- **MINISTER RESPONDING:** SofS will usually reply to Cabinet colleagues, Privy Councillors (the Rt Hon) and Opposition Defence spokesmen, unless they have written direct to a junior Minister. Correspondence from other MPs, MEPs and Peers will generally be handled by a junior Minister with the relevant policy responsibility.
- **OPENING AND CLOSING:** All Ministers prefer to start: "Thank you for your letter of ... (MP's ref if given) on behalf of/enclosing one from your constituent, Mr ... of ... about ..."
If a Minister is replying on behalf of another, start: "Thank you for your letter of ... to the Prime Minister/Geoff Hoon/Adam Ingram/Willy Bach/Lewis Moonie on behalf etc"
For Mr Ingram, add: "I am replying in view of my responsibility for ..."
For Lord Bach, add: "I am responding because of my responsibility for this issue." (or, in the case of letters from fellow Peers: "I have been asked to respond.")
For Dr Moonie, add: "I am replying as this matter falls within my area of responsibility."
Choose an appropriate ending (except for Dr Moonie, who will add his own) - such as:
"I hope this is helpful"; "I hope this explains the position/situation"; "I am sorry I cannot be more helpful"; or "I am sorry to send what I know will be a disappointing reply".
- **OPEN GOVERNMENT:** Replies **MUST** be drafted in accordance with the *Code of Practice on Access to Government Information*. It is set out in DCI 223/99. If you are recommending to a Minister that some or all information is withheld, the answer must specify the law or exemption in the Code under which it is being withheld - eg "I am withholding the information requested under exemption 1 of Part II of the Code of Practice on Access to Government Information." It is **NOT** acceptable to rely on past practice. Further information is available from DG Info on [REDACTED]

** TO BE GIVEN PRIORITY AT ALL TIMES **

** TO BE GIVEN PRIORITY AT ALL TIMES **



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

GREGORY BARKER, M.P.

RECEIVED

30 NOV 2001

US OF S



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

Dr Lewis Moonie MP
Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State
And Minister for Veterans
Ministry of Defence
Old War Office Building
Whitehall
London SW1A 2EU

28 November 2001

Dear Lewis,

I enclose a letter dated 1 November from [REDACTED]
of [REDACTED] Bexhill-on-Sea concerning the appearance of a
large U.F.O. over the UK.

I would be grateful for your comments on the points raised.

Yours sincerely,

BY
PARLIAMENTARY BRANCH
REF: 301601.
MINISTER REPLYING: USofS
KEYWORD(S): UFOs
LEAD BRANCH: DAS(LA)POP
COPIED TO:
RELATED CASE:
CLERK: [REDACTED]

Bexhill-on-Sea, East Sussex

Tel:

1.11.01

Dear Sir

I would be grateful if you could shed some light on a question which has recently cropped up.

A friend of mine, who is an intelligent & diligent U.F.O. researcher (sounds mad, but he isn't) has ascertained that in the past 5 years the government has issued a D notice concerning the appearance of a large & menacing U.F.O. over the U.K.

If this is true, then it gives grounds for some serious thought & concern: if untrue, then it would be a good idea to scotch the U.F.Ologists' rumour machine.

As a former RAF officer (and aware of) that we have one or two military establishments dedicated to U.F.O intelligence & b) that it would be quite useless to enquire about D notices, etc, from the MoD, as a mere civilian.

I am therefore asking for your help over this. How does one discover what D notices have been issued, when? And in particular has one been issued on this subject in the past 5 years?

Sorry to burden you with this

Sincerely



DAS-LA-Ops+Pol1

From: PARLIAMENTARY TYPIST1 on behalf of PARLIAMENTARY ENQUIRIES
To: DAS-LA-Ops+Pol1
Sent: 12 December 2001 11:42
Subject: Read: DRAFT REPLY TO PE

Your message

To: PARLIAMENTARY ENQUIRIES
Subject: DRAFT REPLY TO PE
Sent: 12/12/01 11:46

was read on 12/12/01 11:42.

THE D-NOTICE SYSTEM
NOW DEFENCE ADVISORY NOTICES (DA-NOTICES)
ISSUED BY
The Defence, Press and Broadcasting Advisory Committee
(DPBAC)

DA-Notices

The System

Committee

***DA-Notice
Secretary***

FAQs

***History of
D-Notice***

Agenda

Records

***Articles &
Speeches***

Source: [REDACTED] Room 704, Metropole Building [REDACTED]

Published on MODWeb: 03 October, 2001

DA-NOTICES

[FAQs](#)[Agenda](#)[Records](#)[History of D-Notice](#)[Articles & Speeches](#)[Home Page](#)[DA-Notices](#)[DA-Notice Secretary](#)[Committee](#)[The System](#)

INTRODUCTION & STANDING DA-NOTICES

[General Introduction to DA-Notices](#)[DA-Notices: Covering Note](#)[Standing DA-Notices](#)

Last Updated : 24th May 200

General Introduction to DA-Notices

1. Public discussion of the United Kingdom's defence and counter-terrorist policy and overall strategy does not impose a threat to national security and is welcomed by Government. It is important however that such discussion should not disclose details which could damage national security. The DA-Notice System is a means of providing advice and guidance to the media about defence and counter-terrorist information the publication of which would be damaging to national security. The system is voluntary, it has no legal authority and the final responsibility for deciding whether or not to publish rests solely with the editor or publisher concerned.
2. DA-Notices are issued by the Defence, Press and Broadcasting Advisory Committee (DPBAC), an advisory body composed of senior civil servants and editors from national and regional newspapers, periodicals, news agencies, television and radio. It operates on the shared belief that there is a continuing need for a system of guidance and advice such as the DA-Notice System, and that a voluntary, advisory basis is best for such a system.
3. When these notices were first published under their new title of Defence Advisory Notices in 1993, they reflected the changed circumstances following the break-up of the Soviet Union and the Warsaw Pact. The 2000 revision has allowed an overall reduction of the scope of the notices while retaining those parts that are appropriate for the current level of threat that involves grave danger to the State and/or individuals. Compliance with the DA-Notice system does not relieve the editor of responsibilities under the Official Secrets Act.
4. The Secretary DPBAC (the DA-Notice Secretary) is the servant of the Government and the Press and Broadcasting sides of the Committee. He is available at all times to Government departments and the media to give advice on the system and, after consultation with Government departments as appropriate, to help in assessing the relevance of a DA-Notice to particular circumstances. Within this system, all discussions with editors, publishers and programme makers are conducted in confidence.

DA-Notices: Covering Note

1. These DA-Notices are issued by the Defence, Press and Broadcasting Advisory Committee. Any questions about the DA-Notices, their application or interpretation should be addressed to the Secretary, Defence, Press and Broadcasting Advisory Committee, (the "DA-Notice Secretary"). He is available at any time and details of how to contact him are given on the [DA-Notice Secretary](#) page.
2. The revised DA-Notices replace those which were issued in 1993, and are unclassified. They are addressed to editors, producers, publishers and officials, and additional copies are freely available from the Secretary if holders wish to circulate them more widely within their own organisations.
3. Copies will be made available on request to other organisations and individuals.

Standing DA-Notices

The 5 standing DA-Notices are as follows. Click the relevant button to see each DA-Notice:

	Subject of DA-Notice
DA-Notice No.1	<i>Military Operations, Plans and Capabilities</i>
DA-Notice No.2	<i>Nuclear and Non-Nuclear Weapons and Equipment</i>
DA-Notice No.3	<i>Ciphers and Secure Communications</i>
DA-Notice No.4	<i>Sensitive Installations and Home Addresses</i>
DA-Notice No.5	<i>United Kingdom Security and Intelligence Services and Special Forces</i>

[General Introduction to DA-Notices](#)

[DA-Notices: Covering Note](#)

[Standing DA-Notices](#)

[↑ RETURN TO TOP OF PAGE ↑](#)

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DAS-LA-Ops+Pol1

To: DPBAC-DEPSEC
Subject: DA Notices

This office is the focal point within the MOD for correspondence from the public regarding 'unidentified flying objects'. We have received some Ministerial Correspondence from a member of the public who has been told that in the past five years the government has issued a DA Notice concerning the appearance of a "large and menacing UFO over the UK". The MP has asked US of S to comment.

The MOD has only a limited interest in UFO sightings, namely whether they produce any evidence that UK airspace has been compromised by hostile or unauthorised military air activity and we have never made any secret of that fact. I can not see why there would be a DA Notice issued about this, but I would be grateful if you could confirm whether any notice concerning 'UFOs' has been issued in the last five years.

I would be grateful for a reply as soon as possible because the Ministerial Correspondence Unit require a draft reply by 12 December.

Thank you for your assistance.

[REDACTED]
DAS(LA)Ops+Pol 1
MT6/73 [REDACTED]

*DPBAC confirm there have been no DA Notices issued
concerning UFO's. 11/12/2001 [REDACTED]*