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the national archives

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Registered File Disposal Form

MOD Form 262F

(Revised 9/01)

FILE TITLE: (Main Heading - Secondary Heading - Tertiary Heading etc) UFO Policy 2009	Reference: (Prefix and Number): HQA-K6321 CS-24F Bus sec/UFO Part: One Policy
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PROTECTIVE MARKING (including caveats & descriptors): Unclassified
--

Date of last enclosure: 19/01/10	Date closed: 19/01/10
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PART 1. DISPOSAL SCHEDULE RECOMMENDATION (To be completed when the file is closed) Destroy after _____ years ☐ Forward to INFO(EXP)-R after <u>1</u> years ☒ No recommendation ☐	FOR DEFENCE INFO(EXP)-R USE ONLY <table style="width: 100%; margin-top: 10px;"> <tr> <td style="border: 1px solid black; height: 40px; width: 33%;"></td> <td style="border: 1px solid black; height: 40px; width: 33%;"></td> <td style="border: 1px solid black; height: 40px; width: 33%;"></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center; font-size: 0.8em;">Date of 1st review</td> <td style="text-align: center; font-size: 0.8em;">Date of 2nd review</td> <td style="text-align: center; font-size: 0.8em;">Forward Destruction Date</td> </tr> </table> Reviewer's Reviewer's				Date of 1st review	Date of 2nd review	Forward Destruction Date
Date of 1st review	Date of 2nd review	Forward Destruction Date					

PART 2. BRANCH REVIEW (To be fully completed at time of file closure) (Delete as appropriate)	
a. Of no further administrative value and not worthy of permanent preservation. DESTROY IMMEDIATELY (Remember that TOP SECRET and Codeword material cannot be destroyed locally and must be forwarded to INFO(EXP)-R. ☐	
b. (i) To be retained until the end of the year <u>2010</u> for the following reason(s): For permanent preservation	
LEGAL ☒ CONTRACTUAL ☐ FINANCE/AUDIT ☐ DIRECTORATE POLICY ☒	DEFENCE POLICY + OPERATIONS ☒ ORIGINAL COMMITTEE PAPERS ☐ MAJOR EQUIPMENT PROJECT ☐ [_____] OTHER (Specify) ☐

(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: C1

Date: 25 NOV 10

Branch Title and Full Address:

Bush Sec
HQ Air Comd
RAF High Wycombe
Bucks

Tel No:

HQ14 441E

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)

Spitfire Block
Royal Air Force
High Wycombe
Buckinghamshire
HP14 4UE

Tel: Section 40

Head of Policing Policy and Operational Directorate
Home Office
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF

Our Ref:
Air/CmdSec/BusSec/UFO/Policy

19 January 2010

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to inform you of a change in the Ministry of Defence's (MOD) policy on the handling of UFO sighting reports.

Previously any UFO sighting reports received by local police forces would be forwarded to the MOD for action. Please be aware that with effect from the 1st December 2009 the MOD will no longer respond to, or investigate, any received UFO sighting reports. I would ask that any reports received by the Home Office or local police forces are not forwarded to the MOD and that members of the public who make such reports are not encouraged to believe an MOD investigation will take place.

I would be grateful if you could cascade this change in MOD policy to local police forces. A statement of the MOD's new UFO policy has been placed on the MOD's website, a copy is attached for your information.

Yours faithfully,

Section 40



INVESTORS IN PEOPLE



STATEMENT OF MOD POLICY ON UFO SIGHTINGS

The MOD has no opinion on the existence or otherwise of extra-terrestrial life. However, in over fifty years, no UFO report has revealed any evidence of a potential threat to the United Kingdom.

The MOD has no specific capability for identifying the nature of such sightings. There is no Defence benefit in such investigation and it would be an inappropriate use of defence resources. Furthermore, responding to reported UFO sightings diverts MOD resources from tasks that are relevant to Defence.

Accordingly, and in order to make best use of Defence resources, we have decided that from the 1 December 2009 the dedicated UFO hotline answer-phone service and e-mail address will be withdrawn. MOD will no longer respond to reported UFO sightings or investigate them. The ongoing programme to release Departmental files on UFO matters to the National Archive will continue.



INVESTORS IN PEOPLE





Section 40

HEADQUARTERS AIR COMMAND
Head of RAF Business Secretariat



Spitfire Block
Royal Air Force
High Wycombe
Buckinghamshire
HP14 4UE

Tel: Section 40

Head of Aviation Directorate
Great Minster House
76 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DR

Our Ref:
Air/CmdSec/BusSec/UFO/Policy

19 January 2010

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to inform you of a change in the Ministry of Defence's (MOD) policy on the handling of UFO sighting reports.

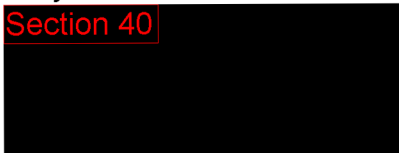
Previously any UFO sighting reports received by air traffic control centres would be forwarded to the MOD for action. Please be aware that with effect from the 1st December 2009 the MOD will no longer respond to, or investigate, any received UFO sighting reports. I would ask that any reports received by the Department of Transport or air traffic control centre are not forwarded to the MOD and that members of the public who make such reports are not encouraged to believe an MOD investigation will take place.

I would be grateful if you could cascade this change in MOD policy to NATS Plc. A statement of the MOD's new UFO policy has been placed on the MOD's website, a copy is attached for your information.



Yours faithfully,

Section 40



INVESTORS IN PEOPLE

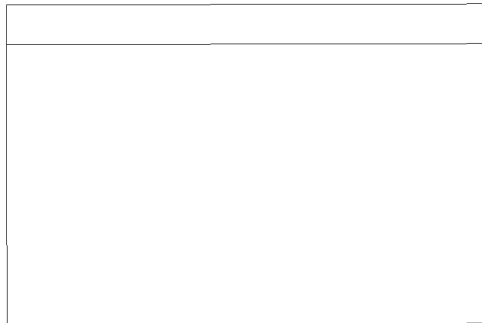


STATEMENT OF MOD POLICY ON UFO SIGHTINGS

The MOD has no opinion on the existence or otherwise of extra-terrestrial life. However, in over fifty years, no UFO report has revealed any evidence of a potential threat to the United Kingdom.

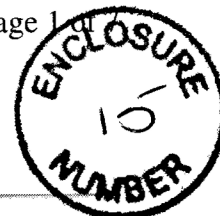
The MOD has no specific capability for identifying the nature of such sightings. There is no Defence benefit in such investigation and it would be an inappropriate use of defence resources. Furthermore, responding to reported UFO sightings diverts MOD resources from tasks that are relevant to Defence.

Accordingly, and in order to make best use of Defence resources, we have decided that from the 1 December 2009 the dedicated UFO hotline answer-phone service and e-mail address will be withdrawn. MOD will no longer respond to reported UFO sightings or investigate them. The ongoing programme to release Departmental files on UFO matters to the National Archive will continue.



INVESTORS IN PEOPLE





Air CmdSecCS-RAFBusSec2 [Section 40]

From: CIO-CI-ISG Internet Chief Ed [Section 40] on behalf of CIO-SvcsInternet-Office (MULTIUSER)
Sent: 01 December 2009 10:25
To: Air CmdSecCS-RAFBusSec2 [Section 40]
Cc: CIO-SvcsInternet-Office (MULTIUSER)
Subject: 20091201-UFO-closure-MOD-web-changes-U
Categories: [Section 40]

[Section 40]

The hotline number has been removed from the 2 pages below

Regards,

[Section 40]

From: Air CmdSecCS-RAFBusSec2 [Section 40]
Sent: 01 December 2009 10:09
To: CIO-SvcsInternet-Office (MULTIUSER)
Cc: CIO-CI-ISG Internet Chief Ed [Section 40]
Subject: RE: URGENT-RE: 20091126-Letter for publication on the MoD Web and Intranet-R

[Section 40]

Further to our recent e-mail exchanges, and one for slower time.....

After searching for UFO on the MOD web there are two pages that are showing the UFO hotline phone number. The two pages are listed below, could someone please just delete the entries on both pages. The hotline message has now been disabled to advise we will no longer accept messages, and these two pages are less likely to be viewed by the public.

<http://www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/FactSheets/DefenceInTheEastMidlands.htm>

<http://www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/FactSheets/DefenceInScotland.htm>

Apologies I hadn't spotted them before.

Regards

[Section 40]

Bus Sec 2
RAF Business Secretariat
Air Command
GPTN: [Section 40]
Tel: [Section 40]
Fax: [Section 40]

This e-mail and any files transmitted with it are confidential and intended solely for the use of the individual or entity to whom it is addressed. If you are not the intended recipient or there are problems please notify the sender and then delete the e-mail (and file(s) if attached) from your system. Recipients should note that e-mail traffic on MOD systems is subject to monitoring, recording and auditing to secure the effective operation of the system and for other lawful purposes. The MOD has taken steps to keep this e-mail and any attachments free from viruses. However it accepts no liability for any loss or damage howsoever caused as a result of any virus being passed on. It is the responsibility of the recipient to perform all necessary checks.

The statements expressed in this e-mail are personal and do not necessarily reflect the opinions or policies of the department.

14/01/2010

From: CIO-CI-ISG Internet Chief Ed [Section 40] **On Behalf Of** CIO-SvcsInternet-Office (MULTIUSER)
Sent: 01 December 2009 09:44
To: Air CmdSecCS-RAFBUSec2 [Section 40]
Cc: CIO-CI-AccessReview2 [Section 40]; CIO-CI-ISG Internet Ed 3 [Section 40]; CIO-CI-ISG Internet Support [Section 40]; CIO-CI-AccessOpsMgr [Section 40]; CIO-SvcsInternet-Office (MULTIUSER)
Subject: RE: URGENT-RE: 20091126-Letter for publication on the MoD Web and Intranet-R

[Section 40]

The page has now been updated:-

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

Regards,

[Section 40]

From: Air CmdSecCS-RAFBUSec2 [Section 40]
Sent: 30 November 2009 12:30
To: CIO-CI-AccessOpsMgr [Section 40]; CIO-SvcsInternet-Office (MULTIUSER)
Cc: CIO-CI-AccessReview2 [Section 40]; CIO-CI-ISG Internet Ed 3 [Section 40]; CIO-CI-ISG Internet Support [Section 40]; CIO-CI-ISG Internet Chief Ed [Section 40]
Subject: URGENT-RE: 20091126-Letter for publication on the MoD Web and Intranet-R
Importance: High

CIO office, many thanks for your help with this. Many apologies for the short notice. The submission was minister for a couple of weeks and only authorised this at the last moment to go ahead on 1st December. We have now had the text to be put on the web cleared and are sending to you for publication.

New text to be as follows (three paragraphs below refer):

The MOD has no opinion on the existence or otherwise of extra-terrestrial life. However, in over fifty years, no UFO report has revealed any evidence of a potential threat to the United Kingdom.

The MOD has no specific capability for identifying the nature of such sightings. There is no Defence benefit in such investigation and it would be an inappropriate use of defence resources. Furthermore, responding to reported UFO sightings diverts MOD resources from tasks that are relevant to Defence.

Accordingly, and in order to make best use of Defence resources, we have decided that from the 1 December 2009 the dedicated UFO hotline answer-phone service and e-mail address will be withdrawn. MOD will no longer respond to reported UFO sightings or investigate them. The ongoing programme to release Departmental files on UFO matters to the National Archive will continue.

Ideally first thing Tuesday 1st of December, but any time during the 1st that is doable would be much appreciated. We plan to re-record the hotline answerphone, and the multi user account tomorrow morning when we arrive, so a small delay on the web would not be too disastrous, as most enquiries come in during the evening (people don't spot UFOs during daylight hours it seems).

You can leave the link to UFO reports in the UK because that will remain. We will be adding 2009 stats up to Nov 30 in due course. So that page can stay.

14/01/2010

Regards

Section 40

Bus Sec 2
RAF Business Secretariat
Air Command
GPTN: Section 40
Tel:
Fax:

This e-mail and any files transmitted with it are confidential and intended solely for the use of the individual or entity to whom it is addressed. If you are not the intended recipient or there are problems please notify the sender and then delete the e-mail (and file(s) if attached) from your system. Recipients should note that e-mail traffic on MOD systems is subject to monitoring, recording and auditing to secure the effective operation of the system and for other lawful purposes. The MOD has taken steps to keep this e-mail and any attachments free from viruses. However it accepts no liability for any loss or damage howsoever caused as a result of any virus being passed on. It is the responsibility of the recipient to perform all necessary checks.

The statements expressed in this e-mail are personal and do not necessarily reflect the opinions or policies of the department.

From: CIO-CI-AccessOpsMgr Section 40
Sent: 30 November 2009 11:23
To: CIO-SvcsInternet-Office (MULTIUSER); Air CmdSecCS-RAFBUSSEC2 Section 40
Cc: CIO-CI-AccessReview2 Section 40; Air CmdSecCS-RAFBUSSEC DHd1 Section 40; CIO-CI-ISG Internet Ed 3 Section 40; CIO-CI-ISG Internet Support Section 40
Subject: RE: 20091126-Letter for publication on the MoD Web and Intranet-R

Section 40

Thank you for agreeing to help out. I very much appreciate it.

Section 40

I'm sorry that we couldn't help on this occasion. Section 40 has moved on to another job and no longer works for me, but has been helping out when possible. As you can see from her email below, she's on Jury Service for at least the next two weeks. However, her replacement, Section 40, will be starting next week, and will take on web editing responsibilities.

Regards

Section 40

Section 40

Freedom of Information Operations Manager

06.E. Section 40 Main Building, London
External: Section 40
DII email: CIO-CI-Access Ops Mgr
Tel: Section 40

Useful FOI links

1. Click [here](#) for Ministry of Justice Guidance on answering requests
2. Click [here](#) for FOI on the Defence Intranet
3. Click [here](#) for the MOD's external FOI site
4. Click [here](#) for the Access to Information Toolkit

From: CIO-CI-ISG Internet Chief Ed Section 40 **On Behalf Of** CIO-SvcsInternet-Office (MULTIUSER)
Sent: 27 November 2009 13:51

14/01/2010

To: Air CmdSecCS-RAFBUSec2 [Section 40]
Cc: CIO-CI-AccessReview2 [Section 40]; Air CmdSecCS-RAFBUSec DHd1 [Section 40]; CIO-CI-AccessOpsMgr [Section 40]; CIO-CI-ISG Internet Ed 3 [Section 40]; CIO-SvcsInternet-Office (MULTIUSER); CIO-CI-ISG Internet Support [Section 40]
Subject: RE: 20091126-Letter for publication on the MoD Web and Intranet-R
Importance: High

Dear [Section 40]

In order to assist, the Internet Team will be able to update the information the 'How to report a UFO sighting' page on this occasion:
<http://www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/FreedomOfInformation/PublicationScheme/SearchPublicationSc>

Please would you send the updated text, ideally 48 hours in advance, to our Internet Team Group mailbox email: CIO-SvcsInternet-Office (MULTIUSER). If there is a specific time in the day on the 1st of December that the updated page should 'go live' please include this in your instructions.

Please free to contact me if you have any queries.

Regards,

[Section 40]

From: Air CmdSecCS-RAFBUSec2 [Section 40]
Sent: 27 November 2009 13:33
To: CIO-CI-AccessOpsMgr [Section 40]; CIO-SvcsInternet-Office (MULTIUSER)
Cc: CIO-CI-AccessReview2 [Section 40]; Air CmdSecCS-RAFBUSec DHd1 [Section 40]; CIO-LibSvcs-Channel-Office (MULTIUSER)
Subject: RE: 20091126-Letter for publication on the MoD Web and Intranet-R
Importance: High

[Section 40]

Minister has agreed that the announcement will be made 1st December. This means we have to co-ordinate the release of the information via all routes on the same date for consistency. This means changing our answerphone message and disabling the message facility, blocking emails coming into our mail box, Internet and Intranet. If all other communication routes are stopping on that day, it will be no good if the MOD web is still advising the public to call the hotline and email requests in, and then finds they cannot contact anyone it looks very unprofessional.

I sympathise with your staff problems, but I cannot come up with a workable compromise at this stage. If we remove the address details today and advise an announcement is due on the 1st this is going to lay us open to problems with the public. The whole issue of removing this facility is likely to be extremely contentious among UFO groups and we are expecting considerable media interest and complaints initially.

If [Section 40] help I would be most grateful.

Regards

[Section 40]

14/01/2010

Bus Sec 2
 RAF Business Secretariat
 Air Command
 GPTN: [Section 40]
 Tel: [Section 40]
 Fax: [Section 40]

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The statements expressed in this e-mail are personal and do not necessarily reflect the opinions or policies of the department.

From: CIO-CI-AccessOpsMgr [Section 40]
Sent: 26 November 2009 19:29
To: CIO-SvcsInternet-Office (MULTIUSER); Air CmdSecCS-RAFBUSSEC2 [Section 40]
Cc: CIO-CI-AccessReview2 [Section 40]
Subject: FW: 20091126-Letter for publication on the MoD Web and Intranet-R

[Section 40]

Please see the advice below from my colleague [Section 40] is currently the only person here with editing permissions, so we wouldn't be able to update on the day you have planned, unless [Section 40] can help.

As [Section 40] says, I'd advise that you updated the pages to explain the change.

Regards

[Section 40]

[Section 40]

Freedom of Information Operations Manager

06.E. [Section 40] Main Building, London
 External: [Section 40]
 DII email: CIO-CI-Access Ops Mgr
 Tel: [Section 40]

Useful FOI links

1. Click [here](#) for Ministry of Justice Guidance on answering requests
2. Click [here](#) for FOI on the Defence Intranet
3. Click [here](#) for the MOD's external FOI site
4. Click [here](#) for the Access to Information Toolkit

From: [Section 40]
Sent: 26 November 2009 12:05
To: CIO-CI-AccessOpsMgr [Section 40]
Subject: Re: 20091126-Letter for publication on the MoD Web and Intranet-R

[Section 40]

As I will be on Jury Service, I don't think it will be possible for me to assist with this on 1 Dec 09. However, I would suggest that the page is updated to reflect the new status of the helpline rather than deleting it for now as we have a duty to advise members of the public (due to the high level of requests we receive) on why the helpline etc will no longer be available. [Section 40] may be able to expire the page or update it in my absence as required by Air Command.

14/01/2010

As the page is part of the Publication Scheme, the MOD PS Guide to Information at <http://www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/FreedomOfInformation/PublicationScheme> will also need to be updated to reflect the new status.

Thanks

Section 40

From: CIO-CI-ISG Internet Chief Ed Section 40 **On Behalf Of** CIO-SvcsInternet-Office (MULTIUSER)
Sent: 26 November 2009 11:28
To: CIO-CI-AccessOpsMgr Section 40
Cc: CIO-SvcsInternet-Office (MULTIUSER); CIO-CI-AccessReview2 Section 40; Air CmdSecCS-RAFBUSec2 Section 40; CIO-SvcsIntranet-office (MULTIUSER)
Subject: FW: 20091126-Letter for publication on the MoD Web and Intranet-R
Importance: High

Section 40

The web page referred to below is part of the FOI Publication scheme. Would you be able to assist Section 40 regarding the statement.

Please do feel to contact me if you need any queries regarding this request.

Regards,

Section 40

Section 40
 Chief Editor, MOD Corporate Internet
 Ministry of Defence
 Ground Floor, Zone B
 Main Building , Whitehall
 London
 SW1A 2HB

Tel: Section 40
 Mil:
 External email: Section 40
 Internal email: CIO-CI-ISGInternetChiefEd

From: Air CmdSecCS-RAFBUSec2 Section 40
Sent: 26 November 2009 11:11
To: CIO-SvcsInternet-Office (MULTIUSER); CIO-SvcsIntranet-office (MULTIUSER)
Cc: Air CmdSecCS-RAFBUSec2 Section 40
Subject: 20091126-Letter for publication on the MoD Web and Intranet-R
Importance: High

Air Command Bus Sec are in the process of preparing a statement for the MOD web and intranet to advise members of the public and MOD staff of the Ministers agreement to withdraw the UFO hotline and e-mail multi users account with effect from the 1st December. What is the latest that this can be submitted to you for publication as the notice needs to be published on the 1st December. The current page link below is the page which advises how to submit a request regarding reporting a UFO sighting, so this could either be re-worded to reflect the new situation, or page deleted and new one written. We can advise on change of wording for the whole page if required, as the title would have to change.

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

Grateful for any advice you can provide, and how you wish us to proceed.

14/01/2010

We need to get the notice cleared from this end, so may not be in a position to submit the paperwork until tomorrow or Monday 30th at the latest.

Regards

Section 40

Bus Sec 2

RAF Business Secretariat

Air Command

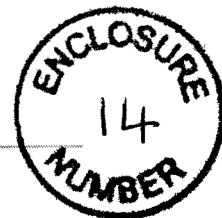
GPTN: Section 40

Tel:

Fax:

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The statements expressed in this e-mail are personal and do not necessarily reflect the opinions or policies of the department.



Air CmdSecCS-RAFBUSec Hd **Section 40**

From: Min(Veterans)-Private Office (MULTIUSER)
Sent: 25 November 2009 18:43
To: Air-CmdSec SO **Section 40**; Min(Veterans)-Private Office (MULTIUSER); DMC-News SO2 RAF **Section 40**
Cc: Air-CinC PSO **Section 40**; Air-DCinC Ops PSO **Section 40**; 1GP-AOC PSO **Section 40**; 2GP-AOC PSO **Section 40**; Air-CmdSec (Mantell, Carl Mr); Air CmdSecCS-DCmdSec CS (Kennedy, Martin Mr); Air CmdSecCS-M&C DACOS **Section 40**; Air CmdSecCS-RAFBUSec7 **Section 40**; Air CmdSecCS-RAFBUSec Hd **Section 40**; Min(DES)-Private Office (MULTIUSER); CAS-PS **Section 40**; ACAS-PSO **Section 40**; Min(AF)-PS **Section 40**; SoF-S-Private Office (MULTIUSER); Min(IDS)-Private Office (MULTIUSER); PUS-Private Office (MULTIUSER); VCDS-2nd PUS Group Mailbox (MULTIUSER); CDI-EA **Section 40**; DE-CE; DMC-News SO1 RAF **Section 40**
Subject: 20091125_MOD Policy Concerning UFO Reports-CNM 127 09-APS/Min(Vets) MST4.6.7.2_U
Attachments: 20091106-UFO MinSub Annex C-CNM 127.09-U.PDF; 20091111-MinSub-MOD Policy Concerning UFO Reports-CNM 127.09-U.doc

MST4.6.7.2

25/11/2009

Thank you for your submission of 11 Nov 2009. Min(Vets) has noted:

- a. In more than fifty years no UFO sighting reported to the Department has indicated the existence of any military threat to the UK;
- b. There is no Defence benefit in Air Command Secretariat recording, collating, analysing or investigating UFO sightings;
- c. The level of resources devoted to this task is increasing in response to a recent upsurge in reported sightings, diverting staff from more valuable Defence-related activities;
- d. The release of existing UFO files to the National Archive is nearing completion;

and agreed:

- e. The closure of the "UFO Hotline" answerphone service and associated e-mail address from 30 November 2009;
- f. That reported sightings received from other sources should be answered by a standard letter and, on the advice of Corporate Memory and The National Archive, should be retained for 30 days and then destroyed, largely removing any future FOI liability and negating the need to release future files post 30 November 2009;
- g. That all UFO files dated up until 30 November 2009

should be released to the National Archive one year from the date of closure.

Action:

Minister expects there to be a degree of media coverage and would be grateful if you could prepare a defensive news brief with DMC. This should include an indication of how much maintaining the current saving would cost including staff costs.

Many thanks

Section 40

Section 40

*Assistant Private Secretary to the
Minister for Veterans and Under-Secretary of State for Defence*

Desk 05.B. Section 40

Tel: Section 40

Internal: Section 40

Email: minVeterans-privateoffice@mod.uk

N.B. Please note that all formal submissions to this office should be directed to the 'MinVeterans-Private Office' account, rather than to personal accounts. The same principle applies to all other Ministers' offices. Please also ensure that e-mails containing submissions are entitled with the approved Head Office naming convention. This will enable us better to fulfil the Department's responsibilities on establishing a robust audit trail in the post-Streamlining environment.

From: Air-CmdSec SO Section 40

Sent: 11 November 2009 16:37

To: Min(Veterans)-Private Office (MULTIUSER)

Cc: Air-CinC PSO Section 40; Air-DCinC Ops PSO Section 40; 1GP-AOC PSO Section 40; 2GP-AOC PSO Section 40; Air-CmdSec (Mantell, Carl Mr); Air CmdSecCS-DCmdSec CS (Kennedy, Martin Mr); Air CmdSecCS-M&C DACOS Section 40; Air CmdSecCS-RAFBUSec7 Section 40; Air CmdSecCS-RAFBUSec Hd Section 40; Min(DES)-Private Office (MULTIUSER); CAS-PS Section 40; ACAS-PSO Section 40; Min(AF)-PS Section 40; SoFS-Private Office (MULTIUSER); Min(IDS)-Private Office (MULTIUSER); PUS-Private Office (MULTIUSER); VCDS-2nd PUS Group Mailbox (MULTIUSER); CDI-EA Section 40; DE-CE; DMC-News SO1 RAF Section 40

Section 40

Subject: 20091111-MinSub-MOD Policy Concerning UFO Reports-CNM 127 09-U

Please see the attached from Cmd Sec AIR.

Regards.

Section 40

Staff Officer to Cmd Sec,
Spitfire, Room 3S11,
Mil Tel: Section 40
Civ Tel:

14/01/2010

Mil Fax: Section 40

Civ Fax:

Role E-mail Address: Air-CmdSecSO@mod.uk

External/Personal E-mail Address: Section 40

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11 Nov 2009



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MOD POLICY CONCERNING UFO REPORTS



Issue

1. Reassessment of MOD Policy concerning UFO sighting reports in order to make best use of defence resources.

Recommendation

2. That the Minister **notes**:

- a. In more than fifty years no UFO sighting reported to the Department has indicated the existence of any military threat to the UK;
- b. There is no Defence benefit in Air Command Secretariat recording, collating, analysing or investigating UFO sightings;
- c. The level of resources devoted to this task is increasing in response to a recent upsurge in reported sightings, diverting staff from more valuable Defence-related activities;
- d. The release of existing UFO files to the National Archive is nearing completion;

and **agrees**:

- e. The closure of the "UFO Hotline" answerphone service and associated e-mail address from 30 November 2009;
- f. That reported sightings received from other sources should be answered by a standard letter and, on the advice of Corporate Memory and The National Archive, should be retained for 30 days and then destroyed, largely removing any future FOI liability and negating the need to release future files post 30 November 2009;

- g. That all UFO files dated up until 30 November 2009 should be released to the National Archive one year from the date of closure.

Timing

1. Routine. Subject to Ministerial agreement this policy will be implemented from 30 November 2009.

Background

2. Since the end of WW2, the MOD has had responsibility for UFO matters. This work is currently performed in the RAF Business Secretariat in Air Command, having been transferred from the Air Staff in Main Building earlier this year. The work comprises answering a range of correspondence from Parliament and the general public, including FOI requests and reports of UFO sightings left on a dedicated answerphone (the "UFO Hotline") and e-mail address. Where an address has been left on the hotline, a Treat Official response is provided, in line with current Departmental policy. Very occasionally, when a sighting is reported by a credible source, such as aircrew, air traffic controllers or police officers, the UFO desk investigates sightings in a little more depth. This involves air defence specialists reviewing radar records. The UFO desk also has responsibility, together with Defence Intelligence Staff, for the transfer of some 160 historical UFO files to the National Archives, as agreed by USofS in September 2007¹.

3. Over the last decade the MOD has received an average of some 150 reports of UFOs from members of the public each year. This year, the rate at which reports are being received has risen substantially and to date the total stands at over 520. Also, 97 FOI requests have been received since January. The increased workload caused by this upsurge in sighting reports is now exceeding the level of staff resource (1xBand D) allocated to the task and impacting on other tasks. However, no investigation of a UFO sighting has ever revealed anything to suggest an extra-terrestrial presence, or a military threat to the UK. Since UFO investigations and correspondence have no apparent defence value we have reviewed the continuing need for this work, rather than simply accept the risk it now presents to other public and Parliamentary business or seek to allocate additional resources to it.

4. This led to the conclusion that we should seek to reduce very significantly the UFO task, which is consuming increasing resource, but produces no valuable Defence output. In doing so we concluded:

- The dedicated UFO Hotline answerphone service and e-mail address serve no Defence purpose and merely encourage the generation of correspondence of no Defence value. Accordingly these facilities should be withdrawn as soon as possible, preferably by 30 November. At that point a statement would be placed on the MOD website, setting out the MOD's revised policy in relation to UFOs, a draft of which is included in the Newsbrief at Annex A. The "Hotline" answerphone would be set up to play a recording of the policy statement, but would no longer take messages;

¹ D/MSU/2/9/is dated 25 September 2007.

- Investigations into UFO sightings, even from more reliable sources, serve no useful purpose and merely divert air defence specialists from their primary tasks. Accordingly, no further investigations should be carried out into UFO reports received from any source. Any UFO reports received in future should be answered by a standard letter a draft of which is attached at Annex B and there should be no suggestion that they have been investigated by MOD. This does not apply to, or signify any change in, the standing arrangements for control and defence of UK airspace;
- There is advantage in extending the transfer of files to the National Archive to include all Air Command UFO files over one year old. This would minimise the volume of information held by the department and allow FOI requests to be dealt with under exemption s.22 (Information Intended for future publication). This practice should be adopted as soon as possible, following on from the current transfer of files, and should apply to all files opened before 30 November 2009;
- There is no Defence value in holding future UFO sighting reports from the public on MOD files. Corporate Memory, after discussions with the National Archive, have recommended a policy of destroying UFO sighting reports from the public after 30 days. This would mean that there would be no FOI liability and no requirement to release any further files to the National Archive, since the only filing generated would be copies of the standard response. A single generic copy of the standard letter would be placed on the MOD publication scheme.
- There is no merit in maintaining a dedicated UFO desk in Air Cmd, nor in adding to the staff resource allocated to the UFO task. The current UFO staff resource should be redeployed to other public and Parliamentary tasks as soon as possible. However, Air Command Bus Sec should continue to act as secretariat focal point and policy lead for UFO matters across MOD, as required, allocating this residual task within existing resources.

Other Nation's approaches

8. We have deliberately avoided formal approaches to other Governments on this issue. Such approaches would become public when the relevant UFO files are released and would be viewed by "ufologists" as evidence of international collaboration and conspiracy. However, a search of the US Department of Defence website shows that they publicly state that the issue of UFOs is no longer being investigated by the US Government. Relevant documentation was placed in the US National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) some time ago (Annex C). This is broadly in line with our proposed way forward. Public sources suggest that other Governments are taking a similar approach to ours, with the Canadian, French and Danish Governments publishing their historic UFO files in recent years.

Presentation

10. A decision to cease investigating UFO sightings will attract negative comment from "ufologists". They may, individually or as a group, mount a vociferous, but short-lived campaign to reinstate the "UFO Hotline" suggesting that, by not investigating UFOs,

MOD is failing its Defence commitments. It is possible that there will be a resulting short term increase in public and Parliamentary correspondence. The press interest is also likely to be high initially, but more frivolous in tone than critical.

11. MOD's public response will be to stress that:

- MOD has no opinion on the existence or otherwise of extra terrestrials;
- In more than fifty years, no UFO sighting reported to the Department has indicated the existence of any military threat to the UK
- We have a responsibility to use defence resources only for activities which contribute to the defence and security of the UK;
- No defence benefit arises from the receipt, of UFO sighting reports from the public and responding to it diverts MOD resources from tasks of relevance to defence;

12. A statement will be placed on the MOD website on 30 November confirming that the dedicated UFO Hotline answerphone and e-mail address have been withdrawn, MOD will no longer respond to reports of UFO sightingss and that not action will be taken in response to those we receive. Draft press lines are attached (Annex A).

{Signed on DII}

C N MANTELL
Cmd Sec AIR
Section 40

Annex A

DEFENSIVE NEWSBRIEF

DATE: October 2009

SUBJECT: MOD Policy Concerning UFO Reports.

SOURCE: **Section 40** Hd of Bus Sec Air Cmd, **Section 40**

Background



Despite receiving reports of UFOs since the end of WW2, the MOD has never had any evidence of extra terrestrial life, nor any threat to the UK. Investigating UFOs diverts resources away from core defence business.

As such, from 30 November 2009, the dedicated UFO hotline and e-mail address will be withdrawn. The statement below will be placed on the MOD website.

STATEMENT OF MOD POLICY ON UFO SIGHTINGS

MOD has no opinion on the existence or otherwise of extra-terrestrial life. However, in over fifty years, no UFO report has revealed any evidence of a potential threat to the United Kingdom.

MOD has no specific capability for identifying the nature of such sightings. There is no Defence benefit in such investigation and it would be an inappropriate use of defence resources. Furthermore, responding to reported UFO sightings diverts MOD resources from tasks that are relevant to Defence.

Accordingly, and in order to make best use of Defence resources, we have decided to withdraw the dedicated UFO hotline answer-phone service and e-mail address. MOD will no longer respond to reported UFO sightings or investigate them. The ongoing programme to release Departmental files on UFO matters to the National Archive will continue.

LTT

The MOD has decided to remove the dedicated answer-phone service for telephone reports of UFO sightings from 30 November 2009.

None of the thousands of UFO sightings reported over the years have ever provided substantiated proof of the existence of extra terrestrials. There is no Defence value in investigating UFO reports

It is important that the MOD directs its resources where they are needed most. Investigating and responding to UFO reports would divert MOD resources from tasks of relevance to Defence

The MOD does not carry out research into extra-terrestrial matters and does not provide an aerial identification service. It would realise no defence benefit and be an inappropriate use of defence resources if we were to do so

MOD has no interest in receiving reports of UFO sightings and will not be actioning the reports that we receive post November 2009.

The defence of the UK remains of the highest importance to the MOD and this statement implies no change to arrangements to defend our air space.

Q&A

Are our skies being left undefended?

There will be no change to current arrangements and air space integrity will be maintained through the existing mixture of civil and military radar and aircraft on quick reaction alert.

Why have you changed things now?

The MOD must ensure that it prioritises and targets resources where they are most needed. This decision is a response to the continuing need to achieve best value from defence resources

Does this mean the MOD will no longer deal with UFO matters?

MOD will continue to comply with its obligations under the FOI Act and the planned programme to release historic UFO files will continue.



XXXXX

**HEADQUARTERS AIR
COMMAND**

RAF Business
Secretariat
Room 2E03
Spitfire Block
Royal Air Force High
Wycombe
Buckinghamshire
HP14 4UE

XXXXXX

Our Ref: UFO Report

XXXXX

Dear XXXXX,

I am writing with reference to your report of an 'unidentified flying object'.

MOD has no opinion on the existence or otherwise of extra-terrestrial life. However, in over fifty years, no UFO report has revealed any evidence of a potential threat to the United Kingdom.

MOD has no specific capability for identifying the nature of such sightings. There is no Defence benefit in such investigation and it would be an inappropriate use of defence resources. Furthermore, responding to reported UFO sightings diverts MOD resources from tasks that are relevant to Defence.

Accordingly, in order to make best use of Defence resources, MOD will no longer respond to reported UFO sightings or investigate them. Additionally, we have decided to withdraw the dedicated UFO hotline answer-phone service and e-mail address. The ongoing programme to release Departmental files on UFO matters to the National Archive will continue.

I hope this is helpful.

XXXXX
RAF Bus Sec



Oct. 05, 2009

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Unidentified Flying Objects (UFOs)

This issue is no longer being investigated by the Defense Department. As you may know, the United States Air Force began investigating UFOs in 1948 under a program called Project Sign. Later the program's name was changed to Project Grudge, and in 1953 it was changed again to Project Blue Book. On December 17, 1969, the Secretary of the Air Force announced the termination of Project Blue Book.

The decision to discontinue UFO investigations was based on a number of factors, including reports and studies by the University of Colorado and the National Academy of Sciences, as well as past UFO studies and the Air Force's two decades of experience investigating UFO reports.

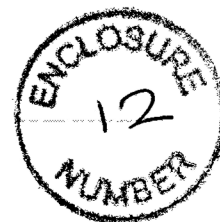
As a result of these investigations, studies, and experience, the conclusions of Project Blue Book were:

- No UFO reported, investigated, and evaluated by the Air Force has ever given any indication of threat to our national security.
- There has been no evidence submitted to or discovered by the Air Force that sightings categorized as "unidentified" represent technological developments or principles beyond the range of present-day scientific knowledge.
- There has been no evidence indicating that sightings categorized as "unidentified" are extraterrestrial vehicles.

Between 1948 and 1969 the Air Force investigated 12,618 reported UFO sightings. Of these, 11,917 were found to have been caused by material objects such as balloons, satellites, and aircraft; immaterial objects such as lightning, reflections, and other natural phenomena; astronomical objects such as stars, planets, the sun, and the moon; weather conditions; and hoaxes. Only 701 reported sightings remain unexplained.

All documentation regarding the former Blue Book investigation was permanently transferred to the Military Reference Branch, National Archives and Records Administration, 8th and Pennsylvania Avenue, Washington, DC 20408, and is available for public review. A list of private organizations interested in aerial phenomena can be found in Gale's Encyclopedia of Associations, available in the reference section of many libraries. [Air Force Fact Sheets](#) on this topic may be viewed, including one about the so-called [Roswell Incident](#). The Naval Historical Center has compiled a [bibliography](#).

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CmdSecCS-RAFBUSSEC13 Section 40

From: Air CmdSecCS-RAFBUSSEC13 Section 40

Sent: 15 September 2009 10:04

To: Section 40

Subject: Release-Authorised: 20090915-Release of UFO File Section 40 -U

Dear Section 40,

I am writing to inform you that later this year the Ministry of Defence will be transferring a file containing letters to and from you on the subject of UFOs, to The National Archives. This is part of an ongoing three year programme to transfer some 160 UFO related files covering the period from the late 1970's to 2007. The programme has been widely reported and it is possible you have seen coverage of it on national television news. Once in The National Archives, the file will be accessible to the general public and the media.

The files are prepared for release using Freedom of Information Act principles and because you wrote to us in your official capacity as an elected councillor, and therefore a public figure, your name and work address will be released to the wider public. It is therefore possible that your letters will attract attention from the public and the press, although I do not believe the file contains anything controversial.

If you would like to see a copy of the file, or have any questions, please let me know. The date of the release has not yet been decided, but I will write to you to let you know when it is scheduled.

Section 40

RAF Bus Sec 13
Room 2E03
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ufodesk@mod.uk

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15/09/2009



Air CmdSecCS-RAFBUSSEC13 Section 40

From: Air CmdSecCS-RAFBUSSEC13 Section 40
Sent: 19 August 2009 09:11
To: CIO-CI-AccessOps2 Section 40
Subject: RENDLESHAM AND COSFORD INCIDENTS

Section 40

The MoD files on both these incidents are now available for viewing at the National Archives website. Can you change the entries on the MoD website to read:

The Ministry of Defence file on the Rendlesham Forest Incident is now available for viewing by the general public on The National Archives website at www.nationalarchives.gov.uk. under file reference DEFE 24/1948.

The full Ministry of Defence file on the Cosford Incident is now available for viewing by the general public on The National Archives website at www.nationalarchives.gov.uk. under file reference DEFE 24/2086.

It's quite short and sweet as I don't want to encourage people to contact us regarding these files.

Can you do a double check on the date that the Rendlesham file is recorded as first being publically available as Dec 1980. It was around 2006 but an eagle eyed member of the public has spotted the error.

Section 40

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19/08/2009

**Air CmdSecCS-RAFBUSSEC13** **Section 40**

From: Air CmdSecCS-RAFBUSSEC13 **Section 40**
Sent: 13 August 2009 13:27
To: CPSC-NA1 **Section 40**
Subject: RE: TRANSFER OF US DOCUMENTS TO THE NATIONAL ARCHIVE

Section 40

Firstly, please accept my apologies for the delay in getting back to you. 

The Project Blue Book stuff was released to various ufologists by a predecessor who had found the documents in our possession and thought that some of his regular correspondents would be interested. As far as I can see, he did this in a proactive manner. I think it would be fair to say that the officer concerned had developed a deep interest in UFO matters. I think the documents were originally sent to us by a US community relations officer in 1965 and are possibly in our own National Archive already.

As far as I can tell, the Project Blue Book material has been passed by the US authorities to The US National Archive and has been available for public viewing for some considerable time. It would appear, but I am happy to be corrected, that this material is held on micro film and is therefore not available officially over the internet.

However, a search of the internet reveals a great many documents that have already been released to the public. There is at least one site that has a collection of unredacted documents and these crop up all over the internet. I have no way of knowing whether the US have released documents in a redacted or unredacted way.

I have checked back 25 years over our policy files and can find no record of us approaching the US authorities about UFO documentation, although from time to time we have contacted them about specific issues such as sightings etc. Back in the 1990's we did attempt to discover if they had a post that dealt with UFO matters in the same way as mine, but it appears the US don't have such a thing and were a little bemused by the question!

I should point out, that other US historical documents will come to light as the public likes to discover them and forward them to us for comment.

Section 40

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From: CPSC-NA1 [Section 40]
Sent: 27 July 2009 12:25
To: Air CmdSecCS-RAFBUSec13 [Section 40]
Subject: RE: TRANSFER OF US DFOCUMENTS TO THE NATIONAL ARCHIVE

[Section 40]

Thank you for forwarding the request. A couple of points arise from your email that I hope you can help with before we proceed with contacting the US:

- Do you have any additional information on the UK public disclosure of the Project Blue Book document in the 1990s? If the UK has already obtained permission from the US to release it we would not do ourselves any favours by repeating the request. A record of obtaining permission would be highly useful. A quick internet search suggests that this was a government project and therefore the document is likely to be official government property.
- I would also recommend researching the availability of the documents on the internet. If they are already publicly available then we need not request permission to disclose them.

I would also like to point out that while we can request a reply from the US by the end of September 2009, the US FOI machine may not be able to process them that quickly. We would be at their mercy in terms of responding to this particular request. They, and indeed I, may attach a low priority to this one.

Regards,

[Section 40]

Senior USA Desk Officer
 Security Co-operation
 CPSC-NA1
 Ministry of Defence Main Building 4-N [Section 40]

Tel: [Section 40]
 Mil: [Section 40]
 E-mail: CPSC-NA1@mod.uk
 GSI: [Section 40]

For information on British Defence Staff-United States (BDS-US), and how they can support your business click here: <http://www.bdsus.r.mil.uk/default.aspx>

From: Air CmdSecCS-RAFBUSec13 [Section 40]
Sent: 21 July 2009 12:01
To: CPSC-NA1 [Section 40]
Subject: TRANSFER OF US DFOCUMENTS TO THE NATIONAL ARCHIVE

[Section 40]

Please find attached two documents which I believe (but am not certain) to be of official US origin relating to UFOs. The MoD is in the process of placing most of its UFO files up to and including

13/08/2009

2007 in The National Archives and these documents are on a file from the 1990s.

The documents relate to the US Project Blue Book which was their investigation into UFOs and both appear to be over 40 years old! The first set of documents were received from a member of the UK public and we are uncertain where the second set came from, **however, it was released to members of the public in the 1990s.** I am not even 100% certain that it is an "official" US document.

Although I can see no defence issues relating to these documents, I would be grateful if you would approach the US authorities to check whether they are content for the documents to be released, if indeed they believe them to be official documents.

It is possible that both sets are probably available on the internet and withholding them will only encourage those who are convinced the US have dead aliens stored all over the place, I am hopeful that the US authorities will be happy for their release.

I should be grateful for a response by end of September 2009.

I am happy to discuss.

Section 40

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ufodesk@mod.uk

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From: **Section 40**
Sent: 21 July 2009 10:42
To: Air CmdSecCS-RAFBusSec13 **Section 40**
Subject: Scanning

Section 40

Admin Support
F Block, 1 Reg South (Travel Control)
HQ Air Command
RAF High Wycombe

Tel - **Section 40**

13/08/2009

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Air CmdSecCS-RAFBUSSEC13 Section 40

From: Air CmdSecCS-RAFBUSSEC13 Section 40
Sent: 21 July 2009 09:10
To: CIO-XD Section 40
Subject: MR NICK POPE - TELEVISION INTERVIEW - RELEASE OF DOCUMENTATION
Attachments: 19940510-Central Television Programme on Unidentified Flying Objects-u.pdf

Section 40

Please find attached a series of documents from the UFO files that I am currently preparing for release to The National Archives.

They concern a request from Central Television for an interview with the MoD about UFOs. As far as I can gather, the matter was considered by management and Mr Pope gave an interview.

My reading of the documents leads me to believe that the interview was conducted as part of Mr Pope's official duties, rather than as a private individual. There is a letter from Central Television to Mr Pope, but it is addressed to him at work and he has given his work address and details rather than a private address.

In my opinion, this places the documentation in the realm of official business and not part of Mr Pope's outside media activities. I therefore intend to release the documents to The National Archives with the minimum of redaction (names etc)

Are you content with this approach?

Section 40

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ufodesk@mod.uk

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From: Section 40
Sent: 09 July 2009 13:11
To: Air CmdSecCS-RAFBUSSEC13 Section 40
Subject: Scanning

21/07/2009

Section 40

Admin Support
F Block, 1 Reg South (Travel Control)
HQ Air Command
RAF High Wycombe

Tel - **Section 40**

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LOOSE MINUTE

D/Inf(D)/29(163/94) -

10 May 1994

PS/SofS

Copy to:
Sec(AS)

CENTRAL TELEVISION PROGRAMME ON UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS

CTV are preparing a 60 minute documentary on UFOs. They claim that it is a serious in-depth presentation.

2. They seek an interview with Secretary of State. If he turns the interview down they will invite a different Minister or senior MOD personnel.

3. They have interviewed a number of former Russian and American service personnel and an American Congressman. They are also interviewing Admiral of the Fleet, Lord Hill-Norton.

n 4. It is difficult to take the subject too seriously and I strongly suspect that the programme will have an element of facetiousness in it. They have intimated to me that they do not expect SofS or anyone else in MoD to give an interview and that it has been made for the sake of 'form'. Accordingly I recommend that the request is rejected.

5. I recommend that instead I offer the programme a very short and simple statement on MoD responsibility for, and attitude to, UFOs. I am discussing this with Sec(AS).

— too late mate!
HL

Section 40

Section 40

Spoke to Section 40

and explained the background to this. Will release this note.

Section 40

11/5

Section 40

Section 40

Head of News, DINFOD
MB0389

Section 40

Section 40

Sec(AS)

CENTRAL TELEVISION UFO DOCUMENTARY

1. The Press Office have been approached by Central TV who are producing a documentary on the UFO phenomenon. Central TV have asked for an interview with me, giving us a chance to set-out our policy and views. I have attached their letter.
2. The MOD have not come out well of previous programmes on the subject; ufologists have explained their views, and this has inevitably included speculation about a government cover-up. Such programmes inevitably end with a statement that the MOD was asked to take part, but refused. I believe that refusal to take part would be counter-productive - especially if even the Russians were prepared to take part. We now enjoy a good working relationship with most ufologists, and this programme is a good opportunity to undo some of the negative PR that has built-up.
3. I have discussed this approach with Section 40 in the Press Office; although desk officers do not usually give interviews, they do in the case of specialist subjects such as heritage or environmental issues. Given this, and in view of the points set out above, Section 40 is content for me to be interviewed. There is precedent for such participation: one of my predecessors appeared on BBC 2's "Man Alive" documentary, being filmed taking part in a public meeting on the subject. As is usual with such interviews, DPO(RAF) would co-ordinate the details with Central TV.
4. I would be grateful for your agreement to this proposal.

31 Mar 94

N G Pope
Sec(AS)2a

Section 40

*I have cleared this with
ACAS when entered. A notice
arranged and discuss with
him free & re beforehand.*

✓

Section 40

31/3

Q - A's on UFO guidance folder

Interview done on 25 April

Central Independent Television plc
46 Charlotte Street
London W1P 1LX

Telephone 01-637 4602
Telex 251721

To: Nick Pope
Sec [AS]



CENTRAL

Section 40 TMS

Fax p.2

Section 40

Press Officer AIR
The Defence Press Office (RAF)
Room 0393
Main Building,
The Ministry of Defence
Whitehall SW1

March 30 1994
REF: Project UFO

Dear Section 40,

We are currently producing a documentary on the subject of UFO phenomena. This is a serious and in-depth presentation of various aspects focussing chiefly on the objective reality of reports and witness accounts.

Much emphasis is given to reliable accounts from military and scientific personnel. We have recently returned from the United States and Russia where our interviews have included statements from Colonel Fletcher Prouty (one of the architects of the NORAD defence system) and Congressman Steven Schiff. In Russia we also filmed interviews with Colonel General Igor Maltsev (Deputy Chief of Staff of the Soviet Air Force) and Colonel Boris Sokolov who headed a ten year military and scientific project into the topic in the 1980's.

Another aspect of the programme includes brief sequences from the public at large who have captured unusual aerial phenomena with their camcorders.

We are aware that there is a significant gap in terms of statements from official British sources, and although we are also talking to Lord Peter Hill-Norton, former Chief of the Defence Staff, we would like to include an interview with Nicholas Pope, your spokesman on these matters.

We believe it is important that the British public are made aware that this department provides a focus for those who have witnessed or indeed filmed unusual aerial phenomena. As a public service we have found this is relatively unique and worth emphasising.



THE QUEEN'S AWARD FOR
EXPORT ACHIEVEMENT 1987-1993

Fax page 3

Broadly speaking we would like to cover a number of points:

- What is the department's remit in handling reports and does it deal with civilian as well as other official enquiries?
- What percentage of reports can be classed as unidentified, and would he tell us about some typical reports received - ie confusion between aircraft landing lights/airships etc.?
- When reports come in - what happens to them?
- What is the lifetime of a report? We understand that before 1967 reports were routinely destroyed. Has this changed?
- Are there typical report 'waves' and do these correlate with specific events? I.E. we understand that when the film 'Close Encounters of the Third Kind' was released, reports peaked for the year in question.
- Have there been any significant cases that may have constituted a security threat to the United Kingdom?
- Could the official statements by Col. de Brouwer of the Belgian Airforce in March 1990, and the then Minister of Defence Guy Coeme, that an object tracked by radar installations and pilots was intelligently controlled encourage more open debate within the British military services?
- Given the often hundreds of sightings reported to the department every year, what main conclusions have been made as to the nature of the objects reported?

The filming, including setting up and dismantling should take in the region of 2 hours, preferably at Nick Pope's office. We would like to film on the morning of next Wednesday 6th April if that is convenient both for you and for him. We would be most grateful if this is possible. Because of the intervening holiday break, I am initially faxing this request and will post a top copy to you.

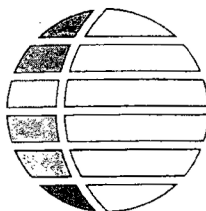
Yours sincerely,

Section 40

(Producer/Director)

Central Productions Ltd
46 Charlotte Street
London
W1P 1LX

Section 40



CENTRAL
PRODUCTIONS

Telephone 071-637 4602
Telex 291721
Fax 071-580 7780

Section 40

Section 40

28/4

26 April 1994

Mr Nick Pope
Air Staff 2A
Ministry of Defence
Main Building
London
SW1A 2HB

Dear Nick

Thanks for giving us your interview today. You came over well, making some useful points about your role and the reports the MOD receives.

Particularly good was the information about MOD UFO documents in the Public Record Office and the clarification of when the Ministry's responsibility for investigation ends. I.e when satisfied that there is not a defence threat - even if an explanation for what has been seen can't be found.

In the heat of the day, or should I say room, I forgot to ask you to sign one of our standard release forms. This is what we ask all contributors to fill in. Could you complete it and send it back to me?

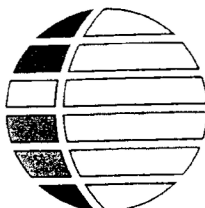
All the best

Section 40

RESEARCHER CENTRAL TV.



Central Productions Ltd
46 Charlotte Street
London
W1P 1LX



CENTRAL
PRODUCTIONS

Telephone 071-637 4602
Telex 291721
Fax 071-580 7780

Central is intending to make a film (Motion Picture) documentary on the subject of UFOs at present entitled "Project UFO"

You agree to permit Central to film or tape you and record your voice. You give Central and its assignees the unlimited right to use:

All or any part of the films, tapes and recordings you, as they may be edited by Central at its discretion.

Your name and photograph in the documentary as it may be shown throughout the world or on television or in any other present or future media, as well as in advertising and publicity of the documentary.

You accept Central's use will not invade your privacy.

Signed..... **Section 40**Date..... 28/4/94

Name and Address

Mr N G Pope , Sec (AS)2a , Room 8245 ,
.....
Ministry of Defence , Main Building
.....
Whitehall , London
.....
SW1A 2HD
.....



Air CmdSecCS-RAFBUSSEC13

Section 40

From: Air CmdSecCS-RAFBUSSEC13

Section 40

Sent: 02 June 2009 09:08

To: Air CmdSecCS-RAFBUSSEC DHd3; Air CmdSecCS-RAF
Section 40

Subject: RELEASE OF UFO FILES

Section 40



When USofS approved the transfer of the UFO files to The National Archives (TNA), it was agreed that all UFO files held by DAS and DIS up to the point the submission was written would be transferred over three years. The agreement to do this has enabled the MoD to utilise exemption s.22 (Intended for future publication) when answering a great many of its FOI requests on the subject of UFOs. Naturally this has saved a considerable amount of effort of our part and is therefore fulfilling one of the basic aims of the release programme.

I believe that it is fair to say that the release programme itself, whilst very time consuming, has been a success for the MoD. It has accrued a great deal of national and international press publicity, the majority of which can be considered to be positive or at worst neutral. Naturally, the mainstream press tend to concentrate on the more sensational stories (especially those with drawings of aliens!) but I believe that despite the predicted increased interest in the subject in the short term, the wider general public is starting to get a more accurate impression of our role in UFO matters and we can at least point them to fairly recent documentation to back up what we are saying.

I sense that realisation is also starting to dawn amongst some ufologists that we do not have hordes of investigators scurrying about the countryside investigating UFO sightings and that our interest is really quite minimal. Naturally a section of ufologists will never be convinced of that, but frankly, whatever we say, they will choose to believe whatever they believe and we will never convince them otherwise.

However, since the release programme was initiated, the UFO Desk has produced another 16 or so files exclusively devoted to UFO matters. DIS have no role in UFO role other than answering FOI requests. I believe that it is only a matter of time before an individual makes an FOI request for one of these new files which are not included in the release programme and we will not be able to utilise s.22. Although it is reasonable that we invoke excessive cost to withhold them, this would have to be done on a case by case basis.

I suggest therefore, that we consider approaching USofS for a decision about the release of future files. Since we have already set a precedent for transfer to TNA after 3 years (the 2007 files should be transferred in 2010), I propose that we set a general principle that closed UFO files are automatically considered for transfer to TNA after 3 years.

If you agree with this general approach, I will contact the other interested parties in DIS, Corporate Memory and TNA, to sound out their opinion, with a view to preparing a minsub later this year.

Section 40

RAF Bus Sec 13
Room 2E03
Spitfire Block
HQ Air Command

23/06/2009

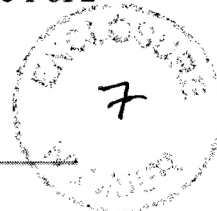
RAF High Wycombe
HP14 4UE
Tel: 01494 49 6254
ufodesk@mod.uk

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Section 40

From: Section 40
Sent: 19 May 2009 14:59
To: Section 40
Subject: FW: UAP Request Unclassified

Section 40

Grateful if you could have a spine through the note from the Air Advisor from NZ and provide some answers to the questions. Many thanks.

Section 40

Wing Commander
 IPP Overseas Support - Foreign Liaison Staff (Air)
 (known on DII as Def Dip-FLSAirCoord)
 01.N. Section 40
 Mil: Section 40
 Civ:
 Fax:
 E Mail: Section 40



From: Section 40
Sent: 06 May 2009 10:44
To: Section 40
Subject: UAP Request Unclassified

Section 40

I've received a rather unusual request from the HQNZDF. It appears that the NZDF does not currently have a written policy statement covering sightings of UAPs (Unusual Aerial Phenomena) - what used to be referred to as UFOs. The specific question is below in italics...

Confirm the UK current policy on UAPs in the context of info provided to the public and what action (if any) is taken (recording reports (format used if reports filed), level of investigation undertaken if any etc). I understand any investigation is generally only undertaken if a UFO sighting report may impact on UK airspace from the flight safety perspective. From another web source I understand a small UFO staff are based at High Wycombe (relocated from MOD London a few years ago)...

Could you please consider this request and provide a starter for 10 as to who might be able to assist.

Looking forward to hearing from you.

Section 40

Spoke with Wg Cdr
 Section 40 by phone -
 explained policy and
 he was happy to leave
 it at that.

Section 40

Wing Commander
 Air Adviser New Zealand Defence Staff
 80 Haymarket
 London SW1Y 4TQ

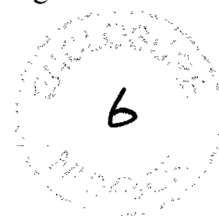
Section 40

21 May 09

20/05/2009

Telephone: [REDACTED] Section 40
Mobile: [REDACTED]
Facsimile: [REDACTED]
Section 40 [REDACTED]

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Section 40

From: **Section 40**
Sent: 20 April 2009 11:55
To: **Section 40**
Subject: RE: UFO FILES - STORAGE

Pse retrieve as suggested

Section 40

Dep Hd of Sec 3
 Air Cmd

Section 40

My profile is being migrated to DII/F on the 28 May 2009. WEF 29 May 2009 my internal e-mail address will change to Air CmdSecCS-RAFBUSSEC DHd3. (You will need to find me again via the Advanced Search function on the Global Address List to send me e-mails.) External e-mail addresses (e.g.

Section 40) will remain unchanged on DII/F.

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From: **Section 40**

Sent: 14 April 2009 08:23

To: **Section 40**

Subject: UFO FILES - STORAGE

If you agree, I wish to start retrieving the UFO files from TNT and placing them in the High Wycombe archive facility. **Section 40** has already arranged for some 160 files to be stored at High Wycombe, which, together with the storage in our office, will be sufficient to collect all the former DAS files together and we can set about the formal transfer to RAF Bus Sec.

There are however, two files that I am concerned about and cannot lay my hands on, although I am convinced that they have not been destroyed. The files are D/Sec(AS)64/3 Part M – *UFO Correspondence* which **Section 40** clerk believes to have been at TNT (although I have my doubts about this) and D/DAS/10/2/8/13 – *FOI Requests*, which we both believe to be at the Amey archive in the basement of Main Building. I will continue to try to track them both down.

Section 40

RAF Bus Sec 13
 Room 2E03
 Spitfire Block
 HQ Air Command
 RAF High Wycombe
 HP14 4UE
 Tel: 01494 49 6254

20/04/2009

● desk@mod.uk

My profile is being migrated to DIU/F on the 26 May 2009. WEF 27 May 2009 my internal e-mail address will change to Air CmdSecCS-RAFBUSSEC13. (You will need to find me again via the Advanced Search function on the Global Address List to send me e-mails.) External e-mail addresses (e.g. Section 40 [REDACTED]) will remain unchanged on DIU/F.

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5

Section 40

From: CIO-XD (De Bourcier, Katie Miss)
Sent: 06 April 2009 15:37
To: **Section 40**
Subject: release-authorised: 20090406 - UFO Files - U
Attachments: 20070809-FOI Request 03-08-2007-110116-004-u.pdf

Dear **Section 40**

Thank-you for your e-mail of 30 March 2009 concerning the release to The National Archives (TNA) of files relating to unidentified flying objects (UFOs) originated by the Ministry of Defence (MOD).

Section 40 has now moved posts and it falls to me to reply to you as his successor.

The transfer of UFO files to TNA by the MOD involves a review process that includes a careful and detailed examination of files by officials from the Defence Intelligence Staff and Air Command with quality assurance provided by my own team of expert record reviewers. Judgements are made as to whether any parts of the files need to be redacted under Freedom of Information Act (2000) exemptions. Some of the exemptions you cite in your e-mail have been used extensively on the UFO files already transferred to TNA and I expect further redactions will be made on future files destined for Kew.

Section 40

Regards,

Katie de Bourcier

*Katie de Bourcier
Head of Corporate Information
Ministry of Defence*

Section 40
cio-xd@mod.uk

20/04/2009

Section 40

4

From: Section 40
Sent: 30 March 2009 12:04
To: Section 40
Subject: FW: UFO Files - FOI

Section 40

From: Section 40
Sent: 30 March 2009 10:46
To: Section 40
Cc:
Subject: UFO Files - FOI

Section 40

31/03/2009

Section 40

Best wishes,

Section 40

Office: Section 40
Mobile:

3

Section 40

From: Section 40
Sent: 09 March 2009 09:48
To: Section 40
Subject: RE: UFO CORRESPONDENCE LOG

Section 40

I can confirm that I deleted the UFO correspondence log on 6 March 2009.

Regards,

Section 40

DAS-IM

*Level 5, Zone 1, Section 40
MOD Main Building
Whitehall, London, SW1A 2HB
Tel: Section 40
Section 40*



From: Section 40
Sent: 09 March 2009 09:24
To: Section 40
Subject: UFO CORRESPONDENCE LOG

Section 40

Just for my records, can you confirm by return e-mail that you deleted the UFO correspondence log on Friday.

I know I heard you do it over the phone, but I don't want conspiracy theorists suggesting it still exists 10 years down the line and having something in black and white will help!

Cheers.

Section 40

RAF Bus Sec 13
Room 2E03
Spitfire Block
HQ Air Command
RAF High Wycombe
HP14 4UE
Tel: 01494 49 6254
ufodesk@mod.uk

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09/03/2009

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Section 40

2

From: Section 40
 Sent: 27 January 2009 11:09
 To: Section 40
 Subject: RE: UFO CORRESPONDENCE LOG

Yes content.

Section 40

DAS-DD
 Level 5, Zone I, MOD Main Building

Section 40

NOTE: LOG DELETED

6 MAR 09 AM

DAS-IM

Section 40

6/3/09

From: Section 40
 Sent: 21 January 2009 13:38
 To: Section 40
 Subject: UFO CORRESPONDENCE LOG

Section 40

If you recall, before I transferred we talked about the UFO correspondence log that Section 40 has been maintaining, and I explained that I was no longer convinced we needed it. I have spoken about it with Section 40 agrees with me that it should be deleted.

Since the log is registered with the relevant DPA people in MoD as being a DAS asset, I suggest that the easiest course of action would be for me to ask Section 40 delete it. The alternative is that it is re-registered with Air Command and then "de-registered" 10 minutes later when we delete it here.

There is no rush to do this, but are you content that I liaise direct with Section 40 on this one?

Section 40

RAF Bus Sec 13
 Room 2E03
 Spitfire Block
 HQ Air Command
 RAF High Wycombe
 HP14 4UE
 Tel: 01494 49 6254
ufodesk@mod.uk

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06/03/2009



Section 40

From: Section 40
Sent: 21 January 2009 12:29
To: Section 40
Subject: RE: UFO CORRESPONDENCE LOG

Section 40

We spoke, but for the record, I agree we should dispense with the log and delete those records from the system as we no longer have a use for them and to retain them would not comply with Data Protection principles. We can check Meridio for previous responses.

Section 40

Section 40

Dep Hd of Sec 3
Air Cmd

Section 40

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From: Section 40
Sent: 20 January 2009 08:12
To: Section 40
Subject: UFO CORRESPONDENCE LOG

DAS has maintained a correspondence log recording the names and addresses of individuals that have contacted us on the subject of UFOs. The objective was to check if people had contacted us previously and to decide whether it was necessary to include our standard lines about the role of the MoD. Obviously if we had already informed them of our policy, there was little point in doing so in subsequent correspondence.

Additionally, due to the subject matter, some individuals are keen to interpret loose terminology or changes in phraseology as indications of a change of policy or evidence of some form of conspiracy (*you didn't say that last time, what are you covering up?*). The log has been therefore been helpful if we wished to check what we had said before!

However, I believe that it has grown beyond what was originally envisaged. There are (from memory) some 2400 entries and, allowing for repeat correspondence, we probably have a list of some 1500-2000 different members of the public (although I have not conducted a proper survey).

Whilst it is convenient to have a correspondence log to refer to from time to time, I am of the opinion that the benefits we accrue from it no longer warrant the keeping of personal data in this structured manner. Certainly, over the past two years I have used it quite infrequently and probably on less than a dozen occasions. There has also been a degree of duplication of effort in the recording of personal details when noting UFO sightings that I hope to dispense with now I have moved to Air Command.

My main concern is however, that out of administrative convenience, we have, by default, built up a list of names and addresses of people reporting or interested in UFOs. We do not need such a list and therefore in accordance with data protection principles, I do not believe we should maintain one. It might also make a reasonable tabloid headline on a slow news day with suggestions of Big Brother etc.

21/01/2009

I therefore suggest that the transfer of UFO business to Air Command is the ideal time to dispense with the log and, indeed, to delete it. I discussed the matter with **Section 40** and **Section 40** (before he retired) and they had no objection to this course of action and had no lingering "ownership" concerns about the data.

Perhaps when Access is loaded on my machine I can show you the log and we can discuss the matter further?

Section 40

RAF Bus Sec 13

 **Section 40****From:** **Section 40****Sent:** 20 January 2009 08:12**To:** **Section 40****Subject:** UFO CORRESPONDENCE LOG

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RAF Bus Sec 13