(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 CS(RM) for permanent preservation ☐

c. Of no further administrative value but worthy of consideration by CS(RM) for permanent preservation. ☐ ✔

PART 3. [redacted] Section 40

Signature: [redacted]

Name: [redacted] (Block Capitals)

Grade/Rank: B2 (Not below HEO/equivalent) Date: 28/6/04

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 CS(RM) USE ONLY)

The National Archives' reference DEFE 24/1983/1

Registered File Disposal Form

MOD Form 262F
(Revised 6/95)

FILE TITLE: (Main Heading - Secondary Heading - Tertiary Heading etc)
UFOs
Parliamentary Questions and Enquiries

Reference:
(Prefix and Number): D/Sec(AS)64/4
Part: A

PROTECTIVE MARKING (including caveats & descriptors): RESTRICTED — STAFF IN CONFIDENCE

Date of last enclosure: 3 OCTOBER 1996

Date closed: 3 OCTOBER 1996.

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

✔

~~Destroy after _____ years~~ ☐

Forward to CS(RM) after 10 years ☐

FOR PERMANENT RETENTION. ☐

~~No recommendation~~ ☐

FOR CS(RM) 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 completed not later than 4 years after the date of the last enclosure)
(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 CS(RM)). ☐ ✔

b. (i) To be retained for indefinite years (from date of last enclosure) for the following reason(s):

	✔		✔	
LEGAL	☐	DEFENCE POLICY	☐	
CONTRACTUAL	☐	ORIGINAL COMMITTEE PAPERS	☐	
FINANCE	☐	OTHER (Specify)	☑	Public Interest
AUDIT	☐			

For permanent retention by agreement with The National Archives.

(Continued overleaf)



LOOSE MINUTE

D/Sec(AS)/64/4

3 Oct 96

PE Unit
(thro [redacted] ec(AS)2)

LETTER FROM IEUAN WYN JONES MP - US 3761/96

1. The attached is the second "UFO" PE received from Ieuan Wyn Jones in four weeks on behalf of [redacted] A further "UFO" PE was received from the MP in March 1996 written on behalf of an unnamed constituent who lived in Llanfaes, and it is more than likely that that PE was also on behalf of [redacted] This enquiry concerns a "UFO" report which was allegedly made to RAF Valley nearly six years ago on 16 October 1990.

2. According to the letter, the phone call to RAF Valley would have been made at approximately 1940 hrs and thus 'out of hours'. RAF Valley have advised that any record of the event would have been detailed in the Station Duty Officer's Report. These Reports are kept for a few years and are then routinely destroyed. The earliest such reports held by Valley date back to 1992. The CRO's office can find no trace of any "UFO" reports dating back to 1990 still held at the Station.

3. Although Sec(AS) has records of two reports of "UFO" sightings for 16 Oct 90, both were in the London area.

4. In the two previous PE replies to Mr Wyn Jones it has not been necessary for us to spell out the Department's specific interest in "UFO" reports, but on this occasion it is felt appropriate that we do. I attach a draft response for USofS' consideration.

[redacted]

[redacted]
Sec(AS)2a1
MB8245 [redacted]
CHOTS: SEC(AS)2A (2)

Enc.

The National Archives' reference DEFE 24/1983/1

DRAFT

D/USofS/3761/96 October 1996

Thank you for your letter of 24 September (ref: IWJ/2/96/36) addressed to Michael Portillo enclosing one from your constituent Section 40 of Section 40 Beaumaris, on the subject of "unidentified flying objects". I am replying as this matter falls within my area of responsibility.

As you may know, my Department examines any reports of "UFO" sightings sent to us solely to establish whether what was seen might have some defence significance, namely, whether there was any evidence that the UK Air Defence Region might have been compromised by a hostile foreign military aircraft. Unless there are defence implications, and to date no "UFO" sighting reported to us has revealed such evidence, we do not attempt to identify the precise nature of each reported sighting. From the types of descriptions we receive, however, aircraft or natural phenomena probably account for most of the observations.

Enquiries have revealed that as Section 40 telephone call to RAF Valley was made outside routine working hours, a

IEUAN WYN JONES, MP

The National Archives' reference DEFE 24/1983/1

record of his call would have been logged in the Station Duty Officer's Report. However, Station Duty Officer's Reports are not kept indefinitely but routinely destroyed and Reports for 1990 are no longer available.

You may wish to be aware that we do not routinely contact or reply to every witness who reports a "UFO" sighting to us (on average the Department receives 200-300 such reports annually). Such contact is only necessary if what has been seen has a defence interest and it is necessary to interview the witness further.

The integrity of the UK's airspace in peacetime is maintained through the continuous policing of the UK Air Defence Region by the Royal Air Force. I should wish to assure Section 40 that my Department takes its responsibilities for the effective Defence of the UK very seriously indeed and we remain vigilant for any potential military threat.

THE EARL HOWE

The National Archives' reference DEFE 24/1983/1

ENCLOSURE NUMBER 94

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Main Building, Whitehall, London SW1A 2HB

Telephone (Direct dial) 0171 218 2140
(Switchboard) 0171 218 9000
(Fax) Section 40

Royal Air Force Valley
Holyhead

Attn: Flt Lt Section 40
Community Relations Officer

Your reference

Our reference
D/Sec(AS)/64/4
Date
30 September 1996

== by fax ==

Fax 16 Oct 96
2 reports received (one London).

PARLIAMENTARY ENQUIRY: IEUAN WYN JONES

1. Further to our exchange of correspondence last month about an alleged "UFO" sighting near RAF Valley, USofS has received a another Parliamentary Enquiry from Ieuan Wyn Jones, again on behalf of Section 40

2. The letters enclosed with the MP's relate to a "UFO" report allegedly made to RAF Valley six years ago on 16 October 1990. Centrally, Sec(AS)2 has records of two sightings reported for this date, but both were in the London area. Is there a record at Valley of such a telephone call having been received or, as the letter suggests, of any action having been taken. The presence of a Wessex may of course have been pure coincidence.

3. I should be most grateful for any light you may be able to shed on this matter, to assist me with drafting a response for USofS to send to the MP. It would be most helpful if I could receive a reply from you by the end of this week. With thanks for your assistance.

Received a telephone call from Flt Lt Section 40 ATCO Valley. The Stn Duty Officer's Reports only go back as far as 1992. If the report was made 'out of hours' then would have been recorded on these. She could not locate any UFO reports on-site for 1990. Her opinion was that they would not send a Wessex up on the basis of one phone call from a member of the public.

Section 40

Section 40

Section 40 Secretariat (Air Staff)2a1

Encs.

The National Archives' reference DEFE 24/1983/1

Classification:

Caveat:

Covering:

F Sigs 927
(Rev 2/95)

Facsimile Transmission Cover Sheet

Serial Number: —	Transmission: Date: 30 SEP 96 Time:
From: Sec(AS)2A	Fax Number: Section 40 Tel Number: Section 40
To: Community Relations Officer RAF Valley	Fax Number: FIC Lt Section 40 Section 40
Authorised by: Rank EO Name Section 40 Appointment Sec(AS)2A1 Signature: Section 40	Transmitted by: Rank AO Name Section 40 Tel Number Signature:
Document Reference: 64/4 Total number of pages including this one: 1+4	

Subject: PE: US 3761/96 - IEUAN LLYN JONES

Please see attached.

* PARLIAMENTARY BUSINESS. *

Classification:

Caveat:

Covering:

The National Archives' reference DEFE 24/1983/1

RIAT(AIR STAFF) Fax [redacted]

Section 40

** Transmit Conf.Report **

30 Sep '96 10:35

SECRETARIAT(AIR STAFF)--->	
No.	1673
Mode	NORMAL
Time	2'07"
Pages	5 Page(s)
Result	O K

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
SEC(AS)2
27 SEP 1996
FILE

ENCLOSURE NUMBER 93

PARLIAMENTARY ENQUIRY

FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION

TO: SEC(AS)2a **PE REF NUMBER:** US3761/96

MINISTER REPLYING: USOS **DRAFT REQUIRED BY:** 8/10/96

DATE: 27/9/96 **FROM:** Section 40 PE Unit **TEL:** Section 40

GUIDANCE NOTE

Ministers reply to some 8,000 such letters a year. They place great importance on the content style and speed of the 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. Do not be unduly defensive.

No background note is required unless essential to explain the line taken in the draft reply.

Layout Draft replies should be double spaced.

Always include the full PE reference number at the top left of the draft.

Put the MP's full title at the bottom left of the first page. Only add the address if the letter is from the Minister direct to a constituent.

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 ..., Toytown about ...."

If a Minister is replying on behalf of another Minister start:
"Thank you for your letter of ... addressed to Michael Portillo/ Nicholas Soames/James Arbuthnot/Frederick Howe on behalf etc"
Mr Soames and Earl Howe add "I have been asked to reply" and "I am replying as this matter falls within my area of responsibility." respectively.

Do not end "I hope this is helpful" when the reply is obviously disappointing. Alternatives are:
"I hope this explains the position"
"I am sorry I cannot be more helpful"
"I am sorry to send what I know will be a disappointing reply."

Deadlines If, exceptionally, you cannot meet the deadline let me know at once - an interim reply might be needed.

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Please discuss any questions about the substance of the drafts or other policy aspects direct with the relevant private office.

ALL DRAFTS MUST BE CLEARED BY A NAMED OFFICIAL AT GRADE 7 LEVEL AND ANNOTATED TO CONFIRM THIS.

WHEREVER POSSIBLE DRAFTS SHOULD BE SENT ON CHOTS E-MAIL TO: Parliamentary Enquiries other wise send drafts by fax to Section 40
PLEASE USE ONLY ONE METHOD

The National Archives' reference DEFE 24/1983/1

Sec (AS)
USofS.
UFOS

HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

Our ref: IWJ/2/96/36

24 September 1996

The Rt Hon Michael Portillo MP
Secretary of State for Defence
The Ministry of Defence
Main Building
Whitehall
LONDON
SW1A 2HB

Dear Secretary of State

I enclose correspondence I have received from Section 40 of Section 40 in my constituency, enclosing a copy of a letter he received from Section 40 of Section 40 also a constituent of mine, regarding the alleged sighting of a UFO.

I would be pleased if you could let me have your response to the allegations made by Section 40 so that I can reply to Section 40 Section 40 in due course.

Yours sincerely

Section 40

IEUAN WYN JONES
MP for Ynys Môn

PARLIAMENTARY
BRANCH
26 SEP 1996
DOM 618 MAIN BLDG

The National Archives' reference DEFE 24/1983/1

WALES FEDERATION OF INDEPENDENT UFOLOGISTS

TEL

ADDRESS

Section 40

Beaumaris
Anglesey

24 SEP 1996

22 September 1996

Your Ref : IWJ / 2 / 96 / 36

TRH Ieuan Wyn Jones MP
Plaid Cymru Offices
45 Bridge St
Llangefni

Dear Mr Jones,

I am passing on to you the enclosed UFO-related statement at the witnesses' request.

No doubt, Whitehall will issue the usual bland statement that the incident was of no defence significance. Given the close proximity of a nuclear power station, I would dispute that.

In the first instance, I feel that the RAF or the MOD should send a letter to Section 40 thanking him for his public spiritedness and apologising for such a long delay. Perhaps they would also be kind enough to let him know what the helicopter pilots saw as well.

If possible, I would also like to interview the pilots involved as they are in effect witnesses.

On the 13th October, there is a meeting of The Welsh Federation of Independent Ufologists to be held at the Canolfan Beaumaris Leisure Centre. The agenda will concentrate on recent UFO sightings over Anglesey. The time will be between 6 and 9pm and admission is free. Invitations have gone out to the Station Commander at RAF Valley and to the Chief Constable of North Wales Police. I would feel it a privilege if you could attend or send a representative.

Yours sincerely

Section 40

The National Archives' reference DEFE 24/1983/1

Section 40

Anglesey

Section 40

September 13/1996

Section 40

GLOBAL UFO INVESTIGATION SYSTEMS

The following is a report of what was witnessed on the evening of ----
October 16 1990, Approx time 7:30pm, Weather conditions extremely calm, quiet

Myself and my friend Section 40 were returning from Cemlyn and walking up the path to Section 40 my home address, when we noticed two pairs of white lights hovering noiselessly out to sea in the vicinity of Wylfa Power Station and Skerries Light House, we watched it for a minute or two by which time my wife Section 40 had come from the house and joined us.

None of us could fathom out what they might be as neither pair of lights moved, made no noise, just hovered in one place.
It was fairly obvious that there were two of these objects as one pair of lights was lower and further than the other.

We must have watched them for maybe five to ten minutes before deciding to inform the R.A.F. base at Valley of what we were witnessing.
I have no recollection of being given the name of who answered the phone at Valley but I did give my name and address to whoever in order that they could contact me if more information was needed at a later date.
I was asked if it was a distress flare I was seeing to which I replied no He then asked me to wait while he checked I presume, the RADAR, and shortly afterwards came back to the phone to say that he wasn't picking anything up and that they did not have anything of theirs flying in that vicinity and would send somone out to investigate
Shortly afterwards we watched the Helicopter, a Wessex, coming towards our end of the island from R.A.F. Valley direction, as it flew over Llanfechell towards Tregele area the lights on the two crafts still hovering out to sea went off for a very short time, then a more blueish couloured flashing light came on before the two crafts moved off at an astonishing speed,
The furthest one went westerly while the other went north easterly passing the back of our house but out to sea.
We heard no noise from these craft even when they were moving and the time taken to cover the distance from Skerries to a northerly point to my house was no more than two seconds!! (Distance estimated as 5 to 6 miles) Both craft vanished leaving the helicopter to circle the area once and turn her course for home.....

No one from R.A.F.Valley contacted us

Section 40

Yours sincerely

Section 40

Section 40

The National Archives' reference DEFE 24/1983/1

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

GROUP /INVEST REF:	WFIU NORTH WALES FEDERATION OF UFOLOGISTS	WALES	YEAR	NUMBER	INVESTIGATOR [redacted] coordinator for Isle of Anglesey	CASE SUMMARY: DATE, TIME, LOCATION, EVAL'N, UFO CLASS, CLOSED

RETURN FORM TO: [redacted] Beaumaris, Isle of Anglesey

UFO SIGHTING ACCOUNT FORM

SECTION A — PLEASE USE BLACK BIRO OR A BLACK INK PEN

Please write an account of your sighting, make a drawing of what you saw and then answer the questions in section B overleaf as fully as possible. Write in BLOCK CAPITALS using a ball point pen.

See adjoining sheet.
signed by the three witnesses

Please continue on a separate sheet if necessary.

DRAWING*

*If preferred, use a separate sheet of paper.

Your full name (Mr/Mrs/~~Miss/Ms~~) [redacted] Age [redacted]

Address [redacted] Anglesey.

Telephone No. [redacted] (STD) [redacted]

Occupation during last two years... Disabled.

Any professional, technical or academic qualifications or special interests

Qualified Plasterer

Yes/~~No~~.

Today's Date. 13. September 1996.

Signature [redacted]

Form R1 - (new)

The National Archives' reference DEFE 24/1983/1

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

WFIU (N).		YEAR	NUMBER

SECTION B

1. Where were you when you saw the object(s)? Exact location [redacted] Anglesey

   ~~Nearest town~~/village.. [redacted] County/District Llanbadrig

2. What was the date of your sighting? 16 day of October 1990

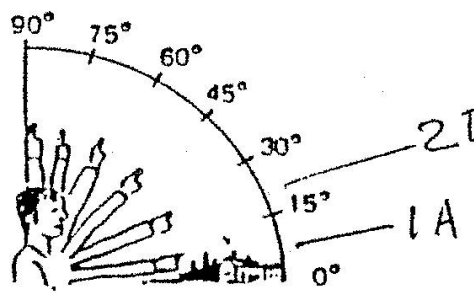
3. At what time did you see the object(s)? 7:30 *~~am~~/pm/~~midday/midnight~~. *Delete which ever does not apply. How did you know the time? Clock.

4. For how long did you observe the object(s)? If not certain please state – for not less than 15 Min and for not more than 30 Min

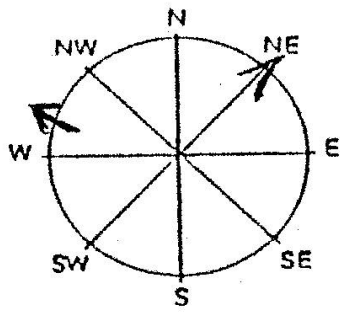
5. If each of the following objects were held at arm's length which one would just cover the object(s) you saw, i.e., have the same apparent size? (underline) ~~Pinhead/pea~~/halfpenny/~~penny/ twopence/golf ball/tennis ball~~/other

5a Compare object to size of full moon.....

6. (i)



(iii)



Place an 'A' on the curved line in diagram (i) to show the altitude of the object(s) above the horizon when you first noticed it/them and a 'B' when you last noticed it/them. Also place an 'A' on the outside edge of the compass in diagram (ii) to indicate the direction in which you first observed the object(s) and a 'B' when you last saw it/them.

7. Did you see the object(s) at or near ground level? Not very high above the sea

8. How did the object(s) disappear from view? Very fast in opposite directions

9. If you took a photograph or made any measurements, give details. (including camera type and film)
   No photos.

10. If you noticed any unusual effects on people, animals, plants, objects or equipment nearby: Describe these
    Cannot Want say I did.

11. What was the main feature of the sighting which made you feel that the object(s) was/were not natural or man-made?
    The quietness + speed it moved off.

12. How many other people at the same time saw the object(s)? 3 Give the names, addresses, age and relationship to you of other witnesses. [redacted] my wife - friend

13. Give a brief description of the object(s) under the following headings: –
    (a) Number of objects 2 (b) Colour just lights (c) Sound No sound
    (d) Shape ..... was this sharply defined or hazy? .....
    (e) Brightness White light, car headlamps. Coloured light – Welding flash. (compared to star, venus, moon, sun etc.)

14. What were the local conditions? Please tick in box where applicable.

Clouds		*Temperature*		*Wind*		*Precipitation*		*Astronomical*	
Clear Sky	☑	Cold	☐	None	☐	Dry	☑	Stars	☐
Scattered cloud	☐	Cool	☐	Breeze	☐	Fog or mist	☐	Moon	☐
Much cloud	☐	Warm	☑	Moderate	☐	Rain	☐	Planet	☐
Overcast	☐	Hot	☐	Strong	☐	Snow	☐	Sun	☐

Other conditions if any ... Very quiet evening.

Names and addresses are never given to the Press, unless you specifically say so.
The overall majority of UFO reports never get to the Media at all.

The National Archives' reference DEFE 24/1983/1

Section 40 [redacted]

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

SECURITY 92 NUMBER

PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE
FOR DEFENCE

D/US of S/FH 3295/96/M

9th September 1996

Dear Keith,

Thank you for your letter of 23 August to James Arbuthnot enclosing a further one from Section 40 [redacted] Rolveden, Cranbrook who believes that questions in his previous correspondence about UFO sightings over Belgium in 1990 have not been fully answered. I am replying as this matter falls within my area of responsibility.

Section 40 [redacted] suggests that his letters have not been dealt with in a satisfactory manner but I hope he will be assured that this is not the case. As you know, we have gone to great lengths over a considerable period of time to reply to the numerous points he has raised about this matter.

Section 40 [redacted] latest questions were dealt with in the letter from Malcolm Rifkind to Lord Hill-Norton in June 1994. In the letter Malcolm explained that the Belgian authorities did not notify us of these sightings at the time because there was no evidence of any threat and because they occurred over central Belgium. However, he went on to say that when we subsequently became aware of the sightings, our own experts confirmed that they would not have been concerned with the reports and saw no reason why the Belgians should have informed us. Malcolm further explained to Lord Hill-Norton that notification of NADGE radar detections is at the discretion of the operators and does not occur automatically.

I am afraid there really is nothing more to say on this issue.

Yours ever

Section 40 [redacted]

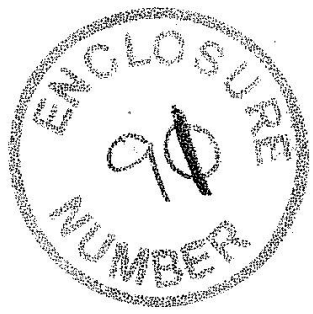
THE EARL HOWE

Sir Keith Speed RD MP

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
SEC (AS) 2
13 SEP 1996
FILE 64/4

Recycled Paper

The National Archives' reference DEFE 24/1983/1



D/Sec(AS)/64/4

5th September 1996

PE Unit

PE3295 - SIR KEITH SPEED

1. I attach a draft reply for USofS to send to Sir Keith Speed in response to the latest in a long line of letters from his constituent, Section 40 , about UFO sightings over Belgium in 1990. A summary of previous exchanges with Section 40 was provided in September last year (D/Sec(AS)/64/1 of 15 September). Neither Section 40 nor Lord Hill-Norton, whose help he enlisted in 1994, have raised the matter again until now and a further copy of the summary is therefore attached for information.

2. Section 40 assertions that his questions have not been properly answered are without foundation. The Department has gone to great lengths to be as helpful as possible and provided as much information as is available. The view of the Belgians at the time was that there was no threat to the UK or, for that matter, anyone else and that it was not necessary to pass on the information from their radar returns.

3. It was then, and continues to be our policy not to make further investigations into unsubstantiated sightings where no threat is posed to the UK Air Defence Region. Section 40 seems unwilling to accept this and persists in his attempts to prove a threat existed. It is unlikely he will be persuaded otherwise particularly since he appears to be writing a book on the 'Belgian sightings'.

4. Mr Speed says that he has no intention of passing on Section 40 Section 40 letter to the Ombudsman. Section 40 cannot ask the PCA direct to take on his case but he can ask another MP to act on his behalf. If Section 40 is unsuccessful in persuading another MP it may be that he would ask Lord Hill-Norton to do so. However, official advice is that it would be most unusual for a Member of the House of Lords to approach the PCA.

5. In the event that Section 40 case is represented to the PCA it is by no means certain that they would entertain his claim. They would need to be convinced that there was a case of maladministration to answer. It remains our view that Section 40 Section 40 questions have been fully dealt with. However, given the MP's clear advice that he has no intention of involving the PCA the draft does not address this issue but simply reiterates the fact that we have provided full answers to his constituent's questions and there is nothing further we can add.

Section 40

Sec(AS)2

The National Archives' reference DEFE 24/1983/1

MB8247 Section 40
CHOTS: SEC(AS)2
FAX : Section 40

PEs/3295speed

The National Archives' reference DEFE 24/1983/1

D/USofS/FH 3295/96

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I am afraid there really is nothing more to say on this issue.

The National Archives' reference DEFE 24/1983/1

THE EARL HOWE

Sir Keith Speed RD MP

- NOA

IF Section 40 gets this to the Ombudsman Scrutiny Panel (via author MP) and we hear about it we should pass a copy of the MP's note saying he had no intention of passing it through to the 'Omb.' off to them quickly.

Section 40

[redacted] 5/9

The National Archives' reference DEFE 24/1983/1

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
SEC (AS) 2
30 AUG 1996
FILE

ENCLOSURE NUMBERS 90

PARLIAMENTARY ENQUIRY

FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION

TO: Sec(AS)2 **PE REF NUMBER:** US 3295/96

MINISTER REPLYING: USofS **DRAFT REQUIRED BY:** 10/9/96

DATE: 30/08/96 **FROM:** Section 40 PE Unit **TEL:** Section 40

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The National Archives' reference DEFE 24/1983/1

From Sir Keith Speed R.D. M.P.

HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

USofS
Sec(AS)
Radar

329

RECEIVED IN
28 AUG 1996
FILE: .....
MINISTER OF STATE FOR
DEFENCE PROCUREMENT

27th August 1996

Dear James,

I enclose a letter I have received from my constituent Section 40 regarding Belgian radar detections.

This man has an obsession on this subject, and I have no intention of passing his letter to the Ombudsman.

I would be grateful for any comments you may have.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

Keith Speed

James Arbuthnot, Esq., MP,
The Minister of State for Defence Procurement,
Ministry of Defence,
Main Building,
Whitehall,
London,
SW1A 2HB

PARLIAMENTARY
BRANCH
29 AUG 1996
ROOM 613a MAIN BLDG

Please reply to: Strood House, Rolvenden, Cranbrook, Kent TN17 4JJ.

Section 40

Section 40

Rolvenden
Cranbrook
Kent. Section 40

10th August 1996.

Dear Sir Keith

In response to a question put on my behalf on the 17th May 1994 by Admiral of the Fleet the Lord Hill-Norton to the Secretary of State for Defence the Rt Hon Malcolm Rifkind MP.and in answer to the same question put by myself to the Rt Hon Jeremy Hanley.Secretary of State for the Armed Forces. T J H Laurence.Commander;Royal Navy.Private Secretary to the Secretary of State for Defence.And the Ministry of Defence on the 12th November 1993. I have yet to receive a satisfactory answer.

The question is indeed.a simple one.

Both the Minister(on the 11th June 1994) and Ministry of Defence(on the 12th november 1993) have stated that.at 22h 47m(GMT) on the night of the 30/31st March 1990.they had no knowledge (because they had not been informed of them) of the unidentified Belgian (NADGE) radar detections.that were six minutes from Dover.on a converging course with United Kingdom air space.

If Belgian(NADGE)radars are not able to identify a detection.it is declared hostile.

A necessary prerequisite before the Belgian Air Force are able to attempt interceptions is that an unidentified radar detection must be declared hostile. The Belgian Air Force made 13 interceptions where radar lock-on was acheived.
This is proof of the hostile classification of the NADGE radar detections.

Bearing this in mind.the question is simply *'How were the the Secretary of State for Defence the Rt Hon Malcolm Rifkind MP. The Secretary of State for*

The National Archives' reference DEFE 24/1983/1

the Armed Forces the Rt Hon Jeremy Hanley. The Personal Private Secretary to the Secretary of State for Defence, Commander T J H Laurence. And the Ministry of Defence, able to state, that at 22h 47m(GMT) on the night of the 30/31st March 1990, their Air Defence Experts did NOT consider these detections a threat, when they have admitted that they did not know about them?"

I would also request clarification of an anomaly in the reply by the Minister to Lord Hill-Norton. The Minister stated on the 11th June 1994, that advice of radar information to other radar stations *was at the discretion of the Belgian operators and did not occur automatically.*

Lord Hill-Norton has stated that in the NADGE radar system (a system of 80 European radar defence stations of which we are part,) *other radar stations are notified - probably automatically - because that is how the system works!*
This was confirmed by Wilfrid De Brouwer, Head of the Operations Section of the Belgian Air Force who has said (22nd December 1994), *that in the event of a hostile radar classification, transmission of radar information would have been automatic to UK NADGE radar at Neatishead in Norfolk.*

I am in possession of a copy of an American Defence Intelligence Agency report which indicates that an intelligence notice was issued on various press reports, by the American Military attache in Brussels. It was circulated on 26th March 1990, four days BEFORE the events of the 30/31st March. One of the receipients of this report was the London office of the Defence Intelligence Agency which is in the Ministry of Defence building in Whitehall.

You are aware by the correspondence that has passed between us, that I have never received a clear and distinct answer to any of these questions. Indeed it is now patently obvious, by the increasing evidence on this subject and the evasions of the issues, that there is something most odd going on.
As all avenues have now been apparently closed, because of the enormity of the issue and my intention to find out what is going on, my only recourse

The National Archives' reference DEFE 24/1983/1

must be to an independant authority that is above these political issues; namely the office of the Government Ombudsman.

I would consequently ask that you forward this letter to the office of the Government Ombudsman for their guidance and clarification.

Yours sincerely

Section 40

The National Archives' reference DEFE 24/1983/1

Sec (AS) 2

Minister of State
for Defence Procurement

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2HB
Telephone Section 40 (Direct Dialling)
0171-21 89000 (Switchboard)

ENCLOSURE NUMBER 89

D/US of S/FH 3105/96/A

22 August 1996

Dear Ieuan

Thank you for your letter of 9 August (reference: IWJ/2/96/36) to Michael Portillo enclosing one from Section 40 Section 40 Beaumaris, Anglesey on the subject of "unidentified flying objects". I am replying on behalf of Frederick Howe who has responsibility for this matter.

Section 40 should by now have received a letter from my officials in response to his queries, which was despatched on 12 August 1996. I attach a copy of the reply for your information.

I hope the reply answers any queries he may have in this connection.

Yours ever

Section 40

JAMES ARBUTHNOT

Ieuan Wyn Jones Esq MP

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
SEC (AS) 2
23 AUG 1996
FILE 474

Recycled Paper

From: Section 40 Secretariat (Air Staff) 2a1
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Main Building, Whitehall, London SW1A 2HB

Telephone (Direct dial) 0171 218 2140
(Switchboard) 0171 218 9000
(Fax) Section 40

Section 40

Beaumaris
Anglesey
GWYNEDD

Your reference

Our reference
D/Sec(AS)/64/3
Date
12 August 1996

Dear Section 40

1. Thank you for your letter of 23 July 1996 on the subject of "UFO" sightings. This office is the Ministry of Defence focal point for correspondence of this nature.

2. The MOD has no interest or role with respect to the wider debate over the existence or otherwise of "UFO/flying saucers" and extraterrestrial lifeforms. To date, the MOD remains unaware of any evidence which proves that "UFO/flying saucers" or extraterrestrial lifeforms exist.

3. Perhaps it would be useful if I were to explain the limited role that the MOD has with respect to "UFO" reports. We examine any reports of "UFO" sightings received solely to establish whether what was seen might have some defence significance; namely, is there any evidence that the UK Air Defence Region might have been compromised by a hostile foreign military aircraft? However, unless there are defence implications, 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 could not justify expenditure of public funds on investigations which go beyond our specific defence remit.

3. As we make no attempt to investigate a sighting for which there is no defence interest, we are not in a position to provide a precise explanation for the hundreds of reports we receive each year. We believe that rational explanations could be found if resources were devoted to so doing. However, it is not the function of the MOD to provide a general aerial identification service and it would be an inappropriate use of defence resources if we were to do so. From the types of descriptions we receive, however, aircraft or natural phenomena probably account for most of the observations.

4. I have contacted RAF Valley who have confirmed that there are no incidents of unidentified craft "buzzing" the tower at RAF Valley within the memory of staff or recorded in the Air Traffic Log Books spanning the last 5 years. Certainly such an incident would have been notified to the Senior Air Traffic Control Officer had it occurred. Military aircraft from a variety of RAF establishments regularly undertake low flying training sorties over the North Wales area, and it is likely that a routine military low flying training sortie could account for the observation.

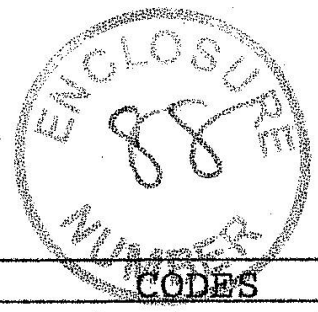
6. I hope the above is of some help.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40 [redacted]

The National Archives' reference DEFE 24/1983/1

644



Thu 15 Aug, 1996 17:33 mailbox log Page 1

DATE	TO	SUBJECT	CODES
15/08/96	Parliamentary Enqu	US 3105/96	[ ]

Sent: 15/08/96 at 17:32
To: Parliamentary Enquiries
CC:

Ref: 788
Subject: US 3105/96

Text: The attached has been seen and signed off by [redacted] (G7)

The attachment referred to in the draft will be walked down first thing Fri morning. A copy of the attachment is to be forwarded with the reply to the MP.

Priority: Normal
Reply Request [ ]
View Acknowledge [*]
Delivery Acknowledge [*]
Attachments [1]
Codes [ ]

The National Archives' reference DEFE 24/1983/1

LOOSE MINUTE

D/Sec(AS)/64/4

15 Aug 96

Parliamentary Branch

LETTER FROM IEUAN WYN JONES MP - US 3105/96

1. The constituent's letter to this Branch dated 23 July 1996 was answered on 12 August 1996, and I enclose a copy of our response. The reply set out the MOD's role and responsibilities in connection with "UFO" reports, and responded to Section 40 specific query about an alleged incident involving an unknown craft "buzzing" the RAF Valley control tower. The RAF Valley CRO has confirmed that there is no record of such an incident having occurred.

2. I attach a draft response for USofS' consideration.

[original signed]

Section 40
Sec(AS)2
MB8247 Section 40

Enc.

The National Archives' reference DEFE 24/1983/1

DRAFT

D/USofS/3105/96 August 1996

Thank you for your letter of 9 August 1996 (ref: IWJ/2/96/36) addressed to Michael Portillo enclosing one from your constituent Section 40 [redacted] Beaumaris, Anglesey on the subject of "unidentified flying objects". I am replying as this matter falls within my area of responsibility.

Section 40 [redacted] should by now have received a letter from my officials in response to his queries, which was despatched on 12 August 1996. I attach a copy of the reply for your information.

I hope the reply answers any queries you may have in this connection.

IEUAN WYN JONES, MP

THE EARL HOWE

Enc.

The National Archives' reference DEFE 24/1983/1

ENCLOSURE 87 NUMBER

LOOSE MINUTE

D/Sec(AS)/64/4

15 Aug 96

Parliamentary Branch

LETTER FROM IEUAN WYN JONES MP - US 3105/96

1. The constituent's letter to this Branch dated 23 July 1996 was answered on 12 August 1996, and I enclose a copy of our response. The reply set out the MOD's role and responsibilities in connection with "UFO" reports, and responded to Section 40 specific query about an alleged incident involving an unknown craft "buzzing" the RAF Valley control tower. The RAF Valley CRO has confirmed that there is no record of such an incident having occurred.

2. I attach a draft response for USofS' consideration.

Section 40

Sec(AS)2
MB8247 Section 40

Enc.

The National Archives' reference DEFE 24/1983/1

DRAFT

D/USofS/3105/96 August 1996

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I hope the reply answers any queries you may have in this connection.

IEUAN WYN JONES, MP

THE EARL HOWE

Enc.

From: Section 40 Secretariat (Air Staff) 2a1
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Main Building, Whitehall, London SW1A 2HB

Telephone (Direct dial) 0171 218 2140
(Switchboard) 0171 218 9000
(Fax) Section 40

Section 40

Beaumaris
Anglesey
GWYNEDD

Your reference

Our reference
D/Sec(AS)/64/3
Date
12 August 1996

Dear Section 40

1. Thank you for your letter of 23 July 1996 on the subject of "UFO" sightings. This office is the Ministry of Defence focal point for correspondence of this nature.

2. The MOD has no interest or role with respect to the wider debate over the existence or otherwise of "UFO/flying saucers" and extraterrestrial lifeforms. To date, the MOD remains unaware of any evidence which proves that "UFO/flying saucers" or extraterrestrial lifeforms exist.

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3. As we make no attempt to investigate a sighting for which there is no defence interest, we are not in a position to provide a precise explanation for the hundreds of reports we receive each year. We believe that rational explanations could be found if resources were devoted to so doing. However, it is not the function of the MOD to provide a general aerial identification service and it would be an inappropriate use of defence resources if we were to do so. From the types of descriptions we receive, however, aircraft or natural phenomena probably account for most of the observations.

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6. I hope the above is of some help.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40 [redacted]

The National Archives' reference DEFE 24/1983/1

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
SEC (AS) 2
14 AUG 1996
FILE 614

ENCLOSURE NUMBER 86

PARLIAMENTARY ENQUIRY

FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION

TO: SEC(AS)2a **PE REF NUMBER:** US 3105/96

MINISTER REPLYING: USofS **DRAFT REQUIRED BY:** 23/8/96

DATE: 14/8/96 **FROM:** Section 40 PE Unit **TEL:** Section 40

GUIDANCE NOTE

Ministers reply to some 8,000 such letters a year. They place great importance on the content style and speed of the 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. Do not be unduly defensive.

No background note is required unless essential to explain the line taken in the draft reply.

Layout Draft replies should be double spaced.

Always include the full PE reference number at the top left of the draft.

Put the MP's full title at the bottom left of the first page. Only add the address if the letter is from the Minister direct to a constituent.

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 ..., Toytown about ...."

If a Minister is replying on behalf of another Minister start:
"Thank you for your letter of ... addressed to Michael Portillo/ Nicholas Soames/James Arbuthnot/Frederick Howe on behalf etc"
Mr Soames and Earl Howe add "I have been asked to reply" and "I am replying as this matter falls within my area of responsibility." respectively.

Do not end "I hope this is helpful" when the reply is obviously disappointing. Alternatives are:
"I hope this explains the position"
"I am sorry I cannot be more helpful"
"I am sorry to send what I know will be a disappointing reply."

Deadlines If, exceptionally, you cannot meet the deadline let me know at once - an interim reply might be needed.

Departmental action Action 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.

ALL DRAFTS MUST BE CLEARED BY A NAMED OFFICIAL AT GRADE 7 LEVEL AND ANNOTATED TO CONFIRM THIS.

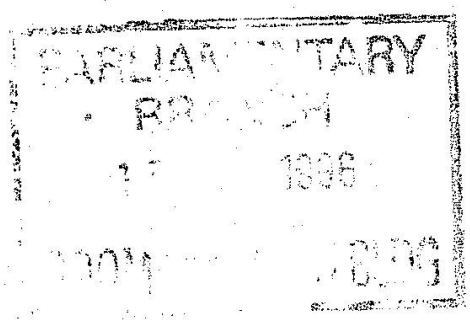
WHEREVER POSSIBLE DRAFTS SHOULD BE SENT ON CHOTS E-MAIL TO: Parliamentary Enquiries other wise send drafts by fax to Section 40

PLEASE USE ONLY ONE METHOD

The National Archives' reference DEFE 24/1983/1

USofS.
Sec (AS)
UPO's.

HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA



Our ref: IWJ/2/96/36

9 August 1996

The Rt Hon Michael Portillo MP
Secretary of State for Defence
The Ministry of Defence
Main Building
Whitehall
LONDON
SW1A 2HB

Dear Secretary of State

I enclose, for ease of reference, a copy of a letter sent by Section 40 Section 40 Beaumaris, to your Department regarding alleged UFO sightings in Anglesey.

I would be pleased if you could let me have your response to the points made by Section 40

Yours sincerely

Section 40

IEUAN WYN JONES
MP for Ynys Môn

The National Archives' reference DEFE 24/1983/1

Section 40 [redacted]
Beaumaris
Anglesey
23 July 1996

Dept Head,
Sec(AS)2a
MOD

Dear Sir,

I have recently been informed by an extremely reliable source of there having been at least one UFO incident at RAF Valley in the last twelve months.

On one such occasion, two RAF tornadoes were scrambled from another RAF base and took some time to reach Anglesey (apparently this was slightly embarrassing for the RAF). The planes were scrambled in response to the Valley control tower being buzzed by a craft of unknown design and origin. The person on the control tower was apparently very distressed by the incident.

My source also informed me that several other RAF bases up and down the country had experienced similar incidents.

As you may be aware, these types of incident are not unprecedented. For example, the recently released UFO briefing document funded by the Rockefeller Institute in New York makes reference to several bold incursions in 1975 over military airfields such as Malstrom AFB in Montana USA.

I am a member of The Global UFO Network and would be extremely grateful if you could furnish me with an official report on the incident(s) at RAF Valley for publication in the local newspaper and the Global UFO Network's own newsletter. In the interest of anonymity, please do not publish the names of the people involved in the incident.

In return, I would like to offer RAF Valley my services as a civilian adviser / scientist in the event of these incidents reoccurring.

Yours Sincerely

Section 40 [redacted]
Telephone No Section 40 [redacted] office hours)

The National Archives' reference DEFE 24/1983/1

6414

ENCLOSURE 85 NUMBER

DEFENCE

Plutonium

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

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

Small Businesses

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

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

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

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

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

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

Rendlesham Forest (Incident)

Mr. Redmond: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what response his Department made to the report submitted by Lieutenant Colonel Charles Halt relating to events in Rendlesham forest in December 1980; what interviews were held; and if he will make a statement; [39247]

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

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

Uncorrelated Radar Tracks (Investigations)

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

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

Unidentified Craft

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

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

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

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

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

Publicity

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

The National Archives' reference DEFE 24/1983/1



PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION

MP: Martin Redmond(Labour)(Don Valley)

PQ REFERENCE: 1988H

PQ TYPE: Ordinary Written

DRAFT ANSWER REQUIRED BY: 1200 Tuesday 23 July 1996
(Extended to 1600)

QUESTION: To ask the S of S for Defence, on how many occasions RAF aircraft have been (a) scrambled or (b) diverted from task to investigate uncorrelated targets picked up on radar; and if he will make a statement.

DRAFT ANSWER:

In the past five years RAF aircraft have been scrambled or diverted from task on two occasions to intercept and identify uncorrelated radar tracks entering the United Kingdom Air Defence Region.

APPROVED BY:

Head of Sec(AS) Signed _____ Section 40 [redacted] Tel: Section 40 [redacted] Date23/07

Sec(AS)2ab Signed _____ Section 40 [redacted] Tel Section 40 [redacted] Date23/07

COPIED TO:

PSO/ACAS*
DPR(RAF)*
AOAD1
DI55

The National Archives' reference DEFE 24/1983/1

BACKGROUND NOTE TO PQ 1988H

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

2. Prior to the demise of the Soviet Union in December 1991, RAF aircraft were regularly scrambled to intercept and investigate uncorrelated radar tracks penetrating the UK Air Defence Region. These were frequently identified as Soviet aircraft. The two occasions referred to in the answer involved Russian aircraft * connected with the NATO Exercise NORTH STAR. Since September 1991 there have been no such incidents. Aircraft have, however, been tasked with intercepting aircraft since that date but their identity has been known and they are not therefore included in the answer.

3. Since Mr Redmond has not specified a timescale in his question, we have provided figures covering the last five years.

* Possibly Observing Ex North Star not participating in it

The National Archives' reference DEFE 24/1983/1

644

ENCLOSURE NUMBER 83

PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION

MP: Martin Redmond(Labour)(Don Valley)

PQ REFERENCE: 1988H

PQ TYPE: Ordinary Written

DRAFT ANSWER REQUIRED BY: 1200 Tuesday 23 July 1996
(Extended to 1600)

QUESTION: To ask the S of S for Defence, on how many occasions RAF aircraft have been (a) scrambled or (b) diverted from task to investigate uncorrelated targets picked up on radar; and if he will make a statement.

DRAFT ANSWER:

In the past five years RAF aircraft have been scrambled and identify or diverted from task on two occasions to intercept uncorrelated radar tracks entering the United Kingdom Air Defence Region.

APPROVED BY:

Head of Sec(AS) Section 40 Tel: Section 40 Date

Sec(AS)2ab Section 40 Tel: Section 40 Date

COPIED TO:

PSO/ACAS*
DPR(RAF)*
AOAD1
DI55

The National Archives' reference DEFE 24/1983/1

BACKGROUND NOTE TO PQ 1988H

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3. Since Mr Redmond has not specified a timescale in his question, we have provided figures covering the last five years.

The two occasions referred to in the answer involved Russian aircraft connected with NATO Exercise NORTH STAR

Possibly observing not participating in it.

The National Archives' reference DEFE 24/1983/1

file
Sec(AS)2

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

PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE
FOR DEFENCE

ENCLOSURE NUMBER

D/US of S/FH 2569/96/A

25th July 1996

Dear Mr. Hughes.

Thank you for your letter of 8 July to Michael Portillo enclosing one from your constituent, Section 40 Section 40 Newport, about "unidentified flying objects". I am replying as this matter falls within my area of responsibility.

As you are aware Section 40 has recently been in contact with my officials and has been advised of the Ministry of Defence's role and responsibilities in respect of reports of "unidentified flying objects". Following my official's letter of 28 May which Section 40 copied to you, he wrote again on 8 June. He will by now have received a reply, dated 20 June, providing further clarification of the Department's interest in this subject. Nevertheless, it would perhaps be helpful if I took this opportunity to explain the Department's role concerning "UFO" sightings.

I can assure Section 40 that we take our responsibilities for ensuring the effective defence of this country very seriously indeed. The Ministry of Defence examines any reports of "UFO" sightings received solely to establish whether what was seen might have some defence significance; namely, is there any evidence that the UK Air Defence Region might have been compromised by a hostile foreign military aircraft? However, as my officials have explained to Section 40 unless there are defence implications we do not attempt to identify the precise nature of each sighting reported to us. We could not justify expenditure of public funds on investigations which go beyond our specific defence remit.

As we make no attempt to investigate sightings for which there is no defence interest, we are not in a position to provide a precise explanation for the hundreds of reports we receive each

Roy Hughes Esq DL MP

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
SEC(AS)2
30 JUL 1996
FILE 644

Recycled Paper

The National Archives' reference DEFE 24/1983/1

year. We believe that rational explanations could be found if resources were devoted to so doing. However, it is not the function of the Ministry of Defence to provide a general aerial identification service and it would be an inappropriate use of defence resources if we were to do so. From the types of descriptions we receive, aircraft or natural phenomena probably account for most of the observations.

Finally, there is no question that the Ministry of Defence would seek to cover-up any information on the subject of so-called "unidentified flying objects". The Department remains open-minded about the existence of extraterrestrial life, but to date we know of no evidence which proves that this phenomenon exists.

I hope this explains our specific role and responsibilities in this matter.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40 [redacted]

THE EARL HOWE

Recycled Paper

The National Archives' reference DEFE 24/1983/1

file
Lec(95)

PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE
FOR DEFENCE

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

ENCLOSURE NUMBER 81

D/US of S/FH 2530/96/A

25th July 1996

Dear Kenneth,

Thank you for your letter of 5 July enclosing one from your constituent, Section 40 Leatherhead, about Government interest in the "UFO" phenomenon.

As Section 40 is aware, my Department looks into reports of "UFO" sightings that are sent to us, many of which are very vague, but only to establish if what was seen may have some defence significance, namely is there any evidence to indicate that the UK Air Defence Region may have been compromised? If there is no evidence in a sighting to suggest a matter of defence concern, and to date no "UFO sighting" reported to us has revealed such evidence, we do not investigate further or seek to provide an explanation for what was observed. We believe, however, that rational explanations are available for most of these reported sightings, such as aircraft seen from unusual angles, or natural phenomena.

My Department does not carry out research into "UFO/flying saucers". We have no direct interest, expertise or role with respect to such matters or the question of the existence or otherwise of extraterrestrial lifeforms, about which we remain open-minded. To date, however, we know of no evidence which substantiates the existence of these alleged phenomena. We are not aware of any other Government Department conducting research into the "UFO" phenomenon.

I hope this explains the position.

Yours ever,

Section 40

THE EARL HOWE

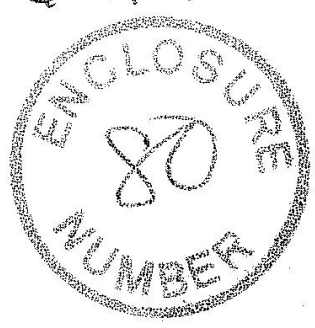
The Rt Hon Kenneth Baker CH MP

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
SEC(AS)2
30 JUL 1996
FILE 64/4

Recycled Paper

The National Archives' reference DEFE 24/1983/1

644



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PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION

URGENT ACTION REQUIRED

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MINISTER REPLYING:MINISTER OF STATE FOR THE ARMED FORCES

PQ REFERENCE:1994H
PQ TYPE:Ordinary Written

SUPPLEMENTARIES ARE REQUIRED? NO

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

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

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE NAME AND TELEPHONE NUMBER OF THE DESK OFFICER WHO DRAFTS THE ANSWER AND THE NAME AND TELEPHONE NUMBER OF THE GRADE 5/ONE STAR WHO APPROVES THE ANSWER MUST BE QUOTED.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The National Archives' reference DEFE 24/1983/1

The National Archives' reference DEFE 24/1983/1

6414

ENCLOSURE NUMBER 79

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PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION

URGENT ACTION REQUIRED

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MINISTER REPLYING:MINISTER OF STATE FOR THE ARMED FORCES

PQ REFERENCE:1988H
PQ TYPE:Ordinary Written

SUPPLEMENTARIES ARE REQUIRED? NO

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

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COPY ADDRESSEE(S):

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

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

DD Air Def - Gp. Capt Section 40

1. We spoke re. the above

2. Grateful if you could indicate whether we can provide information on the number of 'uncorrelated tarjets' over the last 5 years.

Section 40

22/7/96

Fax

x Section 40

Section 40

2 by RAF.

There were 8 interceptions of Russian aircraft which penetrated the UKADR between Jul and Sep 91, mainly associated with the NATO ~~exercise~~ maritime ex exercise North Star. Some of these aircraft were intercepted by RAF ~~aircraft~~ Tornados, others by Sea Harrier FA2 HMS Invincible, F14s from USS America and by Norwegian fires.

There have been no interceptions of Russian aircraft since Sep 91, after Gen described for the Adm Kuznetsov passage.

From: AOAD1. Gp Capt Section 40 23/7/96

The National Archives' reference DEFE 24/1983/1

Section 40 [redacted]

Mon 22 Jul, 1996 17:54 mailbox standard Page 1

DATE	FROM	SUBJECT	CODES
22/07/96	AOAD1	PQ	[ ]

Intended:
Sent: 22/07/96 at 16:41 Delivered: 22/07/96 at 16:46
To: SEC(AS)2B
CC:
Ref: 494
From: AOAD1 Auth by:
Subject: PQ

Text: Please find attached CHOTS copy of Redmond question on AD interceptions.

Priority: Normal SEE PAGE Attachments [2]
Reply Request [ ] View Acknowledge [ ] Codes [ ]

The National Archives' reference DEFE 24/1983/1

Sent: 22/07/96 at 15:26 Delivered: 22/07/96 at 15:26
To: AOAD1
CC:
Ref: 229
From: GE1
Subject: PQ

Text: Please find attached a draft reply to the PQ - If we include reference to the Customs and Excise dimension, I believe that it should be classified CONFIDENTIAL

Priority: Urgent

The National Archives' reference DEFE 24/1983/1

D/DAO/9/3

Jul 96

AOAD1

RESPONSE TO PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION 1988H

`To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, on how many occasions RAF aircraft have been (a) scrambled or (b) diverted from task to investigate uncorrelated targets picked up on radar; and if he will make a statement'.

Draft Answer

- Over the past 5 years, there have been no occasions when aircraft have either been scrambled or diverted from task to investigate uncorrelated targets picked up on radar.

PQ 1988H - Background Note

- Prior to the demise of the Former Soviet Union, aircraft were scrambled some 200 times annually to intercept and investigate uncorrelated tracks penetrating the UK Air defence Region (UKADR) from the north; these invariably proved to be Anti-Submarine or Long Range Reconnaissance aircraft of the then Soviet Air Force, some of which had already been intercepted and identified by adjacent Air Defence systems or intelligence sources. The last scramble of this kind took place in Sep 91.

- Aircraft are occasionally detected on radar in the air approaches to the UK which cannot be correlated against known flight plan information but which do not merit investigation by live-armed aircraft. These are obvious civilian light aircraft of no military significance transitting the southern area of the North Sea which have deviated slightly from either planned routes or times; such aircraft are identified through experience of track behaviour and/or by SSR interrogation and no further action is initiated.

- Aircraft have been scrambled on several occasions over the past 5 years although their missions were against known air activity such as:

  -- Aircraft flown off the Russian aircraft carrier Kutnetzov.

  -- Shadowing hijacked aircraft through UKADR.

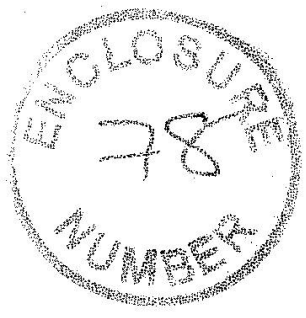
  -- Assisting HM Customs and Excise in Sea Search.

- You may be aware that the UK Air Defence system has occasionally assisted HM Customs and Excise in monitoring activity in certain areas for limited periods to detect drug-running activities. The existence of this sensitive activity has never been publicised and, to date, has not resulted in any successful seizures of forbidden substances.

Response drafted by: Wg Cdr [redacted] ADGE 1, DAO, MB4227 [redacted]

The National Archives' reference DEFE 24/1983/1

6414



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PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION

URGENT ACTION REQUIRED

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MINISTER REPLYING:MINISTER OF STATE FOR THE ARMED FORCES

PQ REFERENCE:1989H
PQ TYPE:Ordinary Written

SUPPLEMENTARIES ARE REQUIRED? NO

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

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

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

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

The National Archives' reference DEFE 24/1983/1

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

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

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

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

The National Archives' reference DEFE 24/1983/1

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

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

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

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

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

The National Archives' reference DEFE 24/1983/1

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The National Archives' reference DEFE 24/1983/1

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

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

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

The National Archives' reference DEFE 24/1983/1

6414
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NUMBER

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PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION

URGENT ACTION REQUIRED

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MINISTER REPLYING:MINISTER OF STATE FOR THE ARMED FORCES

PQ REFERENCE:1987H
PQ TYPE:Ordinary Written

SUPPLEMENTARIES ARE REQUIRED? NO

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The National Archives' reference DEFE 24/1983/1

The National Archives' reference DEFE 24/1983/1

Fde 64/4

ENCLOSURE 76 NUMBER

PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION

MP: MARTIN REDMOND (LABOUR) DON VALLEY

PQ REFERENCE: 1985H & 1986H

PQ TYPE: ORDINARY WRITTEN

DRAFT ANSWER REQUIRED BY: 12:00 TUESDAY 23 JULY 1996

QUESTION: [1985H] To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, who assessed that the events around RAF Woodbridge and RAF Bentwaters in December 1980, which were reported to his Department by Lieutenant Colonel Charles Halt were of no defence significance; on what evidence the assessment was made; what analysis of events was carried out; and if he will make a statement.

QUESTION: [1986H] To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what response his Department made to the report submitted by Lieutenant Colonel Charles Halt detailing events in Rendlesham Forest in December 1980; what interviews were held; and if he will make a statement.

DRAFT ANSWER: ~~All~~ The ~~evidence~~ report~~ed~~ was assessed by the staff in my Department responsible for air defence matters. Since the judgement was that it contained nothing of defence significance no further action was taken.

APPROVED BY:

Head of Sec(AS [redacted] Tel [redacted] Date 23.7.96

Sec(AS)2ab [redacted] Tel [redacted] Date 23.7.96

COPIED TO:

PSO/ACAS - E-Mailed
DPR(RAF)
DI55c - Had copies
GE3

The National Archives' reference DEFE 24/1983/1

BACKGROUND - PQs 1985H & 1986H

1. Mr Redmond has asked a large number of questions about military aviation issues over the years. He recently tabled four PQs about unidentified flying objects prompted, we believe, by the recent publication of a book on the subject by a former member of Sec(AS). The MP has tabled a further six questions on the subject of "UFOs" for answer before the Parliamentary recess, two of which follow up earlier answers he received about an alleged "UFO" incident which occurred outside RAF Woodbridge in Rendlesham Forest in December 1980 (Hansard extracts attached).

2. The alleged incidents to which Mr Redmond refers occurred between 27-29 December 1980 when unusual lights were seen by USAF personnel, including the Deputy Base Commander, outside RAF Woodbridge. A report of the sighting (copy attached) was forwarded to the MOD by the RAF Liaison Officer at RAF Bentwaters. The report was examined by the Department at the time and no other evidence of any matter of defence significance was found. This is of course the Department's only interest in such sightings.

3. Our line regarding this alleged incident is that all available evidence was examined at the time and we are satisfied that nothing of defence concern occurred in the location on the nights in question. No additional information has come to light over the last 15 years which calls the original judgement into question.

4. The only documents on the subject held by the Department are the report itself, limited official comments on the report, and correspondence from members of the public enquiring about the alleged events. The wording of the draft reply is in line with that used in responses to previous Parliamentary Enquiries on the subject (see attached).

5. There is no requirement for the Department to contact or reply to a witness following receipt of a "UFO" report. It would only have

The National Archives' reference DEFE 24/1983/1

been necessary to contact Lt Col Halt had there been any indication that the sighting was of defence relevance and it was necessary to interview him further. As this was not the case no response was appropriate or necessary.

The National Archives' reference DEFE 24/1983/1

file

ENCLOSURE NUMBER 76

PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION

MP: MARTIN REDMOND (LABOUR) DON VALLEY

PQ REFERENCE: 1989H, 1994H

PQ TYPE: ORDINARY WRITTEN

DRAFT ANSWER REQUIRED BY: 12:00 TUESDAY 23 JULY 1996

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

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

DRAFT ANSWER:

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

APPROVED BY:

Head of Sec(AS) Section 40 Tel: Section 40 Date 23.7.96

Sec(AS)2ab Section 40 Tel: Section 40 Date:

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DPR(RAF) —
DI55c — Hard copies sent
GE3

The National Archives' reference DEFE 24/1983/1

BACKGROUND PQs 1989H, 1994H

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

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

The National Archives' reference DEFE 24/1983/1

Fde 6414

ENCLOSURE NUMBER 74

PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION

MP: MARTIN REDMOND (LABOUR) DON VALLEY

PQ REFERENCE: 1987H

PQ TYPE: ORDINARY WRITTEN

DRAFT ANSWER REQUIRED BY: 12:00 TUESDAY 23 JULY 1996

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

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

APPROVED BY:

Head of Sec(AS) Section 40 Tel: Section 40 Date 23.7.96

Sec(AS)2ab Section 40 Tel: Section 40 Date 23/7/96.

COPIED TO:

PSO/ACAS
DPR(RAF) — Emailed
DI55c
GE3 — Hard copies

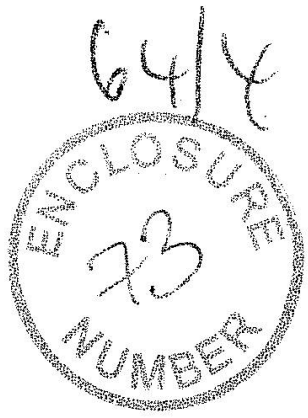
The National Archives' reference DEFE 24/1983/1

BACKGROUND PQ 1987H

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

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

The National Archives' reference DEFE 24/1983/1



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PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION

URGENT ACTION REQUIRED

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MINISTER REPLYING:MINISTER OF STATE FOR THE ARMED FORCES

PQ REFERENCE:1994H
PQ TYPE:Ordinary Written

SUPPLEMENTARIES ARE REQUIRED? NO

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

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

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE NAME AND TELEPHONE NUMBER OF THE DESK OFFICER WHO DRAFTS THE ANSWER AND THE NAME AND TELEPHONE NUMBER OF THE GRADE 5/ONE STAR WHO APPROVES THE ANSWER MUST BE QUOTED.

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

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

The National Archives' reference DEFE 24/1983/1

64/4
ENCLOSURE 72 NUMBER

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PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION

URGENT ACTION REQUIRED

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MINISTER REPLYING:MINISTER OF STATE FOR THE ARMED FORCES

PQ REFERENCE:1989H
PQ TYPE:Ordinary Written

SUPPLEMENTARIES ARE REQUIRED? NO

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

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

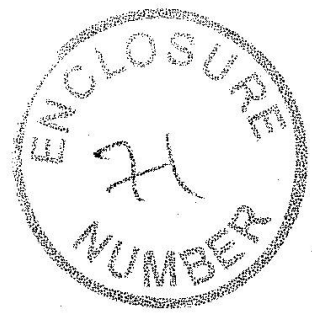
PLEASE NOTE THAT THE NAME AND TELEPHONE NUMBER OF THE DESK OFFICER WHO DRAFTS THE ANSWER AND THE NAME AND TELEPHONE NUMBER OF THE GRADE 5/ONE STAR WHO APPROVES THE ANSWER MUST BE QUOTED.

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

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

The National Archives' reference DEFE 24/1983/1

6414



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PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION

URGENT ACTION REQUIRED

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MINISTER REPLYING:MINISTER OF STATE FOR THE ARMED FORCES

PQ REFERENCE:1988H
PQ TYPE:Ordinary Written

SUPPLEMENTARIES ARE REQUIRED? NO

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

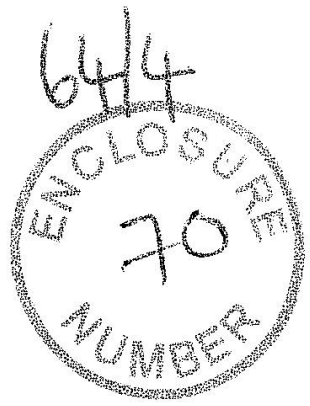
LEAD BRANCH:SEC(AS)
COPY ADDRESSEE(S):

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE NAME AND TELEPHONE NUMBER OF THE DESK OFFICER WHO DRAFTS THE ANSWER AND THE NAME AND TELEPHONE NUMBER OF THE GRADE 5/ONE STAR WHO APPROVES THE ANSWER MUST BE QUOTED.

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

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

The National Archives' reference DEFE 24/1983/1



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PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION

URGENT ACTION REQUIRED

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MINISTER REPLYING:MINISTER OF STATE FOR THE ARMED FORCES

PQ REFERENCE:1987H
PQ TYPE:Ordinary Written

SUPPLEMENTARIES ARE REQUIRED? NO

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

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

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE NAME AND TELEPHONE NUMBER OF THE DESK OFFICER WHO DRAFTS THE ANSWER AND THE NAME AND TELEPHONE NUMBER OF THE GRADE 5/ONE STAR WHO APPROVES THE ANSWER MUST BE QUOTED.

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

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

The National Archives' reference DEFE 24/1983/1

SEC(AS)2a

6414

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

PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE
FOR DEFENCE

ENCLOSURE NUMBER 69

D/US of S/FH 2468/96/M

17th July 1996

Dear Roger,

Thank you for your letter of 1 July enclosing one from your constituent, Section 40 Minchinhampton, about "unidentified flying objects".

My Department does look into reports of "unidentified flying objects" that are sent to us, but only to establish if what was seen may have some defence significance. My Department has no direct interest or role with respect to "UFO/flying saucer" matters or the question of the existence or otherwise of extraterrestrial lifeforms. We believe that down-to-earth explanations are available for most reported sightings, such as aircraft seen from unusual angles, or natural phenomena.

If there is no evidence in a sighting to suggest a matter of defence concern and to date no "UFO sighting" reported to us has revealed such evidence, we do not investigate further or seek to provide an explanation for what was observed. Since there was no evidence of this description associated with Section 40 observation of 15 March 1994, it would have been outside my Department's remit to devote resources towards further investigations into the sighting. I apologise that my Department's earlier letter to Section 40 did not make this clear.

Finally, I should like to assure Section 40 that there is no question that my Department would attempt to cover-up information on the subject of so-called "unidentified flying objects".

Roger Knapman Esq MP

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
SEC (AS) 2
19 JUL 1996
FILE

Recycled Paper

The National Archives' reference DEFE 24/1983/1

I hope this helps to clarify our role and responsibilities in this matter.

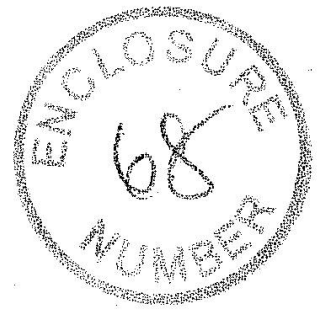
Yours ever,

Section 40 [redacted]

THE EARL HOWE

Recycled Paper

The National Archives' reference DEFE 24/1983/1



DATE	TO	SUBJECT	CODES
23/07/96	Parliamentary Ques	PQs 1985H and 1986H	[ ]

Sent: 23/07/96 at 12:20
To: Parliamentary Questions
CC: PSO/ACAS,DPR(RAF)

Ref: 738
Subject: PQs 1985H and 1986H

Text: The attached has been seen and signed off by Section 40 and Section 40 Section 40

The attachments referred to in the background note have been walked down separately under a compliments slip.

Priority: Urgent
Reply Request [ ]
View Acknowledge [*]
Delivery Acknowledge [*]
Attachments [1]
Codes [ ]

The National Archives' reference DEFE 24/1983/1

PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION

MP: MARTIN REDMOND (LABOUR) DON VALLEY

PQ REFERENCE: 1985H & 1986H

PQ TYPE: ORDINARY WRITTEN

DRAFT ANSWER REQUIRED BY: 12:00 TUESDAY 23 JULY 1996

QUESTION: [1985H] To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, who assessed that the events around RAF Woodbridge and RAF Bentwaters in December 1980, which were reported to his Department by Lieutenant Colonel Charles Halt were of no defence significance; on what evidence the assessment was made; what analysis of events was carried out; and if he will make a statement.

QUESTION: [1986H] To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what response his Department made to the report submitted by Lieutenant Colonel Charles Halt detailing events in Rendlesham Forest in December 1980; what interviews were held; and if he will make a statement.

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

APPROVED BY:

Head of Sec(AS) **original signed** Section 40 Tel: Section 40 Date 23.7.96

Sec(AS)2ab **original signed** Section 40 Tel: Section 40 Date 23.7.96

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PSO/ACAS
DPR(RAF)
DI55c
GE3

The National Archives' reference DEFE 24/1983/1

BACKGROUND - PQs 1985H & 1986H

1. Mr Redmond has asked a large number of questions about military aviation issues over the years. He recently tabled four PQs about unidentified flying objects prompted, we believe, by the recent publication of a book on the subject by a former member of Sec(AS). The MP has tabled a further six questions on the subject of "UFOs" for answer before the Parliamentary recess, two of which follow up earlier answers he received about an alleged "UFO" incident which occurred outside RAF Woodbridge in Rendlesham Forest in December 1980 (Hansard extracts attached).

2. The alleged incidents to which Mr Redmond refers occurred between 27-29 December 1980 when unusual lights were seen by USAF personnel, including the Deputy Base Commander, outside RAF Woodbridge. A report of the sighting (copy attached) was forwarded to the MOD by the RAF Liaison Officer at RAF Bentwaters. The report was examined by the Department at the time and no other evidence of any matter of defence significance was found. This is of course the Department's only interest in such sightings.

3. Our line regarding this alleged incident is that all available evidence was examined at the time and we are satisfied that nothing of defence concern occurred in the location on the nights in question. No additional information has come to light over the last 15 years which calls the original judgement into question.

4. The only documents on the subject held by the Department are the report itself, limited official comments on the report, and correspondence from members of the public enquiring about the alleged events. The wording of the draft reply is in line with that used in responses to previous Parliamentary Enquiries on the subject (see attached).

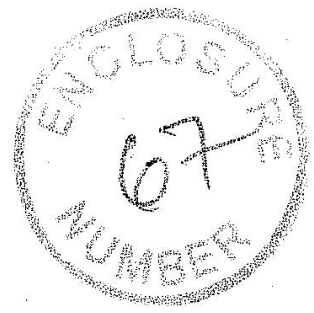
5. There is no requirement for the Department to contact or reply to a witness following receipt of a "UFO" report. It would only have

The National Archives' reference DEFE 24/1983/1

been necessary to contact Lt Col Halt had there been any indication that the sighting was of defence relevance and it was necessary to interview him further. As this was not the case no response was appropriate or necessary.

The National Archives' reference DEFE 24/1983/1

644



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PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION

URGENT ACTION REQUIRED

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MINISTER REPLYING:MINISTER OF STATE FOR THE ARMED FORCES

PQ REFERENCE:1985H
PQ TYPE:Ordinary Written

SUPPLEMENTARIES ARE REQUIRED? NO

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

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

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE NAME AND TELEPHONE NUMBER OF THE DESK OFFICER WHO DRAFTS THE ANSWER AND THE NAME AND TELEPHONE NUMBER OF THE GRADE 5/ONE STAR WHO APPROVES THE ANSWER MUST BE QUOTED.

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

36|To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, who assessed that the events around RAF Woodbridge and RAF Bentwaters in December 1980, which were reported to his Department by Lieutentant Colonel Charles Halt were of no defence significance; on what evidence the assessment was made; what analysis of events was carried out; and if he will make a statement. [39249]

The National Archives' reference DEFE 24/1983/1

644
ENCLOSURE
66
NUMBER

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PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION

URGENT ACTION REQUIRED

****

MINISTER REPLYING:MINISTER OF STATE FOR THE ARMED FORCES

PQ REFERENCE:1986H
PQ TYPE:Ordinary Written

SUPPLEMENTARIES ARE REQUIRED? NO

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

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

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE NAME AND TELEPHONE NUMBER OF THE DESK OFFICER WHO DRAFTS THE ANSWER AND THE NAME AND TELEPHONE NUMBER OF THE GRADE 5/ONE STAR WHO APPROVES THE ANSWER MUST BE QUOTED.

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

31|To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what response his Department made to the report submitted by Lieutentant Colonel Charles Halt detailing events in Rendlesham Forest in December 1980; what interviews were held; and if he will make a statement. [39247]

ENCLOSURE NUMBER 65

LOOSE MINUTE

D/Sec(AS)/64/4

17 Jul 96

Parliamentary Branch

LETTER FROM ROY HUGHES, DL, MP - US 2569/96

1. Mr Hughes' constituent, Section 40 has written to my staff seeking information on the MOD's policy on "UFO" sightings on three recent occasions. Our first reply is attached to Section 40 Section 40 letter, our second which further clarified our responsibilities and role was despatched on 20 June 1996 (and would have arrived after Section 40 sent this letter to his MP), and there is another letter awaiting our response.

2. Section 40 challenges our line that if we do not know what has been observed by a witness, how can we say that it is not of defence significance. As US of S is aware unless there is corroborating evidence to suggest that the UK Air Defence Region may have been compromised, and to date no "UFO" sighting has revealed such evidence, we do not make any attempt to establish the precise nature of each sighting reported to us. It is outside the MOD's remit to devote defence resources towards providing an aerial identification service for the public.

3. As we do not make an attempt to provide an explanation for each "UFO" sighting reported to us, we could not categorically state that all sightings reported to us have been attributed to aircraft or natural phenomena. However, from the descriptions given they are the most likely explanation for them.

4. The attached draft seeks to explain this policy once more to Section 40

Section 40

Sec(AS)2
MB8247 Section 40

Enc.

The National Archives' reference DEFE 24/1983/1

DRAFT

D/USofS/2569/96 July 1996

Thank you for your letter of 8 July 1996 addressed to Michael Portillo enclosing one from your constituent [redacted] Newport, Gwent, [redacted] on the subject of "unidentified flying objects". I am replying as this matter falls within my area of responsibility.

As you are aware [redacted] has recently been in contact with my officials and has been advised of the MOD's role and responsibilities in respect of reports of unidentified flying objects. Following my official's letter of 28 May which [redacted] copied to you, he wrote again on 8 June. He will by now have received a reply, dated 20 June, providing further clarification of the MOD interest in this subject. Nevertheless, it would perhaps be helpful if I took this opportunity to explain MOD's role concerning "UFO" sightings.

I can assure [redacted] that my Department takes its responsibilities for ensuring the effective defence of this country very seriously indeed. The MOD examines any reports of "UFO" sightings sent to us solely to establish whether what was seen might have some defence significance; ie. is there evidence that the UK Air Defence Region might have been

Roy Hughes, Esq, DL, MP

The National Archives' reference DEFE 24/1983/1

compromised by a hostile foreign military aircraft? However, as has been explained to [redacted] unless there are defence implications we do not attempt to identify the precise nature of each sighting reported to us. We could not justify expenditure of public funds on investigations which go beyond our specific defence remit.

As we make no attempt to investigate sightings for which there is no defence interest, we are not in a position to provide a precise explanation for the hundreds of reports we receive each year. We believe that rational explanations could be found if resources were devoted to so doing. However, it is not the function of the MOD to provide a general aerial identification service and would be an inappropriate use of defence resources if we were to do so. From the types of descriptions we receive aircraft or natural phenomena probably account for most of the observations.

Finally, there is no question that the MOD would seek to cover-up any information on the subject of so-called "unidentified flying objects". The MOD remains open-minded about the existence of extraterrestrial life, but to date we know of no evidence which proves that this phenomenon exists.

I hope this explains our specific role and responsibilities in this matter.

THE EARL HOWE

The National Archives' reference DEFE 24/1983/1

MINIST... OF DEFENCE
SEC (AS) 2
11 JUL 1996
FILE

644
ENCLOSURE NUMBER
64

PARLIAMENTARY ENQUIRY

FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION

TO: Sec(AS)2a **PE REF NUMBER:** US 2569/96

MINISTER REPLYING: USofS **DRAFT REQUIRED BY:** 22/7/96

DATE: 11/7/96 **FROM:** Section 40, PE Unit **TEL:** Section 40

GUIDANCE NOTE

Ministers reply to some 8,000 such letters a year. They place great importance on the content style and speed of the 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. Do not be unduly defensive.

No background note is required unless essential to explain the line taken in the draft reply.

Layout Draft replies should be double spaced.

Always include the full PE reference number at the top left of the draft.

Put the MP's full title at the bottom left of the first page. Only add the address if the letter is from the Minister direct to a constituent.

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 ..., Toytown about ...."

If a Minister is replying on behalf of another Minister start:
"Thank you for your letter of ... addressed to Michael Portillo/ Nicholas Soames/James Arbuthnot/Frederick Howe on behalf etc"
Mr Soames and Earl Howe add "I have been asked to reply" and "I am replying as this matter falls within my area of responsibility." respectively.

Do not end "I hope this is helpful" when the reply is obviously disappointing. Alternatives are:
"I hope this explains the position"
"I am sorry I cannot be more helpful"
"I am sorry to send what I know will be a disappointing reply."

Deadlines If, exceptionally, you cannot meet the deadline let me know at once - an interim reply might be needed.

Departmental action Action 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.

ALL DRAFTS MUST BE CLEARED BY A NAMED OFFICIAL AT GRADE 7 LEVEL AND ANNOTATED TO CONFIRM THIS.

WHEREVER POSSIBLE DRAFTS SHOULD BE SENT ON CHOTS E-MAIL TO: Parliamentary Enquiries other wise send drafts by fax to Section 40
PLEASE USE ONLY ONE METHOD

The National Archives' reference DEFE 24/1983/1

USQS
SEC (AS)
UFO's.

From: ROY HUGHES, D.L., M.P.

Tel: Home Office Section 40

Fax: Home Office Section 40

HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

PARLIAMENTARY BRANCH
5 JUL 1996
ROOM 6134 MAIN BLDG

8 July 1996

Dear Minister,

I enclose some correspondence I have received from Section 40 Section 40 Section 40 South Wales, concerning UFO's.

Would you kindly look into the matter and let me have a reply for my constituent?

Please return the enclosures to me.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

Member for Newport East

The Rt Hon Michael Portillo MP
Secretary of State for Defence.

The National Archives' reference DEFE 24/1983/1

Acknowledgement Card
27.6.96

21/06/96

Section 40 [redacted]
Newport
Gwent Section 40 [redacted]

Dear Sir,

I am writing to you about my concern regarding the topic of "unidentified flying objects" that seem to be operating in our airspace. I have numerous videos with what I would class as tangible evidence showing such "UFO's" in daylight and at night taken at various locations around the country but specifically in areas around Wiltshire. One of these video clips has been seen on national television late last year on a program called "The Fortean Review". It shows a "UFO" in broad daylight hovering over Swindon. I would be happy to send you a video of these clips to enable you to make up your own mind if you wish to take my concern seriously.

I have previously written to Section 40 [redacted] at the M.o.D. on this subject and have enclosed a copy of her reply. I realise that you are a very busy man but would appreciate it if you could read the letter as it clearly states that **most** of these sightings can be explained as aircraft seen from unusual angles and natural phenomena but it does not explain what the rest of these sightings could be. It worries me a great deal to think that the M.o.D. are not interested in finding out what this percentage of unexplained sightings could be and that they can simply say that they do not acknowledge the existence of "UFO's". This in itself is a strange thing to say as the M.o.D. in the past have denied any involvement in the study of this subject yet surely some form of research must have taken place for this decision to have been made. It is a disturbing thought that defence of our country is being handled with guess work and lack of knowledge.

Once again, I am aware that you are a busy man but would appreciate your time on this matter. I am just one person in a growing minority of people who believe that something is going on in our skies and that is on the increase and believe we have the right to know.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40 [redacted]

From: Section 40 Secretariat (Air Staff) 2a1
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Main Building, Whitehall, London SW1A 2HB

Telephone (Direct dial) 0171 218 2140
(Switchboard) 0171 218 9000
(Fax) Section 40

Section 40

Newport
Gwent
Section 40

Your reference

Our reference
D/Sec(AS)/64/3
Date
28 May 1996

Dear Section 40

1. Thank you for your recent letter regarding the subject of "unidentified flying objects".

2. The Ministry of Defence does look into reports of "UFO" sightings that are sent to us, many of which are very vague, but only to establish if what was seen may have some defence significance. We believe that down-to-earth explanations are available for most of these reported sightings, such as aircraft seen from unusual angles, or natural phenomena.

3. The Royal Air Force is responsible for ensuring that the integrity of the United Kingdom Air Defence Region is maintained and that no hostile or unauthorized military aircraft enters UK airspace. Before a foreign military aircraft may enter UK airspace it is necessary for Diplomatic Clearance to be sought from the UK Government which grants permission for the flight to proceed. Foreign aircraft operate in UK airspace frequently with such authority; some transiting, some participating in joint exercises etc. Our air traffic controllers would question the pilots of any military aircraft intending to enter UK airspace without the requisite diplomatic clearance and if necessary measures would be taken to turn the aircraft away from our airspace.

4. To date the Ministry of Defence knows of no evidence which substantiates the existence of the alleged phenomena of "UFO/ flying saucers" and therefore no threat to the UK has been discerned which has been attributed to a so-called "UFO/flying saucer".

5. You enclose an article from *The Observer* which reports comments apparently made by my predecessor in Secretariat(Air Staff)2 on the subject of "UFO/flying saucers". As the article clearly states the views expressed by Section 40 represent his personal opinions and do not represent or reflect the MOD's views.

6. I hope this explains the position.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

[redacted]

The National Archives' reference DEFE 24/1983/1

ENCLOSURE NUMBER 63

LOOSE MINUTE

D/Sec(AS)/64/4

17 Jul 96

Parliamentary Branch

LETTER FROM RT HON KENNETH BAKER, CH, MP - US 2530/96

1. I enclose a draft reply to Mr Baker's letter, covering one from his constituent, Section 40 about Government research into unidentified flying objects.

2. As US of S is aware, the Department's only interest in "UFO" sightings is to ascertain if what was seen may have had some defence significance, ie. is there evidence to indicate that the UK air defence region may have been compromised? If there is no evidence to suggest a matter of military concern, Departmental interest in the sighting ceases. Neither Sec(AS) nor the Cabinet Office, with whom my staff have spoken, are aware of any other Government interest in "UFOs" or indeed of any research into "UFO" phenomenon. The draft reply reflects this.

Section 40 [redacted]

Sec(AS)2
MB8247 Section 40 [redacted]

Enc.

The National Archives' reference DEFE 24/1983/1

DRAFT

D/USofS/2530/96 July 1996

Thank you for your letter of 5 July 1996 enclosing one from your constituent Section 40 Leatherhead, Surrey, Section 40 on the subject of Government interest in the "UFO" phenomenon.

As Section 40 is aware, my Department looks into reports of "UFO" sightings that are sent to us, many of which are very vague, but only to establish if what was seen may have some defence significance, ie. is there evidence to indicate that the UK Air Defence Region may have been compromised? If there is no evidence in a sighting to suggest a matter of defence concern, and to date no "UFO sighting" reported to us has revealed such evidence, we do not investigate further or seek to provide an explanation for what was observed. We believe, however, that down-to-earth explanations are available for most of these reported sightings, such as aircraft seen from unusual angles, or natural phenomena.

My Department does not carry out research into "UFO/flying saucers". We have no direct interest, expertise or role with respect to such matters or the question of the existence or

Rt Hon Kenneth Baker, CH, MP

The National Archives' reference DEFE 24/1983/1

otherwise of extraterrestrial lifeforms, about which we remain open-minded. To date, however, we know of no evidence which substantiates the existence of these alleged phenomena. To the best of our knowledge, no other Government Department is conducting research into the "UFO" phenomenon.

I hope this explains the position.

THE EARL HOWE

The National Archives' reference DEFE 24/1983/1

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
SEC(AS)2
10 JUL 1996
FILE

ENCLOSURE NUMBER 62

PARLIAMENTARY ENQUIRY

FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION

TO: SEC(AS)2a **PE REF NUMBER:** US 2530/96

MINISTER REPLYING: USofS **DRAFT REQUIRED BY:** 19/7/96

DATE: 10/7/96 **FROM:** Section 40 PE Unit **TEL:** Section 40

GUIDANCE NOTE

Ministers reply to some 8,000 such letters a year. They place great importance on the content style and speed of the 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. Do not be unduly defensive.

No background note is required unless essential to explain the line taken in the draft reply.

Layout Draft replies should be double spaced.

Always include the full PE reference number at the top left of the draft.

Put the MP's full title at the bottom left of the first page. Only add the address if the letter is from the Minister direct to a constituent.

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 ..., Toytown about ...."

If a Minister is replying on behalf of another Minister start:
"Thank you for your letter of ... addressed to Michael Portillo/ Nicholas Soames/James Arbuthnot/Frederick Howe on behalf etc"
Mr Soames and Earl Howe add "I have been asked to reply" and "I am replying as this matter falls within my area of responsibility." respectively.

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"I hope this explains the position"
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other wise send drafts by fax to Section 40
PLEASE USE ONLY ONE METHOD

The National Archives' reference DEFE 24/1983/1

Pt : SecCAS 2a

08 JUL 1996

MV22849

From: The Rt. Hon. KENNETH BAKER, C.H., M.P.

HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON, SW1A 0AA

UKSpS
SEC(AS)
UFOs.

The Earl Howe
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State
for Defence
Ministry of Defence
Main Building
Whitehall
London
SW1A 2HB

5th July 1996

Dear Minister

UFOs

I have received the attached letter from my constituent, Section 40 Section 40 Leatherhead, Surrey.

Section 40 would be grateful to know: "What the British Government is doing to discover and research the truth about UFOs?".

I would be grateful for your comments to pass on to my constituent!

Yours sincerely

Section 40

pp KENNETH BAKER

Enc.

(Signed in Mr Baker's absence)

PARLIAMENTARY
BRANCH
- 9 JUL 1996
ROOM 6134 MAIN BLDG

The National Archives' reference DEFE 24/1983/1

- 4 JUL 1996

Section 40

Leatherhead,
Surrey.
Section 40

1st July '96

Rt Hon Kenneth Baker MP
House of Commons
Westminster
London

Dear Mr Baker,

The UFO Phenomenon

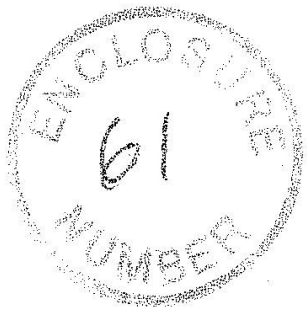
I know that the MOD's policy on UFO's is: "unless it effects National Security we're not interested", but there are many serious scientific and philosophic aspects to Ufology.

Could you tell me what the British Government is doing to discover and research the truth about UFO's ?

There is much more importance to this than just that of National Security and I would be grateful for any fuller infomation you can provide me with.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40



LOOSE MINUTE

D/Sec(AS)/64/4

12 Jul 96

Parliamentary Branch

LETTER FROM ROGER KNAPMAN MP - US 2468/96

1. The correspondent, Section 40 [redacted] wrote to Geoffrey-Clifton Brown MP following sight of an article in the Wiltshire and Gloucestershire Standard. In accordance with normal practice Mr Clifton-Brown has passed this letter to Section 40 [redacted] own MP, Mr Knapman, for action.

2. The article in the Wiltshire and Gloucestershire Standard apparently made reference to Mr Clifton-Brown's exchange of correspondence with USofS in April 1996 following a letter from his constituent calling for the release all the information he believes the MOD is withholding which proves the existence of alien lifeforms. USofS' response to Mr Clifton-Brown reflected the standard line on MOD interest in "unexplained" aerial sighting reports and assured his constituent that there was no question that the MOD would attempt to cover up information relating to so-called "UFOs".

3. Section 40 [redacted] expresses his dismay that when he reported an "unexplained" sighting to Sec(AS) in March 1994, in his opinion he received an unsatisfactory response from us. This belief may stem from a misunderstanding of the MOD's role in relation to "unexplained" aerial sightings. As USofS is aware, our line is that if there is no evidence to suggest a matter of military concern, official interest in the sighting ceases. We do not attempt to establish the precise nature of every "unexplained" sighting reported to us, as it is outside our remit to devote public funds on investigations which go beyond our defence interests. However, this may not have been made clear to Section 40 [redacted] when he telephoned Sec(AS).

4. It was thought at the time that Section 40 [redacted] may have witnessed two unconnected events, and one of them could have been a natural phenomenon. In order to be helpful my staff suggested that he might care to contact the British Fireball Survey who would be able to corroborate the presence of a meteor or fireball at the time of his sighting. There was no intent to give an obfuscating reply.

5. I attach a draft response for Lord Howe's consideration, which clarifies the Department's role in "unexplained" sightings and apologising for any misunderstanding our earlier response may have caused.

Section 40 [redacted]

Sec(AS)2
MB8247 Section 40 [redacted]

Enc.

The National Archives' reference DEFE 24/1983/1

DRAFT

D/USofS/2468/96 July 1996

Thank you for your letter of 1 July 1996 enclosing one from your constituent Section 40 [redacted] Section 40 [redacted] Minchinhampton, Gloucestershire, Section 40 [redacted] on the subject of "unidentified flying objects".

My Department does look into reports of "unidentified flying objects" that are sent to us, but only to establish if what was seen may have some defence significance. My Department has no direct interest or role with respect to "UFO/flying saucer" matters or the question of the existence or otherwise of extraterrestrial lifeforms, about which we remain open-minded. We believe that down-to-earth explanations are available for most reported sightings, such as aircraft seen from unusual angles, or natural phenomena.

If there is no evidence in a sighting to suggest a matter of defence concern and to date no "UFO sighting" reported to us has revealed such evidence, we do not investigate further or seek to provide an explanation for what was observed. Since there was no evidence of this description associated with Section 40 [redacted] Section 40 [redacted] observation of 15th March 1994, it would have been outside the Department's remit to devote resources towards further investigations into the sighting. I apologise that the

Roger Knapman, Esq, MP

The National Archives' reference DEFE 24/1983/1

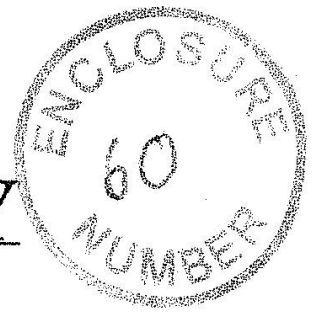
Department's earlier letter to Section 40 [redacted] did not make this clear.

Finally, I should like to assure Section 40 [redacted] that there is no question that the MOD would attempt to cover-up information on the subject of so-called "unidentified flying objects".

I hope this explains our role and responsibilities in this matter.

THE EARL HOWE

The National Archives' reference DEFE 24/1983/1



PARLIAMENTARY ENQUIRY

FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION

TO: SEC(AS)2a **PE REF NUMBER:** US 2468/96

MINISTER REPLYING: USofS **DRAFT REQUIRED BY:** 16/7/96

DATE: 5/7/96 **FROM:** [redacted] PE Unit **TEL:** [redacted]

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PLEASE USE ONLY ONE METHOD

The National Archives' reference DEFE 24/1983/1

- 4 JUL 1996

From: Roger Knapman, M.P.

PE: Sec(AS)2a
USOEs.
UFOs.

HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

1st July, 1996.

Dear Fredrick

I enclose this letter I have received from my constituent, Section 40 Section 40 Minchinhampton, Gloucestershire and would be grateful if you could let me have your comments on the points he makes.

Yours ever.

Section 40

The Earl Howe,
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State,
Ministry of Defence,
Whitehall,
London, SW1

PARLIAMENTARY
- 4 JUL 1996
ROOM 6134 MAIN BLDG

The National Archives' reference DEFE 24/1983/1

38

RECEIVED
19 JUN 1996

Section 40
[redacted]
Minchinhampton,
Gloucestershire.
Section 40
[redacted]

5 June 1996

Geoffrey Clifton-Brown, MP,
House of Commons,
London SW1.

Dear Mr. Clifton-Brown,

I was very much taken by an article I read in the Wiltshire and Gloucestershire Standard on 30th May, 1996, which touched on a reply you had received from the Ministry of Defence regarding a question you raised about the possible cover up on their part of evidence pertaining to unidentified flying objects. I note the comments made in the same article by one of your constituents and for the record would like to add the following experience I had within the bounds of your constituency, which lead to a discourse I had with the Ministry of Defence.

At approximately 10.00pm on a clear, bright night on 15th March, 1994, my wife and I were approaching Chapman's Cross (crossroads between the road to Sapperton and road to Cirencester) on our way from our home in Minchinhampton to London. Suddenly we noticed what looked at first to be a very large, bright star plunge almost vertically into the field adjacent to the road we were driving along. The actual landing was obscured by a clump of trees as the car sped past, but when these cleared, a white vertical shaped light was visible in the left hand corner of the field. It appeared to be about one foot in height. Simultaneously an oval shaped object about thirty feet in circumference was visible in a more or less horizontal position to the white light, a good distance further on in approximately the middle of the same field. The oval shaped object had double tiered whirling green lights (rather like floodlights) which were propelling round and round at a rapid pace.

There was then a cessation of these green lights and an inner oval of red lights started flashing much closer to the ground. All lights then ceased abruptly, but in the brightness of the moonlit night it was just possible to observe something that looked like black dust arising from the then darkened oval object. There was a short period of complete darkness before the same procedure repeated itself and this same sequence went on for at least five minutes, as I had by this time parked the car by the roadside and got out to watch. The white light at the far left hand side of the field remained constant throughout. Never having experienced anything quite like this before and feeling rather nervous, yet at the same time curious, I drove on and took the nearby turning to Sapperton and skirted the field on this road. The drive took about seven minutes and on our return to the main road the object was still in the field with green lights still swirling, then red lights and then darkness, and then repeating as before.

The National Archives' reference DEFE 24/1983/1

We again took the side road to Sapperton and drove round the field but this time on our return to the main road there was nothing to be seen in the field at all. Interesting to note, too, was the sky which had been so bright even though the moon was not full, and was now obscured by what appeared to be a veiled dark milky substance, turning what had been a very bright night into a strangely dark one. In all the object had been in the field approximately twenty to twenty five minutes. We continued our journey stopping first at The Police Station in Cirencester to report the incident.

The following morning, 16th March, I rang the MOD to further report the incident and I was put through to a person at a secretariat who stated that he was 'the responsible officer dealing with UFOs'. He suggested that it might have been a meteorite or 'fireballs'!

In response to my offer of a written report, I was invited to send one in, which I did, and in a later reply it was suggested that I might care to write to an individual who was investigating fireballs!

I think it does not reflect well on the MOD to give obfuscating replies such as the one I received. It would have been better, in my view, for the MOD to have been either more informative and detailed in their reply or to have honestly said that they did not know or would not tell for specific reasons.

Yours sincerely,



The National Archives' reference DEFE 24/1983/1

ENCLOSURE 59 NUMBER

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

Read Codes

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

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

Trust and Health Authorities (Debts)

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

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

Child Abuse Inquires

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

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

DEFENCE

Land Mines

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

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

Hawk Trainer Crash, Portugal

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

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

Official Secrets (Military Accidents)

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

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

Armed Forces

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

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

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

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

Unidentified Flying Objects

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

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

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

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

The National Archives' reference DEFE 24/1983/1

644
ENCLOSURE NUMBER 58

DATE	TO	SUBJECT	CODES
04/07/96	Parliamentary Ques	PQs 1755H and 1767H	[ ]

Sent: 04/07/96 at 17:35
To: Parliamentary Questions
CC:

Ref: 689
Subject: PQs 1755H and 1767H

Text: The attached PQs have a linked background note. They have been seen and signed off by Section 40 and Section 40 The attachment (Official Report extract) will be walked down to you during the course of tomorrow morning.

Priority: Normal View Acknowledge [*] Attachments [2]
Reply Request [ ] Delivery Acknowledge [*] Codes [ ]

The National Archives' reference DEFE 24/1983/1

PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION

MP: MARTIN REDMOND (LABOUR) DON VALLEY

PQ REFERENCE: 1755H

PQ TYPE: ORDINARY WRITTEN

DRAFT ANSWER REQUIRED BY: 12:00 FRIDAY 5 JULY 1996

QUESTION: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, which office within his Department deals with sightings of unidentified flying objects.

DRAFT ANSWER:

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

APPROVED BY:

Head of Sec(AS) **original signed** [redacted] Tel [redacted] Date 4/7/96

Sec(AS)2 **original signed** [redacted] Tel: [redacted] Date 4/7/96

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PSO/ACAS
DPR(RAF) } Sent by CHOTS
DI55c
GE3 } By hand copy.

The National Archives' reference DEFE 24/1983/1

PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION

MP: MARTIN REDMOND (LABOUR) DON VALLEY

PQ REFERENCE: 1767H

PQ TYPE: ORDINARY WRITTEN

DRAFT ANSWER REQUIRED BY: 12:00 FRIDAY 5 JULY 1996

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

DRAFT ANSWER:

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

APPROVED BY:

Head of Sec(AS) **original signed** Section 40 Tel: Section 40 Date 4/7/96

Sec(AS)2 **original signed** Section 40 Tel: Section 40 Date 4/7/96

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The National Archives' reference DEFE 24/1983/1

BACKGROUND - PQs 1755H & 1767H

1. These PQs follow two recent PQs tabled by Mr Redmond about an alleged "unidentified flying object" incident which occurred outside RAF Woodbridge in Rendlesham Forest in December 1980. It is not clear why Mr Redmond has become interested in unidentified flying objects. There has been an increase in media attention on the subject of "UFOs" of late, partially as a result of the recent publication of a book on the subject by a former member of Sec(AS), and this may account for his interest.

2. There are commonly held misconceptions surrounding the MOD's role and responsibilities with respect to "unexplained" aerial phenomena. The Department has a very limited interest - our only concern is to establish whether there is any evidence of a matter which is of defence significance.

3. One of the functions of Sec(AS)2a is to act as the MOD focal point for reports and correspondence relating to "UFO" sightings. The task falls to Sec(AS) because the official interest in "UFO sightings" is an air defence one: is there any evidence in a sighting of a breach of UK air defences? Our role in relation to reports is therefore to examine them, with the assistance of the appropriate experts, as required, to ascertain whether the sighting represents anything of defence interest. If we judge that it does not, and this has been the case in respect of all "UFO" sightings reported to the MOD to date, we do not seek to investigate further or to provide an explanation of what might have been seen. There are no MOD staff who work on this subject full-time, and the work represents a small part of the overall secretariat function performed by Sec(AS)2a. Unfortunately, however, Sec(AS)2a is often erroneously referred to by the media as the MOD's "UFO" office.

4. Since we do not seek to establish the precise nature of each sighting reported to us by implication it is quite normal for a sighting to remain "unexplained" but not require further official

The National Archives' reference DEFE 24/1983/1

action. We are therefore unable to provide the details requested in Mr Redmond's question (PQ 1767H). We have chosen instead to clarify our official role in relation to "UFO" sightings. The draft answer follows the wording used in a previous PQ answer on the subject (House of Lords, Official Report, 7 Dec 94 WA 90) (attached).

The National Archives' reference DEFE 24/1983/1

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57

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PQ REFERENCE: 1755H

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APPROVED BY:

Head of Sec(AS) Section 40 [redacted] Tel: Section 40 [redacted] Date 4.7.96

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The National Archives' reference DEFE 24/1983/1

of the sentence and before we have formed a view as to the appropriate period in question.

HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE: 4TH PERIODIC REPORT

Lord Lester of Herne Hill asked Her Majesty's Government:

Whether the 4th Periodic Report to the Human Rights Committee under Article 40 to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights will be subject to parliamentary debate, and if not, why not.

Baroness Blatch: We have no plans for such a debate.

Lord Lester of Herne Hill asked Her Majesty's Government:

Whether they will make their 4th Periodic Report to the Human Rights Committee under Article 40 to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights widely available to members of the public, and if so how.

Baroness Blatch: The report is already freely available from the Home Office publications unit, and in the British Library and the other legal deposit libraries.

SALMON REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS: IMPLEMENTATION

Lord Harris of Greenwich asked Her Majesty's Government:

Which recommendations of the Salmon Commission on standards in public life have been implemented and which have not.

Baroness Blatch: Of the 29 recommendations identified as requiring action by central and local government, 19 are known to have been implemented, fully or in part, although not necessarily in direct response to the Salmon report. They are recommendations 4, 6, 8, 11–14, 16–21, 24–25, 27 and 33–35. Recommendations 1–3, 7, 9 and 10 have not been implemented. Information about the status of recommendations 31, 32 and 26 is not yet available. The organisation which was the subject of recommendation 26 has now been abolished. Of the remaining nine recommendations, six required no action and three were addressed to national political parties. I shall write to the noble Lord with further details of implementation, or the reasons for not implementing the recommendations, as soon as the information is complete.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT BORROWING REQUIREMENT: ESTIMATES

Lord Barnett asked Her Majesty's Government:

What is their latest estimate of the general government borrowing requirement for the next three financial years; and what are the main reasons why this differs from the public sector borrowing requirement.

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Ministry of Defence (Lord Henley): The latest estimates of the general government borrowing requirement (GGBR) for the next three years were published in table 4.1 of the *Financial Statement and Budget Report 1995–96* and are given in the table below. The difference between the public sector borrowing requirement (PSBR) and the GGBR is accounted for by public corporations market and overseas borrowing (PCMOB), which has been a repayment of debt for the past 3 years and is projected to continue as such.

£ billion	GGBR	PCMOB	PSBR
1995–96	23.1	–1.6	21.5
1996–97	15	–2	13
1997–98	7	–2	5

UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS: SIGHTINGS RECORDS

Lord Mason of Barnsley asked Her Majesty's Government:

To what extent official records are kept of sightings of unidentified flying objects, especially those sightings that may have a bearing on the air defence of this country; whether units of the Ministry of Defence, especially RAF units, have standing instructions to report sightings of unusual flying objects; whether reports are logged; and whether these can now be made public.

Lord Henley: My department evaluates reports of unexplained aerial phenomena solely in order to establish whether they may have any defence significance. Reports are received from a wide range of sources, including the police and general public, as well as the RAF, which in the context of its air defence responsibilities has standing instructions to report all sightings of unexplained aerial phenomena. Reports are placed on departmental files in the normal way and are therefore subject to the Public Records Act; several files on this subject are available for viewing at the Public Record Office.

NAIAD AND CAM: TRIGGERS

The Countess of Mar asked Her Majesty's Government:

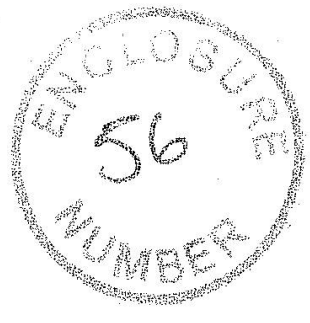
Whether NAIAD (Nerve Agent Immobilised Enzyme Alarm and Detector) alarms and CAM (Computer-Aided Measurement and Control) monitors are commonly triggered by compounds emitted by jet engines.

Lord Henley: NAIAD (Nerve Agent Immobilised Enzyme Alarm and Detector) and CAM (Chemical Agent Monitor) are designed to be used in conditions where they would not normally be in close proximity to jet engines. Nevertheless NAIAD was extensively evaluated against a wide range of aircraft engine effluent during its acceptance testing for military use. Out of 18 aircraft types, in only one case was alarm condition

END

The National Archives' reference DEFE 24/1983/1

6/4/4



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PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION

URGENT ACTION REQUIRED

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MINISTER REPLYING:MINISTER OF STATE FOR THE ARMED FORCES

PQ REFERENCE:1755H
PQ TYPE:Ordinary Written

SUPPLEMENTARIES ARE REQUIRED? NO

DATE FOR RETURN TO THE PARLIAMENTARY BRANCH: 12:00 ON FRIDAY 5 JULY 1996

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

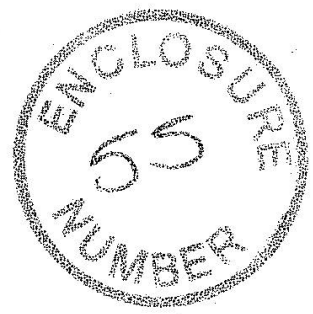
PLEASE NOTE THAT THE NAME AND TELEPHONE NUMBER OF THE DESK OFFICER WHO DRAFTS THE ANSWER AND THE NAME AND TELEPHONE NUMBER OF THE GRADE 5/ONE STAR WHO APPROVES THE ANSWER MUST BE QUOTED.

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

22|To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, which office within his Department deals with sightings of unidentified flying objects. [35845]

The National Archives' reference DEFE 24/1983/1

64/4



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PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION

URGENT ACTION REQUIRED

****

MINISTER REPLYING:MINISTER OF STATE FOR THE ARMED FORCES

PQ REFERENCE:1767H
PQ TYPE:Ordinary Written

SUPPLEMENTARIES ARE REQUIRED? NO

DATE FOR RETURN TO THE PARLIAMENTARY BRANCH: 12:00 ON FRIDAY 5 JULY 1996

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

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE NAME AND TELEPHONE NUMBER OF THE DESK OFFICER WHO DRAFTS THE ANSWER AND THE NAME AND TELEPHONE NUMBER OF THE GRADE 5/ONE STAR WHO APPROVES THE ANSWER MUST BE QUOTED.

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

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

The National Archives' reference DEFE 24/1983/1

Unidentified Objects (Rendlesham Forest)

Mr. Redmond: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, pursuant to his answer of 7 May, *Official Report*, columns *19–20*, if he will list the titles of the papers held by his Department in respect of unidentified objects seen in Rendlesham forest, Suffolk; and if he will make a statement. [31490]

Mr. Soames: Apart from a report of the events written at the time by the United States Air Force deputy base commander at RAF Woodbridge, which has been in the public domain for a number of years, the documents held by my Department are internal staffing papers and correspondence from members of the public relating to the alleged events.

Bourlon Barracks, Catterick

Mr. Home Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what was the cost of the structure and fixed equipment of building 36 at Bourlon barracks, Catterick, for the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers light aid detachment; and if the final payment for that building has been made by his Department. [31612]

Mr. Soames: The total cost of the structure and fixed equipment of building 36, Bourlon barracks, REME lad, was £524,179. The final payment for this building—that is, the release of retention—has not been made.

Mr. Home Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what will be the cost of modifications to the crane, doors and exhaust ventilation system in the LAD building (No. 36) at Bourlon barracks, Catterick, to facilitate maintenance work on Warrior armoured personnel carriers. [31614]

Mr. Soames: The estimated cost for the modification of the crane from a single to a two-speed motor is £5,500. There are no plans to modify any of the doors in building 36. The exhaust extraction system was modified in January 1996 at an approximate cost of £2,500.

Sea Training

Sir Dudley Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which operational sea training facilities the United Kingdom will make available to the Western European Union, following the Birmingham declaration of 7 May. [31746]

Mr. Soames: We will make available, for national or collective participation by WEU nations, the Royal Navy's operational sea training facility at Plymouth, and the joint maritime courses which are run off the coast of Scotland.

Western European Union

Sir Dudley Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans he has to develop further the Western European Union's intelligence section. [31750]

Mr. Soames: The intelligence section agreed by Ministers in 1995 is not operational. Any further development of its capabilities would be undertaken by WEU in the light of experience.

Sir Dudley Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what progress has been made with the Western European Union mobility study following the Western European Union Ministerial Council meeting in Birmingham and the meeting of Western European Union Chiefs of Defence Staff in London. [31752]

Mr. Soames: Following endorsement of the strategic mobility concept by Chiefs of Defence Staff and by Ministers, a special WEU working group has begun examining the most effective means by which the concept might be implemented.

Sir Dudley Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made as to when the Western European Union will be in a position to conduct a full-scale Petersberg-type operation. [31747]

Mr. Soames: Our target is for WEU to be capable of conducting a small-scale crisis management mission by the end of 1996. Achievement of this goal depends on WEU making further progress on the operational improvements we have initiated during our presidency.

Sir Dudley Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which countries have not to date offered to provide intelligence data to the Western European Union's intelligence section. [31751]

Mr. Soames: This is a matter for the nations concerned.

Sir Dudley Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what measures will be taken to increase the involvement of the associate partner members in Western European Union's work on operational development with particular reference to Africa peacekeeping, exercise policy and humanitarian task force operations. [31749]

Mr. Soames: WEU associate partners have already taken part in discussions on the specific issues referred to by the hon. Member. They have also been invited to provide information on the forces that they might make available for WEU operations. We look forward to their further involvement in discussions on other operational matters.

Sir Dudley Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will encourage the Western European Union to add a public relations element to its current crisis exercises, Crisex 96. [31753]

Mr. Soames: WEU intends to use this exercise to promote its operational role to the media, and plans a press visit to the exercise. WEU will also be testing internally new procedures for operational public information policy, developed as a UK initiative.

Sea Harrier Aircraft

Mr. Home Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Sea Harrier aircraft have been lost in the last year; how many new aircraft from the attrition batch whose procurement was announced in January 1994 have now been deployed in squadron service as replacements; and what navigation system was fitted to those replacement aircraft when they were delivered by British Aerospace. [31758]

7 6414 ENCLOSURE NUMBER 54

The National Archives' reference DEFE 24/1983/1

6414
ENCLOSURE
53
NUMBER

PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION

MP: MR MARTIN REDMOND (LABOUR) DON VALLEY

PQ REFERENCE: 1492H

PQ TYPE: ORDINARY WRITTEN

DRAFT ANSWER REQUIRED BY: 12:00 THURSDAY 6 JUNE 1996

QUESTION: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, pursuant to his Answer of 7th May, Official Report, columns 19-20, if he will list the titles of the papers held by his Department in respect of the unidentified objects seen in Rendlesham Forest, Suffolk, and if he will make a statement.

DRAFT ANSWER: Apart from a report of the events written at the time by the USAF Deputy Base Commander at RAF Woodbridge, which has been in the public domain for a number of years, the documents held by my Department are internal staffing papers and correspondence from members of the public relating to the alleged events.

APPROVED BY:

Head of Sec(AS) Section 40 Tel Section 40 Date 6-6-96

Sec(AS)2 Section 40 Tel Section 40 Date 5/6/96

COPIED TO:

PSO/ACAS)
DPR(RAF))
DI55c) without attachments
DD GE/AEW)
Sec(AS)1)

The National Archives' reference DEFE 24/1983/1

BACKGROUND - 1492H

1. This PQ is a follow on to PQ 1220H (Official Report 7 May 96 columns 19-20 attached), which sought the classification of the documents held by the MOD in respect of the alleged events at Rendlesham Forest in December 1980.

2. Mr Redmond has asked a large number of PQs on military low flying over the years and it is our understanding that he tables many of these questions on behalf of Section 40 a researcher into low flying and other military aviation issues, rather than as a result of any direct personal interest. It is not clear why Mr Redmond is specifically interested in the alleged events at Rendlesham Forest, but it is a subject which continues to fascinate "UFO" enthusiasts, and is a topic about which Sec(AS) continues to receive regular correspondence.

3. The alleged incidents occurred between 27-29 December 1980 when unusual lights were seen by USAF personnel, including the Deputy Base Commander, outside RAF Woodbridge. A report of the sighting (copy attached) was forwarded to the MOD by the RAF Liaison Officer at RAF Bentwaters. The report was examined by the Department at the time and no other evidence of any matter of defence significance was found. This is of course the Department's only interest in such sightings.

4. Our line regarding this alleged incident is that all available evidence was examined at the time and we are satisfied that nothing of defence concern occurred in the location on the nights in question. No additional information has come to light over the last 15 years which calls the original judgement into question.

5. The only documents on the subject held by the Department are the report itself, limited official comments on the report, and correspondence from members of the public enquiring about the alleged events.

The National Archives' reference DEFE 24/1983/1

Official Report - Written Answers
7th May Columns 19-20.

Unidentified Objects, (Rendlesham Forest)

Mr. Redmond: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what is the current security classification on the documents his Department holds on the unidentified objects seen by members of the United States Armed Forces in Rendlesham forest, Suffolk in 1980; and if he will make a statement. [27644]

Mr. Soames: The papers held by my Department relating to the alleged events at Rendlesham forest, Suffolk in 1980 are unclassified.

The National Archives' reference DEFE 24/1983/1

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS 81ST COMBAT SUPPORT GROUP (USAFE)
APO NEW YORK 09755

REPLY TO ATTN OF: CD

13 Jan 81

SUBJECT: Unexplained Lights

TO: RAF/CC

1. Early in the morning of 27 Dec 80 (approximately 0300L), two USAF security police patrolmen saw unusual lights outside the back gate at RAF Woodbridge. Thinking an aircraft might have crashed or been forced down, they called for permission to go outside the gate to investigate. The on-duty flight chief responded and allowed three patrolmen to proceed on foot. The individuals reported seeing a strange glowing object in the forest. The object was described as being metalic in appearance and triangular in shape, approximately two to three meters across the base and approximately two meters high. It illuminated the entire forest with a white light. The object itself had a pulsing red light on top and a bank(s) of blue lights underneath. The object was hovering or on legs. As the patrolmen approached the object, it maneuvered through the trees and disappeared. At this time the animals on a nearby farm went into a frenzy. The object was briefly sighted approximately an hour later near the back gate.

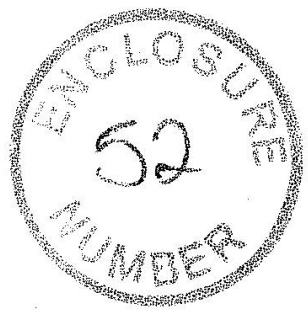
2. The next day, three depressions 1 1/2" deep and 7" in diameter were found where the object had been sighted on the ground. The following night (29 Dec 80) the area was checked for radiation. Beta/gamma readings of 0.1 milliroentgens were recorded with peak readings in the three depressions and near the center of the triangle formed by the depressions. A nearby tree had moderate (.05-.07) readings on the side of the tree toward the depressions.

3. Later in the night a red sun-like light was seen through the trees. It moved about and pulsed. At one point it appeared to throw off glowing particles and then broke into five separate white objects and then disappeared. Immediately thereafter, three star-like objects were noticed in the sky, two objects to the north and one to the south, all of which were about 10^{0} off the horizon. The objects moved rapidly in sharp angular movements and displayed red, green and blue lights. The objects to the north appeared to be elliptical through an 8-12 power lens. They then turned to full circles. The objects to the north remained in the sky for an hour or more. The object to the south was visible for two or three hours and beamed down a stream of light from time to time. Numerous individuals, including the undersigned, witnessed the activities in paragraphs 2 and 3.

CHARLES I. HALT, Lt Col, USAF
Deputy Base Commander

The National Archives' reference DEFE 24/1983/1

64/4



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PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION

URGENT ACTION REQUIRED

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MINISTER REPLYING:MINISTER OF STATE FOR THE ARMED FORCES

PQ REFERENCE:1492H
PQ TYPE:Ordinary Written

SUPPLEMENTARIES ARE REQUIRED? NO

DATE FOR RETURN TO THE PARLIAMENTARY BRANCH: 12:00 ON THURSDAY 6 JUNE 1996

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

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE NAME AND TELEPHONE NUMBER OF THE DESK OFFICER WHO DRAFTS THE ANSWER AND THE NAME AND TELEPHONE NUMBER OF THE GRADE 5/ONE STAR WHO APPROVES THE ANSWER MUST BE QUOTED.

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

15|To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, pursuant to his Answer of 7th May, Official Report, columns 19-20, if he will list the titles of the papers held by his Department in respect of unidentified objects seen in Rendlesham Forest, Suffolk; and if he will make a statement. [31490]

The National Archives' reference DEFE 24/1983/1

SEC(AS)2
ENCLOSURE NUMBER 51

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

PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE
FOR DEFENCE

CT: Hd CS(RM) 1

D/US of S/FH 1199/96/M

24th May 1996

Dear Mr. Fraser

In my letter of 14 May, I promised to write to you again once enquiries to the Public Record Office about Blue Streak missile test film footage had been completed.

First you will wish to know that all official military film footage which has been selected for preservation is transferred to the Imperial War Museum (the official repository for such material as approved by the Lord Chancellor). The Blue Streak test film mentioned in the BBC2 programme *'Tales of the Paranormal'* last month is not held by the Ministry of Defence, nor the Public Record Office, but enquiries have revealed that copies of the 14 minute footage, which was sponsored by the Central Office of Information and produced by The Rank Organisation, are held by the Imperial War Museum and the Central Office of Information.

You may be interested to know that in response to a similar query about the film from a member of the public in June 1964 MOD staff obtained a few 'clippings' of the aborted Blue Streak launch from Pathe Ltd which revealed that the 'object' observed in the film was in fact believed to be an internal camera reflection which is an apparently well-known phenomenon amongst photographic specialists. Contemporary papers are in the public domain and are available at the PRO under reference AIR 2/17526. I should add that it remains the case that to date the MOD knows of no evidence which substantiates the existence of lifeforms of extraterrestrial origin.

Until 2014 access to the original Blue Streak test film held by the Imperial War Museum is only possible with the specific

John Fraser Esq MP

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
SEC(AS)2
-3 JUN 1996
FILE 64/4

Recycled Pape

permission of the Central Office of Information as they own the Copyright to the film. Should anyone wish to view the footage they should contact in the first instance:

Section 40
Head of Footage Film
Central Office of Information
Hercules House
London SE1 7DU

Tel no: Section 40

I hope this is helpful.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

THE EARL HOWE

Recycled Paper

The National Archives' reference DEFE 24/1983/1

met these by the end of 1994 as required. A Council Decision, based on further results from the study is now under discussion in Brussels.

The Government do not believe that culpable errors have been made and the question of seeking compensation does not arise.

BSE: Government-funded Research Projects

Lord Kennet asked Her Majesty's Government:

Whether those scientists who were not convinced of the officially accepted accounts of BSE were prevented from participating in government-funded research on the subject.

Lord Lucas: No. We are prepared to consider applications from anyone but all applications do of course have to be subject to the normal scrutiny procedures to demonstrate that a particular proposal is scientifically valid and that the potential contractors have the expertise and the technical resources to undertake the proposal. One of the Ministry's known critics, Dr. Narang, has been involved as a consultant in a MAFF and BBSRC-financed research project specifically to look at his ideas.

Pesticides Safety Directorate: Targets

Lord Kennet asked Her Majesty's Government:

Why the first target Mr. Douglas Hogg has set for the Pesticides Safety Directorate is "to achieve 100 per cent. recovery of [its own] costs"? (House of Commons, Written Answers, col. 615, 18th April 1996.)

Lord Lucas: Full recovery of costs is one of a set of targets relating to the Pesticides Safety Directorate's financial performance, efficiency and delivery of pesticides approval services and policy advice in 1996–97. They are all equally important and the sequence simply follows the pattern of previous years.

Releases to the Environment: Advisory Committee's Reports

Lord Kennet asked Her Majesty's Government:

Why there is no requirement on the Advisory Committee on Releases to the Environment to produce an annual report, and whether they will now require it to do so in a readily understandable form.

Lord Lucas: There is no need for such a statutory requirement. The Advisory Committee on Releases to the Environment has published annual reports since 1994 and will continue to do so. These reports are available in the Library.

50

Creutzfeldt Jakob Disease

Lord Burnham asked Her Majesty's Government:

Further to their reply to Lord Marlesford (*WA 141*) what was the number of cases of CJD over the same period.

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department of Health (Baroness Cumberlege): The information requested is published in the Fourth Annual Report of the National Creutzfeldt Jakob Disease Surveillance Unit (August 1995), copies of which are available in the Library. In 1995, 43 cases from probable and definite CJD have been reported, of which 36 were sporadic CJD. In 1996 to date, 14 cases have been reported, of which 13 were sporadic CJD.

RAF Menwith Hill

Lord Jenkins of Putney asked Her Majesty's Government:

What activity takes place at Menwith Hill and which Minister is responsible and whether the RAF or the United States National Security Agency are involved; and what was the outcome of proceedings against women of the Peace Camp there at Ripon Magistrate's Court on 4th April.

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Ministry of Defence (Earl Howe): Menwith Hill operates as a field station of the US National Security Agency and is an integral part of the worldwide US Department of Defense communications network which supports UK, US and NATO interests. There is an RAF presence at the site, which has now been retitled RAF Menwith Hill to bring it into line with other RAF sites made available by the Ministry of Defence to the United States Government. The Minister of State for the Armed Forces is responsible for RAF Menwith Hill.

We are not aware of any proceedings taken against the peace protestors at RAF Menwith Hill on 4th April 1996. A number of cases were brought before Ripon Magistrates Court on 3rd April 1996 for criminal damage and by-laws offences, but these were adjourned for trial at a later date.

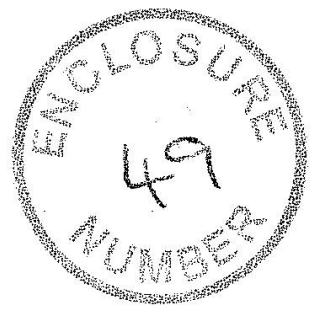
Armed Forces Medical and Dental Officers: Pay Award

Lord Westbury asked Her Majesty's Government:

What recommendations the Armed Forces Pay Review Body has made on the pay of medical and dental officers in the Armed Forces.

The Lord Privy Seal (Viscount Cranborne): The Armed Forces Pay Review Body has made recommendations on the pay of medical and dental officers in the Armed Forces in a supplementary report being published today. Copies are available in the Printed Paper Office and the Library of the House.

The National Archives' reference DEFE 24/1983/1



LOOSE MINUTE

D/Sec(AS)/64/4

16 May 96

Parliamentary Branch

LETTER FROM JOHN FRASER MP - US 1199/96 - BLUE STREAK MISSILE TEST FILM FOOTAGE

1. Following Lord Howe's interim reply sent on 14 May, we are now in a position to provide a substantive response to the query from Mr Fraser.

2. Mr Fraser is seeking information on behalf of a constituent whose enquiry was prompted by last month's BBC2 *"Tales of the Paranormal"* programme about "UFOs". The programme, which was made by Ms Jenny Randles, a prominent member of the "UFO" lobby, featured footage filmed inside the Public Record Office (PRO) at Kew.

3. Ms Randles stated that during testing of the Blue Streak missile at Woomera South Australia in 1964, one of the launches was aborted because a 'spaceman' was seen in the vicinity of the launch site. She also stated that although most of the film of the Blue Streak tests is available to the public, one reel which contains the aborted launch footage has been withheld from the public domain. The implication was that all the Blue Streak missile test film is held by the PRO for public viewing *except* the footage of the aborted launch. Examination of the files has shown that Ms Randles' use of the material at the PRO was to say the least selective.

4. The Imperial War Museum (IWM) is the official repository of official military film selected for preservation, as approved by the Lord Chancellor. The National Film and Television Archive holds official non-military film selected for preservation. The PRO does not hold archived official film footage. There is documented evidence in the PRO that in 1964, following an enquiry from a member of the public, MOD branch S4(Air) went to a great deal of trouble to identify the source of the film of the aborted launch. They approached The Rank Organisation, the Central Office of Information (COI) and Associated British-Pathe Ltd. Pathe Ltd were able to provide them with relevant 'clippings' from the film and expressed their judgement that the object seen on the film was an internal camera reflection.

5. The 'clippings' sent to the MOD did not survive on the files, but further approaches to the IWM and the COI reveal that both hold a copy of the 14 minute Blue Streak test film, which was sponsored by the COI and produced by The Rank

The National Archives' reference DEFE 24/1983/1

Organisation. The IWM also holds a few reels of "off-cuts". Therefore, contrary to the results of initial enquiries, "official" footage of the aborted Blue Streak launch does in fact exist and is held by the IWM and the COI. However, the footage can only be viewed by members of the public with the permission of the COI, which owns the Copyright to the film until 2014. The film itself is not sensitive.

6. Additional information uncovered reveals that the Blue Streak film footage also featured in the COI catalogue "Films from Britain", 1968/69 which is an indication that there are probably numerous copies of the film in circulation throughout the world. It is possible that Ms Randles viewed the other Blue Streak test material from a "commercial" film archive.

7. Neither the MOD nor the PRO hold Blue Streak test film footage. Anyone wishing to view the film would need to contact the IWM or the COI. I attach a draft explaining the above for Lord Howe's consideration.

Section 40 [redacted]

Section 40 [redacted]

Sec(AS)2
MB8245 Section 40 [redacted]

Enc.

The National Archives' reference DEFE 24/1983/1

D R A F T

D/USofS/1199/96 May 1996

Further to my letter of 14 May, and following enquiries which have been made with the Public Record Office, I am now in a position to offer you a substantive reply to your letter to Michael Portillo of 22 April 1996 regarding Blue Streak missile test film footage.

First you will wish to know that all official military film footage which has been selected for preservation is transferred to the Imperial War Museum (the official repository for such material as approved by the Lord Chancellor). The Blue Streak test film mentioned in the BBC2 programme *'Tales of the Paranormal'* last month is not held by the Ministry of Defence, nor the Public Record Office, but enquiries have revealed that copies of the 14 minute footage, which was sponsored by the Central Office of Information and produced by The Rank Organisation, are held by the Imperial War Museum and the Central Office of Information.

You may be interested to know that in response to a similar

John Fraser, MP

The National Archives' reference DEFE 24/1983/1

query about the film from a member of the public in June 1964 MOD staff obtained a few 'clippings' of the aborted Blue Streak launch from Pathe Ltd which revealed that the 'object' observed in the film was in fact believed to be an internal camera reflection which is an apparently well-known phenomenon amongst photographic specialists, and was not a so-called "space-man". Contemporary papers are in the public domain and are available at the PRO under reference AIR 2/17526. I should add that it remains the case that to date the MOD knows of no evidence which substantiates the existence of lifeforms of extraterrestrial origin.

Until 2014 access to the original Blue Streak test film held by the Imperial War Museum is only possible with the specific permission of the Central Office of Information as they own the Copyright to the film. Should anyone wish to view the footage they should contact in the first instance:

Section 40 [redacted]
Head of Footage Film
Central Office of Information
Hercules House
London SE1 7DU

Tel no: Section 40 [redacted]

I hope this is helpful.

THE EARL HOWE

644

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
SEC (AS) 2
29 APR 1996
FILE

PARLIAMENTARY ENQUIRY
FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION

TO: Sec (AS) 2b **PE REF NUMBER:** 1199 /96

MINISTER REPLYING: USofS **DRAFT REQUIRED BY:** 8 May 96

DATE: 29 Apr 96 **FROM:** Section 40 PE Unit **TEL:** Section 40

GUIDANCE NOTE

Ministers reply to some 8,000 such letters a year. They place great importance on the content style and speed of the 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. Do not be unduly defensive.

No background note is required unless essential to explain the line taken in the draft reply.

Layout Draft replies should be double spaced.

Always include the full PE reference number at the top left of the draft.

Put the MP's full title at the bottom left of the first page. Only add the address if the letter is from the Minister direct to a constituent.

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 ..., Toytown about ...."

If a Minister is replying on behalf of another Minister start:
"Thank you for your letter of ... addressed to Michael Portillo/ Nicholas Soames/James Arbuthnot/Frederick Howe on behalf etc"
Mr Soames and Earl Howe add "I have been asked to reply" and "I am replying as this matter falls within my area of responsibility." respectively.

Do not end "I hope this is helpful" when the reply is obviously disappointing. Alternatives are:
"I hope this explains the position"
"I am sorry I cannot be more helpful"
"I am sorry to send what I know will be a disappointing reply."

Deadlines If, exceptionally, you cannot meet the deadline let me know at once - an interim reply might be needed.

Departmental action Action 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.

ALL DRAFTS MUST BE CLEARED BY A NAMED OFFICIAL AT GRADE 7 LEVEL AND ANNOTATED TO SHOW THIS HAS BEEN DONE.

WHEREVER POSSIBLE DRAFTS SHOULD BE SENT ON CHOTS E-MAIL TO:
Parliamentary Enquiries
other wise send drafts by fax to Section 40 **PLEASE USE ONLY ONE METHOD**

The National Archives' reference DEFE 24/1983/1

Sec(AS)/2
Uses.
1199

JOHN FRASER M.P.

HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

Rt Hon Michael Portillo M.P.
Secretary of State
Ministry of Defence
Main Building
Whitehall
LONDON S.W.1A 2HB

22nd April 1996

Dear Michael

Following an enquiry I have received, is it possible to have available to the public now the Aborted Blue Streak Missile Launch which took place in May 1964 at Woomera South, Australia?

I understand that the Blue Streak Missile test film can now be reviewed having been released by the Records Office with the exception of the Aborted Blue Streak Missile Launch.

I am told that the Aborted Launch is a piece of film referred to in the BBC 2 documentary on Thursday 11th April 1996 in which the 'Cumberland Spaceman' makes an appearance.

I understand there are references to this Aborted Launch in the Public Records Office and is there any reason why the archive film is not now publicly available?

Yours sincerely

[redacted] Section 40

John Fraser M.P.

The National Archives' reference DEFE 24/1983/1

644

ENCLOSURE 48

Wed 15 May, 1996 13:45 mailbox standard Page 1

DATE	FROM	SUBJECT	CODES
15/05/96	Hd of CS(RM)1	PE: BLUE STREAK MISSILE LAUNCH	[ ]

Intended:
Sent: 15/05/96 at 12:39 Delivered: 15/05/96 at 13:29
To: SEC(AS)2A (2)
CC:
Ref: 32
From: Hd of CS(RM)1 Auth by:
Subject: PE: BLUE STREAK MISSILE LAUNCH

Text: Section 40

Find attached, one suggested addition, a number of minor corrections and a contact for permission to obtain access to the film.
Regards Section 40

Priority: Normal SEE PAGE Attachments [1]
Reply Request [ ] View Acknowledge [*] Codes [ ]

The National Archives' reference DEFE 24/1983/1

LOOSE MINUTE

CS(RM)/4/6/37

15 May 1996

SEC(AS)2a

PE: BLUE STREAK MISSILE LAUNCH FILM

Reference: D/Sec(AS)/64/4 dated 13 May 1996

1. Thank you for sight of your initial drafts.

2. Your background note covers all the salient points and from my point of view requires only one very minor change, the PRO is the Public **Record** Office.

3. I would suggest the addition of the following in the draft letter to the MP "... and was not the so-called "spaceman". **Contemporary papers are in the public domain and are available at the PRO under reference AIR 2/17526.**" Additionally, the "**s**" to be deleted from **Records** in paras 1 and 2, and a minor spelling error, also in para 1, "**enquiries**".

4. Finally, a contact should anyone wish to view the film held by the Imperial War Museum "... **contact in the first instance** Section 40 Section 40 **Head of Footage Film, Central Office of Information, Hercules House, London SE1 7DU (telephone no.** Section 40 **facsimile no.** Section 40

[signed]
Section 40
Hd CS(RM)1
AA07 Section 40

The National Archives' reference DEFE 24/1983/1

Sec (AS) 2

644

ENCLOSURE 47

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2HB
Telephone Section 40

SECRETARY OF STATE

D/S of S/MP 1323/96/M

15 May 1996

Dear Alf

Thank you for your letter of 29 April enclosing one from Section 40 Wythenshawe, about "unidentified flying objects".

My Department does look into reports of "UFO" sightings that are sent to us, many of which are very vague, but only to establish if what was seen may have some defence significance. We believe that down-to-earth explanations are available for most of these reported sightings, such as aircraft seen from unusual angles, or natural phenomena.

Section 40 asks about files containing reports of "UFOs" made to the Ministry of Defence. He will wish to be aware that in common with all government files, MOD files are subject to the provisions of the Public Records Act of 1958 and 1967, which states that official files 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 at the time there was insufficient public interest in the subject to merit their permanent retention. Since

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
SEC (AS) 2
16 MAY 1996
FILE

The Rt Hon Alfred Morris AO QSO MP

The National Archives' reference DEFE 24/1983/1

1967, following an increase in public interest in this subject, it has been our policy that such files are to be routinely preserved. A few files from the Fifties and early Sixties did, however, survive and are available for examination by members of the public. They may be viewed at the Public Record Office, Ruskin Avenue, Kew, Richmond, Surrey, TW9 4DU. The references of these files are as follows:

AIR 16/1199	AIR 20/9994
AIR 20/7390	AIR 2/16918
AIR 20/9320	AIR 2/17318
AIR 20/9321	AIR 2/17526
AIR 20/9322	AIR 2/17527
PREM 11/855	

My Department does not carry out research into "UFO/flying saucers". We have no direct interest, expertise or role with respect to "UFO/flying saucers" or the question of the existence or otherwise of extraterrestrial lifeforms, about which we remain open-minded. However, to date we know of no evidence which substantiates the existence of these alleged phenomena.

I should like to assure Section 40 that there is no question that the MOD would attempt to withhold information on the subject of so-called "unidentified flying objects".

yours sincerely

Section 40 [redacted]

MICHAEL PORTILLO

The National Archives' reference DEFE 24/1983/1

Sec(AS)2B

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

PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE
FOR DEFENCE

ENCLOSURE NUMBER 46
6414

D/US of S/FH 1199/96/S

14th May 1996

Dear Mr. Fraser

Thank you for your letter of 22 April 1996 to Michael Portillo about the film of the aborted Blue Streak Missile Launch in May 1964. I am replying as this matter falls within my area of responsibility.

In order to answer your query it will be necessary for enquiries to be made with the Public Records Office. I shall write to you again when these enquiries are completed.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

THE EARL HOWE

John Fraser Esq MP

Recycled Paper

The National Archives' reference DEFE 24/1983/1

Sec(AS)2a

644

ENCLOSURE 45

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

PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE
FOR DEFENCE

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
SEC (AS) 2
16 MAY 1996
FILE

D/US of S FH 1002/96/A

14th May 1996

Dear Geoffrey.

Thank you for your letter of 15 April, enclosing one from Section 40 Section 40 Woodmancote, about "unidentified flying objects" and "alien artefacts".

My Department does look into reports of "UFO" sightings that are sent to us, many of which are very vague, but only to establish if what was seen may have some defence significance. We believe that down-to-earth explanations are available for most of these reported sightings, such as aircraft seen from unusual angles, or natural phenomena.

The Department has no direct interest, expertise or role with respect to "UFO/flying saucer" matters or the question of the existence or otherwise of extraterrestrial lifeforms, about which we remain open-minded. However, to date we know of no evidence which substantiates the existence of these alleged phenomena.

Section 40 may wish to be aware that in common with all government files, MOD files are subject to the provisions of the Public Records Act of 1958 and 1967, which states that official files 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 at the time there was insufficient public interest in the subject to merit their permanent retention. Since 1967, following an increase in public interest in this subject, it has been our policy that such files are to be routinely preserved. A few files from the Fifties and early Sixties did, however, survive and are available for examination by members of the public. They may be viewed at the Public Record Office, Ruskin Avenue, Kew, Richmond, Surrey, TW9 4DU. The references of these files are as follows:

Geoffrey Clifton-Brown Esq MP

Recycled Paper

The National Archives' reference DEFE 24/1983/1

AIR 16/1199
AIR 20/7390
AIR 20/9320
AIR 20/9321
AIR 20/9322
PREM 11/855

AIR 20/9994
AIR 2/16918
AIR 2/17318
AIR 2/17526
AIR 2/17527

All surviving paperwork from over 30 years ago on the subject of "UFOs" previously held by the MOD has now been transferred to the Public Records Office. I should like to assure Section 40 that there is no question that the MOD would attempt to cover-up information on the subject of so-called "unidentified flying objects".

I hope this explains the position.

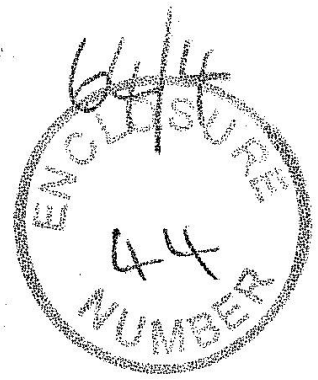
Yours ever,

Section 40 [redacted]

THE EARL HOWE

Recycled Paper

The National Archives' reference DEFE 24/1983/1



Mon 13 May, 1996 18:14 mailbox log Page 1

DATE	TO	SUBJECT	CODES
13/05/96	Hd of CS(RM)1	PE 1199/96 - BLUE STREAK MISSILE	[ ]

Sent: 13/05/96 at 18:14
To: Hd of CS(RM)1
CC:

Ref: 605
Subject: PE 1199/96 - BLUE STREAK MISSILE TEST FILM

Text: Section 40

Hopefully this will be the last time I bother you with this one.

Section 40

Priority: Urgent
Reply Request [ ]

View Acknowledge [*]
Delivery Acknowledge [*]

Attachments [1]
Codes [ ]

The National Archives' reference DEFE 24/1983/1

LOOSE MINUTE

D/Sec(AS)/64/4

13 May 96

Head of CS(RM)1

PE: BLUE STREAK MISSILE LAUNCH FOOTAGE

1. Thank you for the additional information which you were able to provide to assist with the response to PE US 1199/96.

2. The difficulty with this one is that there is so much information which I have had to distil down. Attached you will see that I have put together a proposed first draft. It still requires some finessing, but I should be grateful if you would look it over and advise me whether I have misunderstood anything which you have told me, or whether there are any other points which the Minister might usefully make in his reply.

3. I should also be grateful if you would let me know how a member of the public might be able to request a viewing of the Blue Streak footage held by the IWM, ie. an enquiries number at IWM etc.

4. Thank once more for your help with this time consuming enquiry.

Section 40
Sec(AS)2a1
MB8245 Section 40
CHOTS: SEC(AS)2A (2)

Enc.

The National Archives' reference DEFE 24/1983/1

LOOSE MINUTE

D/Sec(AS)/64/4

May 96

Parliamentary Branch

D R A F T

LETTER FROM JOHN FRASER MP - US 1199/96 - BLUE STREAK MISSILE TEST FILM FOOTAGE

1. Following Lord Howe's interim reply sent on ** **May,** I am now in a position to provide a substantive response to the query from Mr Fraser.

2. Mr Fraser is seeking information on behalf of a constituent whose enquiry was prompted by last month's BBC2 *"Tales of the Paranormal"* programme about "UFOs". The programme, which was made by Ms Jenny Randles, a prominent member of the "UFO" lobby, featured footage filmed inside the Public Records Office (PRO) at Kew.

3. Ms Randles stated that during testing of the Blue Streak Missile at Woomera South Australia in 1964, one of the launches was aborted because a 'spaceman' was seen in the vicinity of the launch site. She also stated that although most of the film of the Blue Streak tests is available to the public, one reel which contains the aborted launch footage has been withheld from the public domain. The implication was that all the Blue Streak Missile test film is held by the PRO for public viewing *except* the footage of the aborted launch. Ms Randles use of the material she obtained from the files at the PRO was selective.

4. The Imperial War Museum is the official repository of official military film selected for preservation, as approved by the Lord Chancellor. The National Film and Television Archive holds official non-military film selected for preservation. The PRO does not hold archived official film

The National Archives' reference DEFE 24/1983/1

footage. There is documented evidence in the PRO that in 1964, following an enquiry from a member of the public, MOD branch S4(Air) went to a great deal of trouble to identify the source of the film of the aborted launch. They approached The Rank Organisation, the Central Office of Information (COI) and Associated British-Pathe Ltd. Pathe Ltd were able to provide them with 'clippings' from the film and expressed their judgement that the object seen on the film was an internal camera reflection.

5. The 'clippings' sent to the MOD did not survive on the files, but further approaches to the Imperial War Museum (IWM) and the COI reveal that both hold a copy of the 14 minute Blue Streak test film, which was sponsored by the COI and produced by The Rank Organisation. The IWM also holds a few reels of "off-cuts". Therefore, contrary to the results of initial enquiries, "official" footage of the aborted Blue Streak launch does in fact exist and is held by the IWM and the COI. However, the footage can only be viewed by members of the public with the permission of the COI, which owns the Copyright to the film until 2014. The film itself is not sensitive.

6. Additional information uncovered reveals that the Blue Streak film footage also featured in the COI catalogue "Films from Britain", 1968/69 which is an indication that there are probably numerous copies of the film in circulation throughout the world. It is possible that Ms Randles viewed the other Blue Streak test material from a "commercial" film archive.

7. Neither the MOD nor the PRO hold Blue Streak test film footage. Anyone wishing to view the film would need to contact the IWM or the COI.

8. I attach a draft explaining the above for Lord Howe's consideration.

The National Archives' reference DEFE 24/1983/1

D R A F T

D/USofS/1199/96 May 1996

Further to my letter of *** **May**, and following enquires which have been made with the Public Records Office, I am now in a position to offer you a substantive reply to your letter to Michael Portillo of 22 April 1996 regarding Blue Streak missile test film footage.

First you will wish to know that all official military film footage which has been selected for preservation is transferred to the Imperial War Museum (the official repository for such material as approved by the Lord Chancellor). The Blue Streak test film mentioned in the BBC2 programme *'Tales of the Paranormal'* last month is not held by the Ministry of Defence, nor the Public Records Office, but enquiries have revealed that copies of the 14 minute footage, which was sponsored by the Central Office of Information (COI) and produced by The Rank Organisation, are held by the Imperial War Museum and the Central Office of Information.

You may be interested to know that in response to a similar query about the film from a member of the public in June 1964 MOD staff obtained 'clippings' of the aborted Blue

The National Archives' reference DEFE 24/1983/1

Streak launch from Pathe Ltd which revealed that the 'object' observed in the film was in fact believed to be an internal camera reflection which is an apparently well-known phenomenon amongst photographic specialists, and was not a so-called "space-man". I should add that it remains the case that to date the MOD knows of no evidence which substantiates the existence of craft or lifeforms of extraterrestrial origin.

Until 2014 access to the original Blue Streak test film held by the Imperial War Museum is only possible with the specific permission of the Central Office of Information as they own the Copyright to the film. Should anyone wish to view the footage they should ***[details of how members of the public can request to view the material]***

I hope this is helpful.

John Fraser, MP

THE EARL HOWE

The National Archives' reference DEFE 24/1983/1

0714

43 NUMBER

LOOSE MINUTE

CS(RM)/4/6/37

10 May 1996

SEC(AS)2a

PE: BLUE STREAK MISSILE LAUNCH FILM

1. I regret the delay in forwarding the outcome of my research on this subject, but CHOTS was down yesterday!

2. You should by now have received copies of the various documents Section 40 PRO official with responsibility for MOD, managed to track down. I hope you agree that it is clear from these papers that Jenny Randles use of this material was at best selective!

3. S4(Air) went to a great deal of trouble to identify the source of the film following an enquiry from a member of the public - approaching The Rank Organisation, the Central Office of Information and Associated British-Pathe Ltd. Also note the film provided by Pathe was not cinematic film in the convention sense but just a few clippings from the film (these clippings have not survived on the file). Pathe also provide their own explanation for the phenomenon (E65A).

4. Conversations with representatives from the Imperial War Museum and COI confirm both hold a copy of the "Blue Streak" film - a 14 minute film sponsored by the COI and produced by Rank. The IWM also holds a few reels of "off-cuts". Access to this material for a period of up to 50 years is only possible without the specific permission of the COI. This is not because of any sensitivity but apparently for Copyright reasons.

5. You should also note, and on the face of it in apparent contradiction with the information contained in para 4, there must be numerous copies of the film in circulation throughout the world. The film was originally featured in the COI catalogue "Films from Britain", 1968/69.

6. It would therefore appear "official" film on the launches is available. To the best of our, MOD, COI and IWM collective, knowledge no film is held back. As previously suggested, my minute of 2 May, could she talking about a "commercial" film archive?

7. I would welcome a copy of your submission to Ministers in due course.

[signed]
Section 40
Hd CS(RM)1
AA07 Section 40

The National Archives' reference DEFE 24/1983/1

DATE	FROM	SUBJECT	CODES
10/05/96	Hd of CS(RM)1	PE: BLUE STREAK MISSILE LAUNCH FILM	[ ]

Intended:
Sent: 10/05/96 at 8:05 Delivered: 10/05/96 at 8:03
To: SEC(AS)2A (2)
CC:
Ref: 30
From: Hd of CS(RM)1 Auth by:
Subject: PE: BLUE STREAK MISSILE LAUNCH FILM

Text: Advice attached.

Priority: Normal SEE PAGE Attachments [1]
Reply Request [ ] View Acknowledge [*] Codes [ ]

The National Archives' reference DEFE 24/1983/1

 644

Classification: U C

Caveat:

Covering:

DISCLOSURE NUMBER 42

F Sigs 927 (Rev 8/93)

Facsimile Transmission Cover Sheet

Transmission Details		Document Details
Serial Number:	Date and Time of Transmission:	Reference:
From: Section 40	Fax Number:	Subject: PE : BLUE STREAK MISSILE LAUNCH FILM
To: Section 40	Fax Number: Section 40	Total number of pages including this cover sheet: 11

Authorizing Officer	Transmit Operators
Rank, Name and Appointment:	Rank/Grade, Name and Telephone No.: AA. Section 40
Signature:	Signature: Section 40

Message/Remarks:

Section 40

Copies of papers provided by PRO (extracted from AIR2/17526).

Regards

Section 40

Covering:

Caveat:

Classification:

Miss Kavanagh

Before I sign this, could you check with the M.O.A. Information Division if the Australian T.V. etc. were present at the Red Steak launching.

&

Press facilities were arranged by the Australian Regional Unit as there was there no news Rank "Rose of Life" Camera Crew and a COI film unit. Does Wayne COI is the expert

Reference:- AIR 2/17526

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE

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Top
1+1

Thank you for your letter of the 15th June. Peter

I have not seen the Blue Streak film to which you refer, and I am therefore not able to comment. You may wish to consult the Ministry of Aviation who conducted the launching.

However, the fact that none of the newspaper reporters present mentioned any extraordinary object in their stories is not without significance.

Yours ever
Geoffrey Elgar 1161

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Reference:- AIR 2/17526

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The National Archives' reference DEFE 24/1983/1

MAI/ 90(INU)-00:10 ---P K U GSD TEL: Section 40

From Mr. B.E. Robson (S4(Air))

(6 SA)

18th August 1964

You wrote to me on the 15th June about an alleged mysterious object in the film of the Blue Streak Launching at Woomera.

I have now obtained a number of cuttings from this film by courtesy of Pathe Ltd. and it is quite clear that the object is nothing more than an internal camera reflection. This is a well-known phenomenon among photographic specialists and it is also, of course, the true explanation of the object in the Vulcan photograph at Coningsby.

If you would like to come to see the extracts of the Blue Streak film, perhaps you would let me know.

Mrs. M. Harman
213 Chelsea Cloisters
Sloane Avenue
LONDON SW3

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Reference:- AIR 2/17526
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LGSA.

ASSOCIATED BRITISH - PATHE LIMITED

FILM HOUSE, 142, WARDOUR STREET, LONDON, W.1.
TELEPHONE: GERRARD 0444 • TELEGRAMS: PATHIREMA, RATH, LONDON.
NEWSREEL DIVISION

R.A. Langton, Esq.,
Ministry of Defence, S.4.F.,
Main Building,
Whitehall, S.W.1.

August 18th, 1964.

Dear Section 40

I was able to obtain a few clippings of the Blue Streak rocket for you and am sending them herewith.

The only explanation that we can give, is that the object on the left-hand side is a reflection.

I am sorry I do not know the type of camera that was used as apparently Cinesound in Australia filmed it.

I hope these clippings will be of use.

Yours sincerely,

Susan Robbins

SECRETARY TO:
G. T. CUMMINS
EDITOR AND GENERAL MANAGER
PATHE NEWS

PHILIP WARTER (CHAIRMAN) ERIC G. M. FLETCHER, LL.D., M.P. (DEPUTY CHAIRMAN) G. J. LATTA (U.S.A.) ROBERT CLARK, M.A., LL.B. D. J. COOBLATTE.
MACGREGOR SCOTT. Secretary: C. H. SUMNERS, F.C.A.

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE
1 2 3 4 5 6
AIR 2/17526

The National Archives' reference DEFE 24/1983/1

(63B)

213, Chelsea Cloisters,

Sloane Avenue

London S.W.3.

15th June 1964

Dear Mr.Robson,

I wonder if you have seen the film of the launching of the Blue Streak rocket at Woomera?

I enquire, because I would like to know what you think of the extraordinary object that appears hovering nearby. It is impossible to miss it, and equally impossible not to realise that it is exactly the same object appearing in the photograph of the Vulcan bomber which was in last week's TODAY magazine.

It also tallies with the sketch drawn by Michael Blake , the Southampton schoolboy, of an unidentified object which he saw.

Do please let me know your views.

Yours sincerely,

M. Harman.

(Mrs. M. Harman)

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE

eference:-

The National Archives' reference DEFE 24/1983/1

(6 7/8)

THE RANK ORGANISATION
SPECIAL FEATURES DIVISION

CUMBERLAND AVENUE, PARK ROYAL, LONDON, N.W.10 · ELGAR 1161

H.A. Langton, Esq.,
Ministry of Defence,
Main Building,
Whitehall,
London S.W. 1.

August 17, 1964

Dear Mr. Langton,

With reference to your letter of August 12, I am informed that the copyright in the negative of the "Blue Streak" film is held by the Central Office of Information.

I have, therefore, sent your letter on to Mr. Derek Mayne of the C.O.I. Films Division.

I am sorry that I am unable to help you with this.

Yours faithfully,

E.A. Candy.

E.A. Candy.

Not 101 Summary of Parts that require following release of their story

Space 6i secretary GER 04404 She will send negative clippings, or photos if not possible

RANK FILM DISTRIBUTORS LIMITED
DIRECTORS: F. L. THOMAS, Managing Director JOHN DAVIS KENNETH WINCKLES, M.B.E. C. R. YOUNG

(22)

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE
AIR 2/17526
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(63A

R.A.F. Form 1150

MEMORANDUM

FROM: [redacted]

TO: DI(A1) G5b

Our ref.

Tel. No.

Ext. 2122 Date 7/8/64

Your ref.

Dated

SUBJECT: Unidentified Flying Object

Although the attached sighting was outside your interest you may like to put it with all the rest. If you have any ideas about it, I should, I suppose, be very happy to pass them on.

BP Tankers Ltd MS 7/106 Pt4
Britannic House
Finsbury Circus EC2

M.O.T. (Marine)
St Thomas's Gate, Haves

NOTES
1.—Continue overleaf if necessary, indicating clearly.
2.—This form is normally to be completed in manuscript.

Signature of Sender [redacted]

Name in Block Letters [redacted]

Rank Appointment [redacted]

B. & S. Ltd. 51-5917.

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AIR 2/17526
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The National Archives' reference DEFE 24/1983/1

62A

Mr. R. A. Langton

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Main Building, Whitehall, LONDON S.W.1
Telephone: WHItehall 7022, ext.

AF/X59/64

12 August 1964

ou will remember that we discussed an enquiry I had received from a member public interested in "Flying Saucers" who believed such an object had ed in your film of the Blue Streak launching at Woomera.

t was likened to something appearing in a photograph of a Vulcan bomber by night at Coningsby published in the June 13th issue of TODAY. This ed with the caption "What was this puzzle in the sky?" notwithstanding planation, which was ignored, that it resulted from the reflection of a ight, appearing diametrically opposite it in the picture, either by the ounting, or within the lens system itself.

enclose a copy of an extract from the July-August issue of the "Flying Review" from which you will see that it is proposed to reproduce both aphs, and to quote the "explanations" offered by Air Ministry. If ght in thinking that the second photograph is from your film, then hould be no difficulty about letting me have the same material as has pplied to the magazine.

nce our explanation of the first was ignored, and we have not had the nity to examine the second, you will appreciate why I am reminding you u said you would let me have a few frames of the negative, with details equipment, exposure etc, and even possibly your views upon it. I should appreciate any assistance you can give in our efforts to make known the bout these photographic phenomena.

ndy Esq
Features Dept
anisation
nd Avenue

In our next issue

Readers of the REVIEW are advised that *TODAY* magazine in its issue on sale on July 13 will be returning to the subject of flying saucers. In a previous issue it reproduced an officially released photograph of a Vulcan Bomber taken at night last December at Coningsby, Lincolnshire. In the top left hand corner there appeared a mysterious object of a shape familiar to readers of the REVIEW. Another photograph has come to light and will be reproduced by *TODAY* magazine. In the next issue of the REVIEW both photographs will be reproduced and will accompany an article surveying the history of this object, the "explanations" offered by the Air Ministry and others and a summing up of the problem that confronts the saucer student.

Fax message

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE

Public Record Office
Kew
Richmond
Surrey TW9 4DU

To Section 40

Of CS(RM)1

From Section 40

Fax No. Section 40

Department GSD

Date 8.5.96

Phone No.

Number of pages to follow 9

Our fax No.

Message

Success! The documents contain photos which were being copied.

Paths letter refers to clippings which are not present on the file.

Section 40

The National Archives' reference DEFE 24/1983/1

ENCLOSURE 4 NUMBER

LOOSE MINUTE

D/Sec(AS)/64/4

9 May 96

Parliamentary Branch

LETTER FROM THE RT HON ALFRED MORRIS, AO, OSO, MP - SS 1323/96

1. The comments contained in the constituent's letter reflect the commonly held view by "Ufologists" who ascribe to the conspiracy theory, that the MOD has in its possession evidence which supports the existence of alien lifeforms.

2. Our position in this respect is that to date we know of no evidence which supports the alleged phenomena of extra-terrestrial lifeforms or "UFO/Flying saucers".

3. I attach a draft response for the Secretary of State's consideration which reflects our standard approach to such enquiries.

Section 40 [redacted]

Section 40 [redacted]
Sec(AS)2
MB8247 Section 40 [redacted]

Enc.

The National Archives' reference DEFE 24/1983/1

DRAFT

D/SofS/1323/96 May 1996

Thank you for your letter of 29 April, enclosing one from Section 40 [redacted] Wythenshawe, Manchester, Section 40 [redacted] on the subject of "unidentified flying objects".

My Department does look into reports of "UFO" sightings that are sent to us, many of which are very vague, but only to establish if what was seen may have some defence significance. We believe that down-to-earth explanations are available for most of these reported sightings, such as aircraft seen from unusual angles, or natural phenomena.

Section 40 [redacted] asks about files containing reports of "UFOs" made to the Ministry of Defence. He will wish to be aware that in common with all government files, MOD files are subject to the provisions of the Public Records Act of 1958 and 1967, which states that official files 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 at the time there was insufficient public interest in the subject to merit their

The Rt Hon Alfred Morris, AO, QSO, MP

The National Archives' reference DEFE 24/1983/1

permanent retention. Since 1967, following an increase in public interest in this subject, it has been our policy that such files are to be routinely preserved. A few files from the Fifties and early Sixties did, however, survive and are available for examination by members of the public. They may be viewed at the Public Record Office, Ruskin Avenue, Kew, Richmond, Surrey, TW9 4DU. The references of these files are as follows:

AIR 16/1199	AIR 20/9994
AIR 20/7390	AIR 2/16918
AIR 20/9320	AIR 2/17318
AIR 20/9321	AIR 2/17526
AIR 20/9322	AIR 2/17527
PREM 11/855	

My Department does not carry out research into "UFO/flying saucers". We have no direct interest, expertise or role with respect to "UFO/flying saucers" or the question of the existence or otherwise of extraterrestrial lifeforms, about which we remain open-minded. However, to date we know of no evidence which substantiates the existence of these alleged phenomena.

I should like to assure Section 40 that there is no question that the MOD would attempt to withhold information on the subject of so-called "unidentified flying objects".

The National Archives' reference DEFE 24/1983/1

S(AS)2 ENCLOSURE NUMBER 40 6414

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

PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE
FOR DEFENCE

D/US of S/FH 1003/96/A

9th May 1996

Dear Mr. Chidgey,

Thank you for your letter of 16 April (reference 27axd155) about the subject of "unidentified flying objects".

My Department is the focal point for reports of "UFO" sightings. We look into such reports, many of which are very vague, only to establish if what was seen may have some defence significance. We believe that down-to-earth explanations are available for most of these reported sightings, such as aircraft seen from unusual angles, or natural phenomena.

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I hope this explains the position.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

THE EARL HOWE

David Chidgey Esq CEng FICE MP

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Spr (AS) I
FILE

Recycled Paper

The National Archives' reference DEFE 24/1983/1

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
SEC(AS)2
23 APR 1996
FILE

PARLIAMENTARY ENQUIRY

FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION

TO: Sec(AS)2a **PE REF NUMBER:** US 1003/96

MINISTER REPLYING: USofS **DRAFT REQUIRED BY:** 1/5/96

DATE: 22/4/96 **FROM:** Section 40 PE Unit **TEL:** Section 40

GUIDANCE NOTE

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Put the MP's full title at the bottom left of the first page. Only add the address if the letter is from the Minister direct to a constituent.

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"Thank you for your letter of ... (MP's ref if given) on behalf of/enclosing one from your constituent, Mr ... of ..., Toytown about ...."

If a Minister is replying on behalf of another Minister start:
"Thank you for your letter of ... addressed to Michael Portillo/ Nicholas Soames/James Arbuthnot/Frederick Howe on behalf etc"
Mr Soames and Earl Howe add "I have been asked to reply" and "I am replying as this matter falls within my area of responsibility." respectively.

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"I am sorry to send what I know will be a disappointing reply."

Deadlines If, exceptionally, you cannot meet the deadline let me know at once - an interim reply might be needed.

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PLEASE USE ONLY ONE METHOD

The National Archives' reference DEFE 24/1983/1

19 APR 1996

Sec (AS)2
USdS.

David Chidgey, C.Eng., FICE, M.P.
(Eastleigh)

Tel:0171 219 6944
Fax:0171 219 2810

HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

The Earl Howe
Ministry of Defence
Main Building
Whitehall
London
SW1A 2AS

16 April 1996

Dear Earl Howe

I am writing on behalf of a young constituent of mine who has enquired about UFOs.

As part of his school project he would like to know if any attention has been paid to the subject of UFOs by the Government, and in particular has any money been invested in any research of this nature?

I would greatly appreciate an answer, and look forward to receiving a reply.

Yours

Section 40

Ref.: 27axd155

Constituency Office: 113 Leigh Road, Eastleigh, Hants SO50 9DS
Tel: 01703 620007 Fax: 01703 618245

The National Archives' reference DEFE 24/1983/1

ENCLOSURE 39

LOOSE MINUTE

D/Sec(AS)/64/4

8 May 96

Parliamentary Branch

LETTER FROM JOHN FRASER MP - US 1199/96

1. Mr Fraser is writing on behalf of a constituent who saw last month's BBC2 Tales of the Paranormal programme about "UFOs". The programme maker, Jenny Randles, shot some footage in the Public Records Office and claimed that a can of film showing an aborted Blue Streak Missile launch in Australia in 1964, which allegedly shows the presence of a 'spaceman', has been withheld from the public domain.

2. Initial enquiries would indicate that the film in question was not official footage at all, but newsreel footage from 1964. Files from PRO will need to be recalled to confirm this.

3. I attach an interim reply for Lord Howe to send to Mr Fraser. A substantive reply and background note will follow in due course.

Section 40 [redacted]

Section 40 [redacted]
Sec(AS)2
MB8247 Section 40 [redacted]

Enc.

The National Archives' reference DEFE 24/1983/1

DRAFT

D/USofS/1199/96 May 1996

Thank you for your letter of 22 April 1996 addressed to Michael Portillo concerning Blue Streak Missile Launch film. I am replying as this matter falls within my area of responsibility.

In order to answer your query it will be necessary for enquiries to be made with the Public Records Office. I shall contact you once these enquiries are completed.

John Fraser, MP THE EARL HOWE

The National Archives' reference DEFE 24/1983/1

64/4
DISCLOSURE
38
NUMBER

DATE	TO	SUBJECT	CODES
08/05/96	Parliamentary Enqu	US 1199	[ ]

Sent: 08/05/96 at 16:59
To: Parliamentary Enquiries
CC:

Ref: 600
Subject: US 1199

Text: Section 40
You may recall last week I requested a deadline extension for this PE. I am afraid we will not have the necessary information to answer it by Friday now. I therefore attach an interim reply for Lord Howe to send to Mr Fraser. A substantive reply and fuller background will follow soon. Section 40 [redacted]

Priority: Urgent
Reply Request [ ]
View Acknowledge [*]
Delivery Acknowledge [*]
Attachments [1]
Codes [ ]

The National Archives' reference DEFE 24/1983/1

LOOSE MINUTE

D/Sec(AS)/64/4

8 May 96

Parliamentary Branch

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1. Mr Fraser is writing on behalf of a constituent who saw last month's BBC2 Tales of the Paranormal programme about "UFOs". The programme maker, Jenny Randles, shot some footage in the Public Records Office and claimed that a can of film showing an aborted Blue Streak Missile launch in Australia in 1964, which allegedly shows the presence of a 'spaceman', has been withheld from the public domain.

2. Initial enquiries would indicate that the film in question was not official footage at all, but newsreel footage from 1964. Files from PRO will need to be recalled to confirm this.

3. I attach an interim reply for Lord Howe to send to Mr Fraser. A substantive reply and background note will follow in due course.

[original signed]

Section 40

Sec(AS)2

MB8247 Section 40

Enc.

The National Archives' reference DEFE 24/1983/1

DRAFT

D/USofS/1199/96 May 1996

Thank you for your letter of 22 April 1996 addressed to Michael Portillo concerning Blue Streak Missile Launch film. I am replying as this matter falls within my area of responsibility.

In order to answer your query it will be necessary for enquiries to be made with the Public Records Office. I shall contact you once these enquiries are completed.

John Fraser, MP THE EARL HOWE

The National Archives' reference DEFE 24/1983/1

deployed 52,631 overseas. Information on the associated costs is not available in the form requested and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Nuclear Submarines

Mr. Charles Kennedy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many nuclear-submarine Z-berths there are currently in Scottish coastal waters; which ones have been used in the last 10 years, and when; and if he will make a statement. [28076]

Mr. Soames: The table sets out the usage of Z-berths in Scotland during the period 1992 to 1994. Figures prior to 1992 are not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. Figures for 1995 are not yet available.

Scottish Z-berth usage in days 1992 to 1994

Z-berth	*1992*	*1993*	*1994*
Broadford bay	0	0	0
Brodick bay	0	0	0
Campbeltown	0	0	1
Coulport	51	94	66
Dales Voe	0	0	0
Dalgety bay	0	0	0
Firth of Forth	0	0	0
Glen Mallan	0	0	0
Holy loch	0	0	0
Lerwick	0	0	0
Loch Ewe	0	0	0
Loch Goil	3	14	14
Loch Striven	0	0	0
Portree	0	1	0
Raasay	0	0	0
Rothesay	0	3	0

Mr. Kennedy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what monitoring he undertakes of the potential environmental impact of nuclear submarine Z-berths in Scottish coastal waters; and if he will make a statement; [28075]

(2) what assessment he has made of the potential environmental impact of nuclear submarine Z-berths in Scottish coastal waters; and if he will make a statement. [28074]

Mr. Arbuthnot: The Defence Radiological Protection Service—DRPS—regularly monitors areas around UK establishments that support submarine operations to demonstrate that nuclear powered warship operation is neither harming the environment nor resulting in unacceptable levels of public radiation exposure.

DRPS surveys are complemented by the marine radioactivity monitoring programme undertaken by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, which publishes its findings independently.

Unidentified Objects, (Rendlesham Forest)

Mr. Redmond: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what is the current security classification on the documents his Department holds on the unidentified objects seen by members of the United States Armed Forces in Rendlesham forest, Suffolk in 1980; and if he will make a statement. [27644]

ENCLOSURE 37 NUMBER 644

Mr. Soames: The papers held by my Department relating to the alleged events at Rendlesham forest, Suffolk in 1980 are unclassified.

British Service Personnel (Cyprus)

Mr. Cox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many official complaints as to the behaviour of British service personnel stationed in Cyprus have been reported to the Ministry of Defence in London since 1 January 1996; and if he will make a statement. [27622]

Mr. Soames: My Department has received a number of letters from hon. Members and from members of the public condemning the actions of the three soldiers convicted of the manslaughter of Louise Jensen. While many of them have also included general criticism of the behaviour of some UK military personnel, I am not aware of any separate complaints relating to specific incidents involving service personnel in Cyprus since 1 January 1996.

We will not tolerate behaviour that brings the Armed Forces into disrepute. The vast majority of service personnel based in Cyprus are very well behaved.

Land Mines

Mr. Menzies Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what discussions have taken place with the Italian company Valsella regarding the upgrading of the Ranger land mines delivery system; and if he will make a statement. [27631]

Mr. Arbuthnot: A representative of Valsella attended a presentation given to officials of my Department in September 1995 by the manufacturer of the Ranger land mine delivery system about eh potential for upgrading that system.

Office Space

Mrs. Bridget Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will list the square footage and cost of office space rented by his Department and its agencies and the number of his Department or agencies' buildings partly, or fully unoccupied together with the square footage of that unoccupied office space and its estimated rental value where available in each of the past five financial years. [27730]

Mr. Arbuthnot: The information is not held in the form requested and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Employees' Rights

Ms Jowell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what provision is available to employees of his Department for *(a)* maternity leave, *(b)* maternity pay, *(c)* paternity leave, *(d)* parental leave, *(e)* flexible working hours, *(f)* part-time work, *(g)* job sharing, *(h)* leave to care for sick children, *(i)* home-working, *(j)* term-time contracts, *(k)* annual hours contracts, *(l)* workplace nurseries, *(m)* child care allowances, *(n)* carers' leave and *(o)* career break schemes; and what criteria are used to judge eligibility in each case; [27609]

(2) what provision is available to employees of executive agencies under the control of his Department for *(a)* maternity leave, *(b)* maternity pay, *(c)* paternity

The National Archives' reference DEFE 24/1983/1

6414

ENCLOSURE 36 NUMBER

DATE	FROM	SUBJECT	CODES
02/05/96	Hd of CS(RM)1	PE: BLUE STREAK FILM	[ ]

Intended:
Sent: 02/05/96 at 15:13 Delivered: 02/05/96 at 15:16
To: SEC(AS)2A (2)
CC:
Ref: 26
From: Hd of CS(RM)1 Auth by:
Subject: PE: BLUE STREAK FILM

Text: I have requisitioned two AIR 2 pieces from PRO, hopefully they will be me early next week.
The attached gives general background to the position with regard to the specific enquiry.
Any problems please speak on my return from leave Section 40

Priority: Normal SEE PAGE Attachments [1]
Reply Request [ ] View Acknowledge [*] Codes [ ]

NOA

Spoke to Section 40 8 May.

The PRO have mislaid the 2 files in question.

They were booked out to the Repro Section but can't be found. Searches continue. A girl from the repro section had been escorted from the premises recently and relieved of her duties..... 2+2=?

Decided to send interim reply. Speak to Section 40 on Friday.

Section 40 8/5.

The National Archives' reference DEFE 24/1983/1

LOOSE MINUTE

CS(RM)/4/6/37

2 May 1996

SEC(AS)2a

PE: BLUE STREAK MISSILE LAUNCH FILM

1. A considerable amount of work has been undertaken in an attempt to resolve the question of the missing Blue Streak film and the apparent wanderings of the "Cumberland Spaceman" (sic) but I regret to advise you that it cannot be located.

2. I very much doubt that the film is/was "official" film in the context of the Public Record Act, but rather footage shot by one of the many newsreel companies covering the historic launchings.

3. All my contacts, Imperial War Museum, RAF Museum, AWE and the Central Office of Information state quite categorically that they did not provide the BBC with any film (you will recall film was shown during the documentary allegedly of a Blue Streak launch). Additionally, if "official" film been used the BBC (who I understand are good at seeking permission to use Crown Copyright material) did not seek permission from the Footage File Section, COI. For the record this Section is responsible for providing clearance world wide!

4. From my various conversations with the experts there is a strong suggestion that the BBC used newsreel footage not official film. This appears to be supported by a further examination of the documentary. If you recall Randles' produced a file that contained an exchange of correspondence between a member of the public and the Ministry concerning the "Spaceman". Paragraph 3 acknowledged that MOD held the Blue Streak film and that it was available for examination. But if you closely examine the paragraph immediately above you will note that the film was obtained from Pathe Ltd! [Following our conversation early this pm I have requisitioned the two most likely files from the PRO to enable confirmation.]

5. On the general question of Record Offices you should note the PRO does not hold film. The two principle places of deposit for this type of record are the IWM and the National Film and Television Archive. The former holds official military film selected for preservation, whilst the latter non-military.

6. In your draft you may wish to make the following points:

- the MOD can identify no such official film as identified in the MP's letter

- all official MOD film selected for preservation is transferred

to the IWM (being a place of deposit approved for such purposes by the Lord Chancellor)

- further enquiries from those authorised to sanction the broadcast of official film - Crown Copyright - apparently reveals no request for clearance

- an examination of records held by the PRO, and cited in the documentary, reveal the film [probably] obtained from commercial sources [to be confirmed].

[signed]
Section 40
Hd CS(RM)1
AA07 Section 40

The National Archives' reference DEFE 24/1983/1

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
SEC (AS) 2
- 2 MAY 1996
FILE

ENCLOSURE NUMBER 35

PARLIAMENTARY ENQUIRY

FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION

TO: SEC(AS)2a PE REF NUMBER: SS 1323/96

MINISTER REPLYING: SoS DRAFT REQUIRED BY: 13/5/96

DATE: 2/5/96 FROM: [redacted] PE Unit TEL: [redacted]

GUIDANCE NOTE

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PLEASE USE ONLY ONE METHOD

The National Archives' reference DEFE 24/1983/1

Sec(AS)2b
SofS
UFOS

HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

S

FROM THE RT.HON.ALFRED MORRIS,AO,QSO,MP

29th April 1996

Dear Michael,

I have had the attached letter from my constituent:

Section 40

Manchester

Section 40

It will be helpful if I can have your comments, if necessary after contact with any of your colleagues as appropriate, in a letter I can send on to him as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

Rt.Hon.Michael Portillo,MP
Secretary of State
Ministry of Defence

PARLIA[illegible]RY
BF
- 1 MAY 1996
ROOM 6134 MAIN BLDG

GLOBAL UFO INVESTIGATION SYSTEMS (MANCHESTER)

Section 40 [redacted] Manchester Section 40

Phone Section 40 Fax

April 24, 1996

Right Honorable Sir Alfred Morris M.P.
House of Commons
Westminster
London
England

Dear Sir:

I represent an organization that is rapidly growing and some of our members are from within your constituency, these members have asked me to represent them in finding out exactly what your stance is on a legislation that we feel is long overdue in being put before the House of commons and its parliamentary members.
I am of course referring to the the freedom to access government and military files that directly relate to the situation concerning any projects that the government or military are carrying out in the field of unidentified flying objects and or on any objects they may of identified and are currently withholding information on.
As you know this is an area of great controversy but the public has the right to know of any and all developments that may directly effect their safety and well being and also to know if the government or military are in possession of information that could have great consequences upon the world situation as we know it.
I ama patriot of this country and do not wish to do harm to its national security or defence programme.
But as a citizen I feel that the government and military do not have the right to refuse its countries people access to knowledge of the magnitude of advances that could be possible if they withheld any information relating to the fact that they have contacted other people from other worlds.
Please do not take this as a crank letter as I assure you this matter I feel is of great importance not only to myself but to our organizations members.
Thankyou.

Section 40 [redacted]
Head of Ops

The National Archives' reference DEFE 24/1983/1



64/4

PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION

MP: MARTIN REDMOND (LABOUR) (DON VALLEY)

PQ REFERENCE: 1220H

PQ TYPE: ORDINARY WRITTEN

DRAFT ANSWER REQUIRED BY: 12:00 THURSDAY 2 MAY 1996

QUESTION: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what is the current security classification on the documents his Department holds on the unidentified objects seen by members of the United States Air Forces in Rendlesham Forest, Suffolk in 1980; and if he will make a statement.

DRAFT ANSWER: The papers held by my Department relating to the alleged events at Rendlesham Forest, Suffolk in 1980 are Unclassified.

APPROVED BY:

Head of Sec(AS) Section 40 Tel: Section 40 Date 2.5.96

Sec(AS)2 Section 40 Tel: Section 40 Date 1/5/96

COPIED TO:

PSO/ACAS
DPR(RAF)
DI55c
DD GE/AEW
Sec(AS)1

BACKGROUND

1. Mr Redmond has asked a large number of PQs on military low flying over the years and it is our understanding that he tables many of these questions on behalf of Section 40 , a researcher into low flying and other military aviation issues, rather than as a result of any direct personal interest. It is not clear why Mr Redmond is specifically interested in the alleged events at Rendlesham Forest, but it is a subject which continues to fascinate "UFO" enthusiasts, and is a topic about which Sec(AS) continues to receive regular correspondence.

2. The alleged incidents occurred between 27-29 December 1980 when unusual lights were seen by USAF personnel, including the Deputy Base Commander, outside RAF Woodbridge. A report of the sighting (copy attached) was forwarded to the MOD by the RAF Liaison Officer at RAF Bentwaters. The report was examined by the Department at the time and no other evidence of any matter of defence significance was found. This is of course the Department's only interest in such sightings.

3. Our line regarding this alleged incident is that all available evidence was examined at the time and we are satisfied that nothing of defence concern occurred in the location on the nights in question. No additional information has come to light over the last 15 years which calls the original judgement into question.

4. The only documents on the subject held by the Department are the report itself, limited official comments on the report, and correspondence from members of the public enquiring about the alleged events.

14

ENCLOSURE NUMBER 33

****

PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION

URGENT ACTION REQUIRED

****

MINISTER REPLYING:MINISTER OF STATE FOR THE ARMED FORCES

PQ REFERENCE:1220H
PQ TYPE:Ordinary Written

SUPPLEMENTARIES ARE REQUIRED? NO

DATE FOR RETURN TO THE PARLIAMENTARY BRANCH: 12:00 ON THURSDAY 2 MAY 1996

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

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE NAME AND TELEPHONE NUMBER OF THE DESK OFFICER WHO DRAFTS THE ANSWER AND THE NAME AND TELEPHONE NUMBER OF THE GRADE 5/ONE STAR WHO APPROVES THE ANSWER MUST BE QUOTED.

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

10|To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what is the current security classification on the documents his Department holds on the unidentified objects seen by members of the United States Armed Forces in Rendlesham Forest, Suffolk in 1980; and if he will make a statement. [27644]

Spoke to DISS and GE3. To the best of their knowledge and belief no papers on their files (those files that are still in existence) and they know of no classified documents on the Rendlesham Forest case.

The National Archives' reference DEFE 24/1983/1

ENCLOSURE 32 NUMBER

LOOSE MINUTE

D/Sec(AS)/64/4

May 96

Parliamentary Branch

LETTER FROM DAVID CHIDGEY MP - US 1003/96

1. The letter from David Chidgey seeks information on our policy in respect of "UFOs", on behalf of a school pupil in his constituency.

2. I attach a draft response for Lord Howe's consideration, which reflects our standard response to enquiries of this nature.

Section 40 [redacted]

Section 40 [redacted]
Sec(AS)2
MB8247 Section 40 [redacted]

Enc.

The National Archives' reference DEFE 24/1983/1

DRAFT

D/USofS/1003/96 May 1996

Thank you for your letter of 16 April concerning the subject of "unidentified flying objects".

My Department is the focal point for reports of "UFO" sightings. We look into such reports, many of which are very vague, only to establish if what was seen may have some defence significance. We believe that down-to-earth explanations are available for most of these reported sightings, such as aircraft seen from unusual angles, or natural phenomena.

My Department does not carry out research into "UFO/flying saucers". We have no direct interest, expertise or role with respect to "UFO/flying saucers" or the question of the existence or otherwise of extraterrestrial lifeforms, about which we remain open-minded. However, to date we know of no evidence which substantiates the existence of these alleged phenomena.

I hope this explains the position.

David Chidgey, CEng, FICE, MP

THE EARL HOWE

The National Archives' reference DEFE 24/1983/1

ENCLOSURE 31 NUMBER

LOOSE MINUTE

D/Sec(AS)/64/4

May 96

Parliamentary Branch

LETTER FROM GEOFFREY CLIFTON-BROWN MP - US 1002/96

1. The comments contained in the constituent's letter reflect the commonly held view by "Ufologists" who ascribe to the conspiracy theory, that the MOD has in its possession evidence which supports the existence of alien lifeforms.

2. As Lord Howe is aware, our stated position in this respect is that to date we know of no evidence which supports the alleged phenomena of extraterrestrial lifeforms or "UFO/Flying saucers".

3. I attach a draft response for Lord Howe's consideration which reflects our standard approach to such enquiries.

Section 40 [redacted]

Section 40 [redacted]

Sec(AS)2
MB8247 Section 40 [redacted]

Enc.

The National Archives' reference DEFE 24/1983/1

DRAFT

D/USofS/1002/96 May 1996

I refer to the letter which I received from [redacted] dated 15 April, enclosing one from [redacted] Cheltenham, concerning the subject of "unidentified flying objects" and "alien artefacts".

My Department does look into reports of "UFO" sightings that are sent to us, many of which are very vague, but only to establish if what was seen may have some defence significance. We believe that down-to-earth explanations are available for most of these reported sightings, such as aircraft seen from unusual angles, or natural phenomena.

The Department has no direct interest, expertise or role with respect to "UFO/flying saucer" matters or the question of the existence or otherwise of extraterrestrial lifeforms, about which we remain open-minded. However, to date we know of no evidence which substantiates the existence of these alleged phenomena.

[redacted] may wish to be aware that in common with all government files, MOD files are subject to the provisions of the Public Records Act of 1958 and 1967, which states that official files generally remain closed from public viewing for 30 years after

Geoffrey Clifton-Brown, MP

The National Archives' reference DEFE 24/1983/1

the last action has been taken. It was generally the case that before 1967 all "UFO" files were destroyed after five years, as at the time there was insufficient public interest in the subject to merit their permanent retention. Since 1967, following an increase in public interest in this subject, it has been our policy that such files are to be routinely preserved. A few files from the Fifties and early Sixties did, however, survive and are available for examination by members of the public. They may be viewed at the Public Record Office, Ruskin Avenue, Kew, Richmond, Surrey, TW9 4DU. The references of these files are as follows:

AIR 16/1199	AIR 20/9994
AIR 20/7390	AIR 2/16918
AIR 20/9320	AIR 2/17318
AIR 20/9321	AIR 2/17526
AIR 20/9322	AIR 2/17527
PREM 11/855	

All surviving paperwork from over 30 years ago on the subject of "UFOs" previously held by the MOD has now been transferred to the Public Records Office. I should like to assure Section 40 that there is no question that the MOD would attempt to cover-up information on the subject of so-called "unidentified flying objects".

I hope this explains the position.

THE EARL HOWE

The National Archives' reference DEFE 24/1983/1

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
SEC(AS)2
23 APR 1996
FILE

PARLIAMENTARY ENQUIRY

FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION

TO: SEC(AS)2a **PE REF NUMBER:** US 1002/96

MINISTER REPLYING: USofS **DRAFT REQUIRED BY:** 1/5/96

DATE: 22/4/96 **FROM:** [redacted] PE Unit **TEL:** [redacted]

GUIDANCE NOTE

Ministers reply to some 8,000 such letters a year. They place great importance on the content style and speed of the 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. Do not be unduly defensive.

No background note is required unless essential to explain the line taken in the draft reply.

Layout Draft replies should be double spaced.

Always include the full PE reference number at the top left of the draft.

Put the MP's full title at the bottom left of the first page. Only add the address if the letter is from the Minister direct to a constituent.

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 ..., Toytown about ...."

If a Minister is replying on behalf of another Minister start:
"Thank you for your letter of ... addressed to Michael Portillo/ Nicholas Soames/James Arbuthnot/Frederick Howe on behalf etc"
Mr Soames and Earl Howe add "I have been asked to reply" and "I am replying as this matter falls within my area of responsibility." respectively.

Do not end "I hope this is helpful" when the reply is obviously disappointing. Alternatives are:
"I hope this explains the position"
"I am sorry I cannot be more helpful"
"I am sorry to send what I know will be a disappointing reply."

Deadlines If, exceptionally, you cannot meet the deadline let me know at once - an interim reply might be needed.

Departmental action Action 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.

ALL DRAFTS MUST BE CLEARED BY A NAMED OFFICIAL AT GRADE 7 LEVEL AND ANNOTATED TO CONFIRM THIS.

WHEREVER POSSIBLE DRAFTS SHOULD BE SENT ON CHOTS E-MAIL TO: Parliamentary Enquiries other wise send drafts by fax to [redacted]
PLEASE USE ONLY ONE METHOD

The National Archives' reference DEFE 24/1983/1

Sec(AS)2
USofS

Geoffrey Clifton-Brown, M.P.

HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

15 April 1996

The Earl Howe
The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State
Ministry of Defence
Main Building
Whitehall
London SW1A 2HB

Dear Lord Howe,

Re: Unidentified Flying Objects (UFOs)

I enclose a copy of a letter which has today been received from Section 40 Cheltenham, the contents of which are self-explanatory.

Mr Clifton-Brown is currently abroad and in his absence I would appreciate receiving your comments on the points raised by Section 40 so that we may respond to him more fully.

Thank you for your attention in this matter and I look forward to hearing from you in due course.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

Secretary to
Geoffrey Clifton-Brown

Enc

Fax: Section 40
Cirencester & Tewkesbury Constituency Office: Section 40

The National Archives' reference DEFE 24/1983/1

should prove that the population is not going to go crazy nor the stock markets crash if the facts are made available.

Yours faithfully

Section 40

[redacted]

DEFENCE SECRETARIAT
15 APR 1996
REGISTRY

Section 40

[redacted]

CHELTENHAM,

Section 40

[redacted]

Dear Sir,

I have been made aware that on July 4th 1996 the Japanese will be opening a new museum dealing with Unidentified Flying Objects. (UFOs) I gather that they will exhibit parts of non man made machines and an almost intact alien 'saucer'. Beyond this is suspected that alien bodies preserved at low temperature will be on view.

In the light of the foregoing will the government come clean on UFOs and give the public of this country the facts and show them artefacts from alien craft? The great interest in the "X Files"

The National Archives' reference DEFE 24/1983/1

Classification

Caveat

Covering

ENCLOSURE 30/1 NUMBER
F Sigs (Rev 8
644

Facsimile Transmission Cover Sheet

Transmission Details		Document Details
Serial Number:	Date and Time of Transmission: 30 APR	Reference:
From: SEC(AS)2a	Fax Number: [redacted]	Subject: PE: BLUE STREAK MISSILE LAUNCH FILM
To: [redacted] HD CS(RM)	Fax Number: [redacted]	Total number of pages including this cover sheet: 2

Authorizing Officer	Transmit Operators
Rank, Name and Appointment: [redacted]	Rank/Grade, Name and Telephone No.: AO [redacted]
Signature: [redacted]	Signature: [redacted]

Message/Remarks:

[redacted]

We have received the attached PE to staff, which has been prompted by the Jenny Randles programme on "UFOs" earlier this month.

I seem to recall that Ms Randles claimed that "one can of film was missing" from the set of films released to the PRO. I should be grateful for any light you may be able to shed about this matter, about which I am afraid I know absolutely nothing.

Regards

[redacted]

Covering

Caveat

The National Archives' reference DEFE 24/1983/1

SECRETARIAT(AIR STAFF) Fax: Section 40

** Transmi[illegible] Conf. Report **

30 Apr '96 11:14

SECRETARIAT(AIR STA[illegible] --> Section 40	
No.	0236
Mode	NORMAL
Time	0'55"
Pages	1 Page(s)
Result	[illegible]

The National Archives' reference DEFE 24/1983/1

Sec (AS) 2

64/4.

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

PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE
FOR DEFENCE

ENCLOSURE NUMBER 30 4

D/US of S/FH 0909/96/A

22nd April 1996

Dear Derek,

Thank you for your letter of 12 March to Roger Freeman enclosing one from Section 40 of Section 40 about files of "unidentified flying objects" reports held by my Department. I am replying as this matter falls within my area of responsibility.

My Department does look into reports of "UFO" sightings that are sent to us, many of which are very vague, but only to establish if what was seen may have some defence significance. We believe that down-to-earth explanations are available for most of these reported sightings, such as aircraft seen from unusual angles, or natural phenomena.

We have no direct interest, expertise or role with respect to "UFO/flying saucer" matters or to the existence or otherwise of extraterrestrial life forms, about which we remain open-minded. However, to date we know of no evidence which substantiates the existence of these alleged phenomena.

Section 40 asks about the MOD's "UFO" reports files. In common with all government files, MOD files are subject to the provisions of the Public Records Act of 1958 and 1967, which as you will be aware, states that official files 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 at the time there was insufficient public interest in the subject to merit their permanent retention. Since 1967, following an increase in public interest in this subject, it has been our policy that such files are to be routinely preserved. A few files from the Fifties and early Sixties did,

Sir Derek Spencer QC MP

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
SEC (AS) 2
24 APR 1996
FILE

Recycled Paper

however, survive and are available for examination by members of the public. They may be viewed at the Public Record Office, Ruskin Avenue, Kew, Richmond, Surrey, TW9 4DU. The references of these files are as follows:

AIR 16/1199	AIR 20/9994
AIR 20/7390	AIR 2/16918
AIR 20/9320	AIR 2/17318
AIR 20/9321	AIR 2/17526
AIR 20/9322	AIR 2/17527
PREM 11/855	

In answer to Section 40 [redacted] query therefore all surviving paperwork from over 30 years ago on the subject of "UFOs" previously held by the MOD has now been transferred to the Public Records Office. I should also like to assure Section 40 [redacted] that there is no question that the MOD would attempt to cover-up information on the subject of so-called "unidentified flying objects".

I hope this explains the position.

Yours ever,

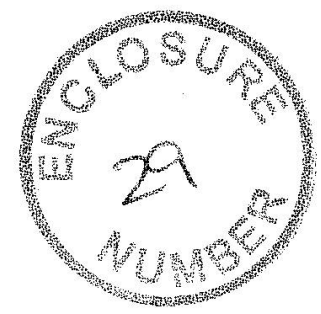
Section 40 [redacted]

THE EARL HOWE

Recycled Paper

The National Archives' reference DEFE 24/1983/1

FILE COPY



LOOSE MINUTE

D/Sec(AS)/64/4

18 Apr 96

Parliamentary Branch

LETTER FROM SIR DEREK SPENCER QC MP - US 0909/96

1. The comments contained in the constituent's letter reflect the commonly held view by "Ufologists" who ascribe to the conspiracy theory, that the MOD has in its possession files which contain sensitive "UFO" sightings reports made by military pilots or personnel, which we keep separate from the files which contain reports of sightings made by members of the public.

2. There is no evidence to support this claim and all reports, from whatever source, are placed on the same departmental files. CS(Records Management) have confirmed to the best of their knowledge that all surviving "UFO" paperwork from over 30 years ago has now, in accordance with the Public Records Act, been passed to the Public Records Office (PRO).

3. I attach a draft response for Lord Howe's consideration.

Section 40 [redacted]

Section 40 [redacted]

Sec(AS)2
MB8247 Section 40 [redacted]

Enc.

The National Archives' reference DEFE 24/1983/1

DRAFT

D/USofS/0909/96 April 1996

Thank you for your letter of 12 March addressed to Roger Freeman enclosing one from Section 40 Section 40 concerning the subject of files of "unidentified flying objects" reports. Your letter has been passed to the Ministry of Defence for reply as this falls within my area of responsibility.

My Department does look into reports of "UFO" sightings that are sent to us, many of which are very vague, but only to establish if what was seen may have some defence significance. We believe that down-to-earth explanations are available for most of these reported sightings, such as aircraft seen from unusual angles, or natural phenomena.

We have no direct interest, expertise or role with respect to "UFO/flying saucer" matters or to the existence or otherwise of extraterrestrial lifeforms, about which we remain open-minded. However, to date we know of no evidence which substantiates the existence of these alleged phenomena.

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Sir Derek Spencer QC MP

The National Archives' reference DEFE 24/1983/1

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In answer to Section 40 [redacted] query therefore all surviving paperwork from over 30 years ago on the subject of "UFOs" previously held by the MOD has now been transferred to the Public Records Office. I should also like to assure Section 40 [redacted] that there is no question that the MOD would attempt to cover-up information on the subject of so-called "unidentified flying objects".

I hope this explains the position.

THE EARL HOWE

The National Archives' reference DEFE 24/1983/1

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
SEC (AS) 2
12 APR 1996
FILE 6414

ENCLOSURE NUMBER 28

PARLIAMENTARY ENQUIRY

FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION

TO: SEC(AS)2a **PE REF NUMBER:** US0909/96

MINISTER REPLYING: USofS **DRAFT REQUIRED BY:** 22/4/96

DATE: 11/4/96 **FROM:** Section 40 PE Unit **TEL:** Section 40

GUIDANCE NOTE

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PLEASE USE ONLY ONE METHOD

The National Archives' reference DEFE 24/1983/1

Sec(AS)
USofS

Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster
Cabinet Minister for Public Service

CABINET OFFICE
70 Whitehall, London SW1A 2AS
Telephone: Section 40

Correspondence Section
Ministry of Defence
Main Building
Whitehall

29 March 1996

The attached letter addressed to Roger Freeman appears to fall within the remit of your Department. I should be grateful if you could reply to the correspondent direct, copying the reply back to myself.

They have been informed of the transfer.

Section 40 [redacted]

Section 40
Ministerial Support Unit
Room 313, 70 Whitehall
Section 40

The National Archives' reference DEFE 24/1983/1

SIR DEREK SPENCER QC MP

HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

CHANCELLOR OF THE DUCHY OF LANCASTER
19 MAR 1996

Historic Records
MoD.

12th March 1996

RF/96/M/581

MOD

FAO:
SERT (AS)
Room 8245
MAIN BUILDING
WHITEHALL.

Dear Roger,

Please find enclosed a letter I have received from my constituent Section 40 [redacted] Brighton about information regarding unidentified flying objects.

I would be most grateful for a reply I could pass on to Section 40 [redacted] Section 40 [redacted]

Yours ever,

Section 40 [redacted]

Rt Hon Roger Freeman MP
Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster
Office of Public Service
70 Whitehall
London SW1A 2AS

The National Archives' reference DEFE 24/1983/1

Section 40

[redacted]

BRIGHTON
East Sussex

Saturday 2nd March

Dear Sir Derek,

sorry about this questionaire being late but it got lost on my desk amongst all the other stuff. The reason why I am writing to you is to ask about UFO's. I would like you to see if you could get certain files released from over 50 years ago to the present. This files concern the 10% of sightings which cannot being explained by means other than extra-terrastrial ones. These sightings were made by reliable sources such as airline and airforce pilots and radar

The National Archives' reference DEFE 24/1983/1

operators, although when asked about them in the House of Commons, previous governments have said they are from unreliable sources. But why have these files been kept locked away if they are as worthless as has been made out?

If you wish to know more about this I recommend Timothy Good's book 'Above Top Secret' which will surely convince you about this enormous cover-up. Please endeavour to ~~answer~~ answer my questions as the public should know the truth - maybe you could do a Private members bill about it. The public have had the wool pulled over their eyes for too long so please try your best Sir Derek,

yours sincerely,

Section 40

[redacted]

The National Archives' reference DEFE 24/1983/1

ENCL No 27

CORNELL UNIVERSITY

Center for Radiophysics and Space Research

SPACE SCIENCES BUILDING
Ithaca, New York 14853-6801

Telephone [redacted]
Fax [redacted]

Laboratory for Planetary Studies

March 6, 1996

Gave [redacted] (PS) a copy of USofPS's letter to [redacted] of 6 Oct 95. Also advised he spoke to PL(LS) Claims. [redacted] 28/3

[redacted]
Chief, Public Relations
Ministry of Defence
Whitehall
London SW1A 2HB
ENGLAND

REFERENCE: Crop Circles

Dear [redacted]

One [redacted] self-described as "England's foremost crop circle expert" claims that "The British government...has sanctioned the Ministry of Defence to say that the circles are real. Evidence has been uncovered showing some farmers have been paid considerable sums of money to destroy the real crop circles when they appear, and groups encouraged to then make hoaxed replicas." Could I trouble you to tell me the Ministry of Defence's view of this statement?

With many thanks,

Cordially,

[redacted]

Carl Sagan
David Duncan Professor of Astronomy and
Space Sciences, and
Director, Laboratory for Planetary Studies

CS:lkp

The National Archives' reference DEFE 24/1983/1

HEADLINE
BOOK PUBLISHING LTD
TEL: 0171 873 6000 FAX: 0171 873 6124

25 March 1996

Section 40
Chief, Public Relations
Ministry of Defence
Whitehall
London SW1A 2HB

Dear Section 40

I would be most grateful if you could inform me of your response to Carl Sagan's letter of 6 March 1996, a copy of which I enclose herewith.

Many thanks.

Yours sincerely

Section 40

pp Section 40
Publishing Director, Non-fiction

Enc

REGISTERED OFFICE:
338 EUSTON ROAD
LONDON NW1 3BH
COMPANY NO: 2782638 ENGLAND

A MEMBER OF THE HODDER HEADLINE PLC GROUP

The National Archives' reference DEFE 24/1983/1

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
MAIN BUILDING WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2HB

Telephone 0171-21.....(Direct Dialling)
0171-21 89000 (Switchboard)

PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE
FOR DEFENCE

ENCL No 26

D/US of S/FH 0712/96/S

21st March 1996

Dear Mr. Jones,

Thank you for your letter of 6 March to the Station Commander at RAF Valley, about a "sighting" which was witnessed over Llanfaes on Saturday, 4 November 1995. In accordance with normal practice your letter has been passed to me for reply.

We have looked into the matter and can tell you that no aircraft were operating out of Royal Air Force Valley on the evening in question and no military aircraft were booked into military Night Low Flying Section 5D, in which Llanfaes is situated. Furthermore, the Department did not receive any other reports of "sightings" from members of the public. This of course does not rule out the possibility that a civil aircraft of some description was observed.

I hope this is helpful to you in responding to your constituent.

Yours Sincerely

Section 40

THE EARL HOWE

Ieuan Wyn Jones Esq MP

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
SEC(AS)2
26 MAR 1996
FILE

Recycle

The National Archives' reference DEFE 24/1983/1



LOOSE MINUTE

D/Sec(AS)/64/4

15 Mar 96

APS/USofS

REVERSE MINISTERIAL - IEUAN WYN JONES MP

1. The Station Commander at Royal Air Force Valley has received the attached letter from Ieuan Wyn Jones MP, who has been asked by a constituent to make enquiries into a "sighting" witnessed on 4 Nov 95 near RAF Valley.

2. The constituent has asked whether an object seen at 1905 hours over Llanfaes could have been an aircraft from RAF Valley. The expression "sighting" used by Mr Jones might indicate that his constituent believes the craft seen could have been a so-called "unidentified flying object".

3. RAF Valley confirm that none of their aircraft were operating on the evening in question, and records show that neither were any aircraft booked into Night Low Flying Sector 5D conducting military low flying training. Furthermore, this office did not receive any "UFO" reports which would tie in with this sighting.

4. As there is no evidence to confirm that the sighting was a matter of defence concern, we have no further role. I attach a draft for Lord Howe's consideration, which reflects the standard line in response to such queries.

Section 40

Sec(AS)2
MB8245 Section 40

Enc:

The National Archives' reference DEFE 24/1983/1

D R A F T

D/USofS/ /96 March 1996

Thank you for your letter of 6 March 1996 to the Station Commander at Royal Air Force Valley, concerning a "sighting" which was witnessed over Llanfaes on Saturday, 4 November 1995. In accordance with normal practice your letter has been passed to me, as the responsible Minister, for reply.

We have looked into the matter and can tell you that no aircraft were operating out of Royal Air Force Valley on the evening in question, and no military aircraft were booked into military Night Low Flying Sector 5D, in which Llanfaes is situated. Furthermore, the Department did not receive any other reports of "sightings" from members of the public. This of course does not rule out the possibility that a civil aircraft of some description was observed.

I hope this is helpful to you in responding to your constituent.

THE EARL HOWE

Ieuan Wyn Jones, Esq, MP

The National Archives' reference DEFE 24/1983/1

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
MAIN BUILDING WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2HB

Telephone 0171-21.....(Direct Dialling)
0171-21 89000 (Switchboard)

PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE
FOR DEFENCE

ENCL No 26

D/US of S/FH 0712/96/S

21st March 1996

Dear Mr. Jones,

Thank you for your letter of 6 March to the Station Commander at RAF Valley, about a "sighting" which was witnessed over Llanfaes on Saturday, 4 November 1995. In accordance with normal practice your letter has been passed to me for reply.

We have looked into the matter and can tell you that no aircraft were operating out of Royal Air Force Valley on the evening in question and no military aircraft were booked into military Night Low Flying Section 5D, in which Llanfaes is situated. Furthermore, the Department did not receive any other reports of "sightings" from members of the public. This of course does not rule out the possibility that a civil aircraft of some description was observed.

I hope this is helpful to you in responding to your constituent.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

THE EARL HOWE

Ieuan Wyn Jones Esq MP

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
SEC(AS)2
26 MAR 1996
FILE

Recycle

12 Mar '95 13:58 P.01/02

Classification

Caveat

Covering

F Sigs 927
(Int.9/92)

Facsimile Transmission Cover Sheet

Transmission Details

Serial Number:

Date and Time of Transmission:

From: OC Section 40
DAT Wyton

Fax Number: Section 40

To: Section 40

Fax Number: Section 40

Section 40

Section 40

Sec AS2b (Mob)

Authorizing Officer

Rank, Name: Section 40
Wg Cdr

Section 40

Document Details

Reference: JW3/2/96/36

Subject: LLANWRAS 'SIGHTING'

Total number of pages including this cover sheet: 2

Transmit Operators

Rank/Grade and Name:

Signature:

To: AS)2b Mob

Info: AS(Sec)2 HQPC

Please find attached Mobil phone log for the Llanwras 'sighting'. Please let me know if you require any further assistance.

Section 40

Section 40

4 NOV 95 - Kincardine, Scotland

2 reports - Brundall, Norfolk

1 report -

The National Archives' reference DEFE 24/1983/1

17

NSSD -

SM6077

HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

Ref: IWJ/2/96/

March 1996

Sh Cdr

Section 40

Wg Cdr Section 40 confirmed no aircraft movements from Valley on the evening in question.

Section 40

Group Captain Section 40

have been asked to make enquiries regarding a "sighting" over the village of Llantass on Thursday, 4 November 1995 at 10... one of my constituents has written to me enquiring whether the "object" could have been an aircraft from RAF ... I wonder if you could let me know if you have ... details about this event.

... you would be good enough to let me know whether ... craft has been identified as being in the ... area at ... time.

Yours sincerely

Section 40

LFA 7

STNCL...

SEP

The National Archives' reference DEFE 24/1983/1

Hd Sec (AS)

64/4

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
MAIN BUILDING WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2HB

Telephone 0171-21.....(Direct Dialling)
0171-21 89000 (Switchboard)

PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE
FOR DEFENCE

Section 40

Section 40

ENCL No 24

D/US of S/0443/96/M

4th March 1996

Dear John,

Thank you for your letter of 14 February on behalf of Section 40 of Section 40 about her claimed sightings of "UFOs".

My Department does look into reports of "UFO" sightings that are sent to us, many of which are very vague, but only to establish if what was seen may have some defence significance. We believe that down-to-earth explanations are available for most of these reported sightings, such as aircraft seen from unusual angles, or natural phenomena.

We are not aware of any RAF investigation into sightings in the Withernsea area. Although a very small number of "unexplained" sightings have been reported in this area over the last three years, none was considered to be of any defence significance. We have no trace of any reports made by Section 40 or of correspondence with her, over this period.

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Hd.Sec.(AS).
- 6 MAR 1996
FILE

Yours ever,

Section 40

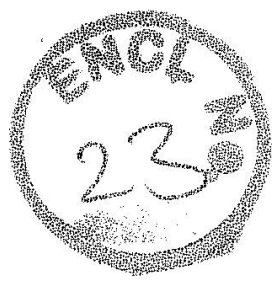
THE EARL HOWE

John Townend Esq FCA MP

Recycled Pa

The National Archives' reference DEFE 24/1983/1

6414



LOOSE MINUTE

D/Sec(AS)/64/4

1 Mar 96

Parliamentary Branch

LETTER FROM JOHN TOWNEND, FCA, MP - US 0443/96

A self explanatory draft reply to Section 40 [redacted] letter of 14 February is attached for Lord Howe's consideration.

Section 40 [redacted]

Section 40 [redacted]

Head of Sec(AS)
MB7257 Section 40 [redacted]

Enc.

The National Archives' reference DEFE 24/1983/1

DRAFT

D/USofS/0443/96 March 1996

Thank you for your letter of 14 February concerning Section 40 Section 40 and her claimed sightings of "UFOs".

My Department does look into reports of "UFO" sightings that are sent to us, many of which are very vague, but only to establish if what was seen may have some defence significance. We believe that down-to-earth explanations are available for most of these reported sightings, such as aircraft seen from unusual angles, or natural phenomena.

As to Section 40 we are not aware of any RAF investigation into sightings in the Withernsea area. Although a very small number of "unexplained" sightings have been reported in this area over the last three years, none was considered to be of any defence significance. We have no trace of any reports made by Section 40 or of correspondence with her, over this period.

I hope this is helpful to you in responding to Section 40

THE EARL HOWE

John Townend, Esq, FCA, MP

The National Archives' reference DEFE 24/1983/1

6414
ENCL
2

DATE	TO	SUBJECT	
01/03/96	Parliamentary Enqu	PE: US 0443/96	Ref: 531

Sent : 01/03/96 10:44
To : Parliamentary Enquiries
Cc :

Ref : 531
Subject: PE: US 0443/96

Text : The attached has been seen and signed off by Section 40 (Grade 5)

Priority: Urgent View Acknowledge [*] Attachments [1]
Reply Request [ ] Delivery Acknowledge [*] page 1

Bcc :

Auth by :

Defer Date : Defer Time :

No Redirection [ ]

The National Archives' reference DEFE 24/1983/1

LOOSE MINUTE

D/Sec(AS)/64/4

1 Mar 96

Parliamentary Branch

LETTER FROM JOHN TOWNEND, FCA, MP - US 0443/96

A self explanatory draft reply to Mr Townend's letter of 14 February is attached for Lord Howe's consideration.

[original signed]

Section 40

Head of Sec(AS)
MB7257 Section 40

Enc.

DRAFT

D/USofS/0443/96 March 1996

Thank you for your letter of 14 February concerning Section 40 Section 40 and her claimed sightings of "UFOs".

My Department does look into reports of "UFO" sightings that are sent to us, many of which are very vague, but only to establish if what was seen may have some defence significance. We believe that down-to-earth explanations are available for most of these reported sightings, such as aircraft seen from unusual angles, or natural phenomena.

As to Section 40 we are not aware of any RAF investigation into sightings in the Withernsea area. Although a very small number of "unexplained" sightings have been reported in this area over the last three years, none was considered to be of any defence significance. We have no trace of any reports made by Section 40 or of correspondence with her, over this period.

I hope this is helpful to you in responding to Section 40

THE EARL HOWE

John Townend, Esq, FCA, MP

64/4

REGD. No. 21

Section 40 Section 40

thro Sectior.

PE: 0443/96 - "UFOs"

1. Attached for your consideration is a draft response to a PE from Mr John Townend, the MP for Bridlington.

2. His constituent, Section 40 is not known to me, and we have checked back through our correspondence files and have not had cause to write to her in the last three years. Whilst it would be almost impossible to categorically state that no member of the RAF has asked questions about "UFO" sightings in the area, we have not requested any investigation into "UFO" sightings there.

3. The draft response is required by the Parliamentary Branch by COP Fri 1 Mar.

Section 40

The National Archives' reference DEFE 24/1983/1

LOOSE MINUTE

D/Sec(AS)/64/4

Feb 96 **D R A F T**

Parliamentary Branch

LETTER FROM JOHN TOWNEND, FCA, MP - US 0443/96

1. A self explanatory draft reply to Mr Townend's letter of 14 February is attached for Lord Howe's consideration.

Section 40 [redacted]

Head of Sec(AS)
MB7257 Section 40 [redacted]

Enc.

The National Archives' reference DEFE 24/1983/1

DRAFT

D/USofS/0443/96

March 1996

Section 40 [redacted]

Thank you for your letter of 14 February concerning ~~the subject of "unidentified flying objects".~~ and new claimed sightings of UFOs

My Department does look into reports of UFO sightings that are sent to us, but only many of which are very vague. To establish if what was seen may have some defence significance. We believe that down-to-earth explanations are available for most of these reported sightings, such as aircraft seen from unusual angles, or natural phenomena.

~~[illegible] are not immediately~~

John Townend, Esq, FCA, MP

The National Archives' reference DEFE 24/1983/1

identifiable. However, we believe explanations could be found for most of them. Possibilities include aircraft lights or aircraft seen from unusual angles, helium balloons, searchlights or lasers reflecting off clouds, or even natural phenomena like fireballs and meteorites. Nevertheless, we do accept that there will always be some sightings that appear to defy explanation, and we are open-minded about these as it is outside the Department's remit to investigate further if there is no defence interest.

As to Section 40 we are not

~~Neither I nor my officials are~~ aware of any ~~specific~~ RAF investigation into sightings in the Withernsea area. Although a very small number of ~~reports of~~ "unexplained" ~~aerial~~ sightings have been reported in this area over the last three years, none was considered to be of any ~~the reports were examined by the Department and were found to have no~~ defence significance. We have no trace of any reports made by Section 40, or of correspondence with her, over this period.

~~I can assure you that the MOD and our Armed Forces remain~~ properly vigilant for any physical threat to the security of the United Kingdom, but to date it remains the case that we are not aware of any evidence which substantiates the existence of ~~the alleged phenomena of "UFO/flying saucers".~~

Section 40

I hope this is helpful to you in responding to ~~in explaining the role of this Department regarding "UFO" sightings.~~

THE EARL HOWE

The National Archives' reference DEFE 24/1983/1

64/4
ENCL No
20

PARLIAMENTARY ENQUIRY

FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION

TO: SEC(AS)2a PE REF NUMBER: US 0443/96

MINISTER REPLYING: US of S DRAFT REQUIRED BY: 1/3/96

DATE: 21/2/96 FROM: Section 40 PE Unit TEL: Section 40

GUIDANCE NOTE

Ministers reply to some 8,000 such letters a year. They place great importance on the content style and speed of the 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. Do not be unduly defensive.

No background note is required unless essential to explain the line taken in the draft reply.

Layout Draft replies should be double spaced.

Always include the full PE reference number at the top left of the draft.

Put the MP's full title at the bottom left of the first page. Only add the address if the letter is from the Minister direct to a constituent.

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 ..., Toytown about ...."

If a Minister is replying on behalf of another Minister start:
"Thank you for your letter of ... addressed to Michael Portillo/ Nicholas Soames/James Arbuthnot/Frederick Howe on behalf etc"
Mr Soames and Earl Howe add "I have been asked to reply" and "I am replying as this matter falls within my area of responsibility." respectively.

Do not end "I hope this is helpful" when the reply is obviously disappointing. Alternatives are:
"I hope this explains the position"
"I am sorry I cannot be more helpful"
"I am sorry to send what I know will be a disappointing reply."

Deadlines If, exceptionally, you cannot meet the deadline let me know at once - an interim reply might be needed.

Departmental action Action 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.

ALL DRAFTS MUST BE CLEARED BY A NAMED OFFICIAL AT GRADE 7 LEVEL AND ANNOTATED TO CONFIRM THIS.

WHEREVER POSSIBLE DRAFTS SHOULD BE SENT ON CHOTS E-MAIL TO: Parliamentary Enquiries other wise send drafts by fax to Section 40

PLEASE USE ONLY ONE METHOD

The National Archives' reference DEFE 24/1983/1

Sec(AS)2

John Townend, F.C.A., M.P.

HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

14 February 1996

The Earl Howe,
Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Defence,
Ministry of Defence
Main Building
Whitehall
London SW1A 2HB

Dear Earl

I am being inundated with telephone calls, letters etc. from a constituent who claims sightings of UFOs both when she lived at Section 40 in North Humberside and now that she lives in Section 40 East Yorkshire. She is a Section 40

However, my reason for writing is that I am told by the local Press that within the last three years, since these sightings commenced, the RAF took these sightings seriously and sent RAF personnel up there to investigate these claims. I wonder if you can tell me if this is correct and, if so, what conclusion was reached.

Section 40

Section 40

The National Archives' reference DEFE 24/1983/1

64/18

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
MAIN BUILDING WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2HB

Telephone 0171-21.....(Direct Dialling)
0171-21 89000 (Switchboard)

PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE
FOR DEFENCE

RECEIVED
19

D/US of S/FH 0237/96/M

14th February 1996

Dear Virginia,

Thank you for your letter of 17 January enclosing one from your constituent, Section 40 about satellites.

Section 40 appears to be concerned that a particular geostationary satellite is causing him physical harm. Whilst there a number of geostationary satellites positioned above the United Kingdom at any given time, eg. military, meteorological, television, etc, I can assure Section 40 that such satellites are not capable of causing the physical effects he appears to be suffering from.

Should Section 40 continue to be concerned about his health, it might alleviate his anxiety if he were to visit his GP, who would be able to conduct an appropriate medical investigation into his symptoms.

I hope this is helpful.

Yours ever,

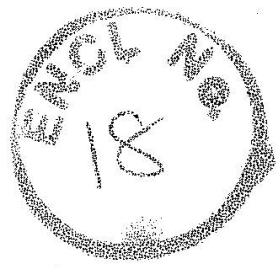
Section 40

THE EARL HOWE

The Rt Hon Virginia Bottomley MP

Recycled Paper

The National Archives' reference DEFE 24/1983/1



LOOSE MINUTE

D/Sec(AS)/64/4

12 Feb 96

Parliamentary Branch

US 0237/96; VIRGINIA BOTTOMLEY, MP - SATELLITES

1. Mrs Bottomley's constituent, Section 40 has written voicing his concerns that over the last decade a geostationary satellite positioned south east of his house in Surrey, has been emitting harmful waves which cause him unpleasant physical side-effects. Section 40 is requesting that the MOD launches an investigation into the satellite and those responsible for "harrassing" him.

2. Attached is a short self-explantory response, which seeks to assure Section 40 that although there are a number of geostationary satellites positioned above the United Kingdom, there is no question that the physical effects he is apparently suffering from could be caused by these satellites.

Section 40

Section 40
Sec(AS)2
MB8247 Section 40

Enc.

The National Archives' reference DEFE 24/1983/1

DRAFT

D/US 0237/96 February 1996

Thank you for your letter of 17 January enclosing one from your constituent, Section 40 [redacted] Surrey, Section 40 [redacted] on the subject of satellites.

Section 40 [redacted] appears to be concerned that a particular geostationary satellite is causing him physical harm. Whilst there a number of geostationary satellites positioned above the United Kingdom at any given time, eg. military, meteorological, television, etc, I can assure Section 40 [redacted] that such satellites are not capable of causing the physical effects he appears to be suffering from.

Should Section 40 [redacted] continue to be concerned about his health, it might alleviate his anxiety if he were to visit his GP, who would be able to conduct an appropriate medical investigation into his symptoms.

I hope this is helpful.

The Rt Hon Virginia Bottomley, MP

THE EARL HOWE

The National Archives' reference DEFE 24/1983/1

Discussed with ICS (OR)1b

Section 40 Section 40 12/2

64/4

ENCL. NO. 17

PARLIAMENTARY ENQUIRY

FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION

TO: Sec(AS)2a **PE REF NUMBER:** US0237/96

MINISTER REPLYING: USofS **DRAFT REQUIRED BY:** 12/02/96

DATE: 01/02/96 **FROM:** Section 40 PE Unit **TEL:** Section 40

GUIDANCE NOTE

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Deadlines If, exceptionally, you cannot meet the deadline let me know at once - an interim reply might be needed.

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PLEASE USE ONLY ONE METHOD

The National Archives' reference DEFE 24/1983/1

THE RT. HON. VIRGINIA BOTTOMLEY, M.P.

Sec(AS) 20

0237

HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

Section 40

17th January 1996

The Earl Howe
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Defence
Ministry of Defence
Main Building Whitehall
London SW1A 2HB

D Lord Howe,

I have received the enclosed correspondence from my constituent Section 40 of Section 40 Godalming who believes he is being affected by a satelite.

I would be grateful if you could please arrange for this case to be looked into and let me have some comments which I may pass on to Section 40

Section 40

Section 40

Godalming,
Surrey
Section 40

12·1·96.

The Rt. Hon. V. Bottomley, M.P.,
House of Commons,
London. S W 1 a 0 a a

Dear Madam,

Ref. your letter of 9·1·96.

I am Section 40 not Section 40

The specific thing I want you to do is to contact the Ministry of Defence who must know of the existence of this satelite if not the full activities of the people in charge of it, and have them launch an investigation. (the satelite)

I fancy its' south east of Ockford Ridge.

I await your reply.

Yours sincerely

Section 40

Section 40
Godalming,
Surrey
Section 40

2.1.96

Miss V. Bottomley, M.P.,
House of Commons,
London.

Dear Madam,

I am very much seeking your help.

Please read all of this letter for some of it may seem like schizophrenia.

For some eleven years now, on and off, with the exception of four of these years I have been the "guinea pig" victim of some english people with an extremely clever geostationary satelite whose powers go through brick.

In the past I have had something like a wave

directed at me which was painful. I have been rendered unconscious several times when standing in my kitchen, and convulsed. I have writhed in bed for several hours, on and off, with pains in the limbs. I have strange damage to my legs. A few months ago all but one of my teeth were sloped in from the outside at the roots.

Made up voices talk to me from the satelite. The satelite even knows my thoughts (words and pictures). I think I first realised my thoughts were known when I awoke two mornings running in 1985 and heard a voice commenting on what I was dreaming about.

Present harassment includes activating my tear ducts when I am in bed, making a sharp, sore feeling against the inner edge of my eyes, putting pressure on my bladder so that I have to get out of bed much earlier to urinate, and in the lavatory mornings

weakening my legs after excreting.

I have great difficulty doing some jobs with my arms. These people have affected the nervous reaction in my arms.

I want you to do something to find out who these people are and put a stop to their activities.

I await your reply.

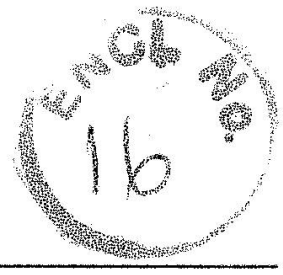
P.S. I am frequently salivating when not in bed ~~and~~ and sometimes given a weird look in the eyes. I also know that they manipulate people.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40 [redacted]

The National Archives' reference DEFE 24/1983/1

→ 64/4



Mon Jan 29, 1996 11:17 mailbox log Page 1

DATE	TO	SUBJECT	
29/01/96	USofS/Typist1	REVERSE MINISTERIAL	Ref: 485

Sent : 29/01/96 11:16
To : USofS/Typist1
Cc :

Ref : 485
Subject: REVERSE MINISTERIAL CORRESPONDENCE - DIRECT LETTER FROM DAVID ALTON MP
Text : Please pass to APS/USofS. The paper attachments have been walked down separately.

Priority: Urgent View Acknowledge [*] Attachments [2]
Reply Request [ ] Delivery Acknowledge [*] page 1

Bcc :

Auth by :

Defer Date : Defer Time :

No Redirection [ ]

page 2

The National Archives' reference DEFE 24/1983/1

UNCLASSIFIED

LOOSE MINUTE

D/Sec(AS)/64/4

29 Jan 96

APS/US of S

REVERSE MINISTERIAL - DAVID ALTON MP

1. We have received the attached letter from Mr David Alton MP, enclosing a copy of a letter from one of his constituents which was sent to my staff in December. The letter asks a number of questions about the specific role of Sec(AS)2 in relation to the subject of "UFOs", about a former member of staff of this division, as well as questions relating to a "UFO" incident which is alleged to have occurred at RAF Woodbridge/Rendlesham Forest in December 1980. Mr Alton is seeking a copy of our reply to his constituent, Section 40

2. A response to Section 40 letter was sent on 12 Jan 96 (copy attached). It was the second letter he has written to my staff in as many months. Our previous response set out clearly the limited role and responsibilities of the MOD in relation to the subject of "UFOs", and the proposed draft letter from Lord Howe to Mr Alton explains this general position once more.

3. Section 40 served in Sec(AS), in the EO post which deals, inter alia, with "UFO" reports, from Section 40 Section 40 before moving to GF(Pol) on promotion. He came to the view that the available evidence pointed towards an extraterrestrial origin of some sightings, and has now written a book concentrating in particular on the official reaction to "UFOs". This book was submitted for publications clearance, which has been granted subject to Section 40 making some changes to the text. Plans for the publication of the book, expected in June, have received some media coverage, which has tended to exaggerate the MOD's interest in "UFO" matters and the role of the post in Sec(AS).

4. Rendlesham Forest, December 1980. The incident which is alleged to have occurred in December 1980 in Rendlesham Forest, near RAF Woodbridge, is one which still fascinates "UFO" enthusiasts. The events at Rendlesham Forest have been highlighted in books, magazines articles and television programmes. This office continues to receive a steady stream of correspondence on this subject. The reply to Section 40 reflects the standard line we adopt when replying to such correspondence.

5. On 15 Jan 81 a report (attached) was sent to the MOD under cover of a letter from RAF Bentwaters. It is a statement from the then Deputy Base Commander at RAF Woodbridge, Lt Col

UNCLASSIFIED

The National Archives' reference DEFE 24/1983/1

UNCLASSIFIED

Charles Halt, officially recording what a few USAF personnel, and in part he himself, witnessed outside RAF Woodbridge over the nights of 27-29 Dec 80. The report was examined by the Department at the time and no other evidence of any matter of defence significance was found. This is of course the Department's only interest in such sightings.

6. Our official line regarding this alleged incident is that all available evidence was examined at the time and we are satisfied that nothing of defence concern occurred in the location on the nights in question. No additional information has come to light over the last 15 years which calls the original judgement into question.

[original signed]

Section 40

Sec(AS)2
MB8245 Section 40

Encs:

1. Draft reply for US of S' Signature.
2. Letter from David Alton, MP.
3. Sec(AS)2 reply to Section 40
4. Copy of "The Halt" Memo.

UNCLASSIFIED

The National Archives' reference DEFE 24/1983/1

D R A F T

D/USofS/ /96 January 1995

Thank you for your letter of 10 January to Section 40 of my Department's Secretariat(Air Staff)2, concerning a letter which was sent by your constituent, Section 40 of Section 40 Cardiff, Section 40

The letter concerned the subject of "unexplained" aerial sightings, or "UFOs" as they are often characterized, and asked various questions relating to our involvement in this matter. In accordance with normal practice your letter has been passed to me, as the responsible Minister, for reply.

First perhaps it would be useful if I were to clarify the role of this Department with respect to the subject of "UFO sightings". In the context of MOD and HM Forces' responsibility for ensuring the effective defences of the United Kingdom we remain vigilant for any potential threat the security of this country, from whatever source. As such, we look at reports of "unexplained" aerial sightings in order to establish whether what was seen may have defence significance. If no threat is discerned, and in connection with unexplained aerial sightings this has been the case in all instances to

David Alton Esq, MP

The National Archives' reference DEFE 24/1983/1

date, we make no further attempt to investigate and establish exactly what may have been seen.

My Department does not have any direct interest, expertise or role in respect of "UFO/flying saucer" matters, or those relating to the existence or otherwise of extraterrestrial lifeforms, about which we remain totally open-minded.
I should point out that to date we do not know of any evidence which might substantiate the existence of these alleged phenomena and no threat to the UK has been discerned which has been attributed to a "UFO".

A reply from Section 40 [redacted] of Secretariat(Air Staff)2, was sent to Section 40 [redacted] on 12 January 1996, and I enclose a copy of this reply as requested.

I hope this is helpful.

THE LORD HOWE

The National Archives' reference DEFE 24/1983/1

UNCLASSIFIED

RESTRICTED - STAFF

ENCL No 15

LOOSE MINUTE

D/Sec(AS)/64/4

29 Jan 96

APS/US of S

REVERSE MINISTERIAL - DAVID ALTON MP

1. We have received the attached letter from Mr David Alton MP, enclosing a copy of a letter from one of his constituents which was sent to my staff in December. The letter asks a number of questions about the specific role of Sec(AS)2 in relation to the subject of "UFOs", about a former member of staff of this division, as well as questions relating to a "UFO" incident which is alleged to have occurred at RAF Woodbridge/Rendlesham Forest in December 1980. Mr Alton is seeking a copy of our reply to his constituent, Section 40

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UNCLASSIFIED

RESTRICTED - STAFF

The National Archives' reference DEFE 24/1983/1

UNCLASSIFIED

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6. Our official line regarding this alleged incident is that all available evidence was examined at the time and we are satisfied that nothing of defence concern occurred in the location on the nights in question. No additional information has come to light over the last 15 years which calls the original judgement into question.

Section 40 [redacted]

Sec(AS)2
MB8245 Section 40 [redacted]

Encs:

1. Draft reply for US of S' Signature.
2. Letter from David Alton, MP.
3. Sec(AS)2 reply to Section 40 [redacted]
4. Copy of "The Halt" Memo.

UNCLASSIFIED

The National Archives' reference DEFE 24/1983/1

D R A F T

D/USofS/ /96 January 1995

Thank you for your letter of 10 January to Section 40 of my Department's Secretariat(Air Staff)2, concerning a letter which was sent by your constituent, Section 40 of Section 40 Cardiff, Section 40

The letter concerned the subject of "unexplained" aerial sightings, or "UFOs" as they are often characterized, and asked various questions relating to our involvement in this matter. In accordance with normal practice your letter has been passed to me, as the responsible Minister, for reply.

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David Alton Esq, MP

The National Archives' reference DEFE 24/1983/1

date, we make no further attempt to investigate and establish exactly what may have been seen.

My Department does not have any direct interest, expertise or role in respect of "UFO/flying saucer" matters, or those relating to the existence or otherwise of extraterrestrial lifeforms, about which we remain totally open-minded.
I should point out that to date we do not know of any evidence which might substantiate the existence of these alleged phenomena and no threat to the UK has been discerned which has been attributed to a "UFO".

A reply from Section 40 [redacted] of Secretariat(Air Staff)2, was sent to Section 40 [redacted] on 12 January 1996, and I enclose a copy of this reply as requested.

I hope this is helpful.

THE LORD HOWE

DAVID ALTON MP

Member of Parliament for Liverpool Mossley Hill

HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

Section 40

Secretariat (Air Staff) 2a
Room 8245
Ministry of Defence
Main Building
Whitehall
London SWS1A 2HB

10th January 1996

Dear Section 40

I know you that the attached correspondence was sent to you and I should be grateful if you would let me have a copy of your response to the 11 questions which have been raised.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

DAVID ALTON MP

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
SEC(AS)2
15 JAN 1996
FILE

HOUSE OF COMMONS TEL: Section 40 FAX: Section 40
CONSTITUENCY OFFICE TEL: Section 40 FAX

Section 40

Cardiff Section 40
Tel Section 40

Section 40
Secretariat (Air Staff) 2a
Room 8245
Ministry of Defence
Main Building
Whitehall
LONDON SW1A 2HB.

December 11th 1995.

Your ref. D/Sec (AS)/64/3.

Dear Section 40

Thank you for your letter of December 7th. I would be grateful for further clarification on the following points which relate to an article published in 'The News of the World' on August 20th of this year:

1. Is it true that the Secretariat (Air Staff) 2a office is, in fact, the official name for the MOD's 'UFO desk'?

2. Can you confirm that a Section 40 was head of this section for the period beginning 1992?

3. Is Section 40 still employed in this or some other capacity within the MOD?

4. Is it true that Section 40 has written a book based on his experiences as head of the section and that he has been negotiating with the MOD for permission to publish it? Has permission been granted?

On the specific issue of the Rendlesham incident:

5. Why did the MOD suppress publication - and deny the existence of - the 'Halt Memo' until its release in America in 1983?

7. Does the MOD still claim that the Halt memo is the sole documentation it possesses with regard to this affair?

8. What is the MOD's attitude towards the even more revealing statements of the US Airman Art Wallace (published in the 'News of the World' on 2/10/83), Sgt 'Steve Roberts' and others?

9. Given the spectacular nature of the evidence, how did the MOD arrive at the conclusion that there was *no evidence* that a breach of the UK's air defences occurred on this occasion?

10. Can you throw any light on the reasons for the Forestry Commission's subsequent actions in demolishing that area of the forest where the incident is alleged to have occurred?

The National Archives' reference DEFE 24/1983/1

11. Does not the MOD regard as significant the subsequent radiation readings at the site of the alleged landing?

I am sorry to intrude on your time by posing such a lot of questions but the issues raised are obviously of importance to me in pursuing my research into this incident. I hope that you will feel able to be as open as security needs allow in supplying me with some answers.

Thank you in anticipation for your kind assistance.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40 [redacted]

The National Archives' reference DEFE 24/1983/1

REGD No. 456

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
From: Section 40 Secretariat(Air Staff)2a, Room 8245,
Main Building, Whitehall, London SW1A 2HB

Telephone (Direct Dialling) 0171 218 2140
(Switchboard) 0171 218 9000
(Fax)

Section 40

Cardiff

Section 40

Your reference

Our reference
D/Sec(AS)/64/3

Date
12 January 1996

Dear Section 40

1. Thank you for your undated letter to my colleague, Section 40 which was received on 12 December. Section 40 explained the role that the MOD has with respect to the subject of "unexplained" aerial sightings in her letter to your of 7 December.

2. Turning to your specific queries, I took over from Section 40 in Secretariat(Air Staff)2a ~~last~~ Section 40 Sec(AS)2a is a secretariat branch which works closely with the RAF in respect of a wide variety of issues. We provide administrative support for RAF activities and operations. Sec(AS)2a is, amongst other things, the MOD focal point for the subject of "unexplained" aerial sightings but is not a "UFO" office.

3. I can confirm that Section 40 worked in a junior management grade in Sec(AS)2a from Section 40 but neither was he nor indeed am I head of any "UFO" section. Section 40 left Sec(AS)2a on promotion and is still an MOD employee. Your query at Point 4 relates to a private matter between Section 40 and the Department and it would be inappropriate for me to comment upon it.

4. With regard to your queries relating to the alleged incident near RAF Woodbridge/Rendlesham Forest in December 1980. As Section 40 has previously explained to you based on the available substantiated evidence at the time, a collective decision by those within the MOD/RAF sections with responsibility for air defence matters judged that there was no indication that a breach of the UK's air defences occurred on the nights concerned. Although a number of allegations have been made about these reported events nothing has subsequently emerged over the last 15 years since the alleged incident which has given us any reason to believe that the original assessment made by this Department was incorrect. As there was no evidence of a matter of defence concern official interest in this matter has long since ceased.

Yours sincerely

Section 40

The National Archives' reference DEFE 24/1983/1

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS 81ST COMBAT SUPPORT GROUP (USAFE)
APO NEW YORK 09755

REPLY TO ATTN OF: CD

13 Jan 81

SUBJECT: Unexplained Lights

TO: RAF/CC

1. Early in the morning of 27 Dec 80 (approximately 0300L), two USAF security police patrolmen saw unusual lights outside the back gate at RAF Woodbridge. Thinking an aircraft might have crashed or been forced down, they called for permission to go outside the gate to investigate. The on-duty flight chief responded and allowed three patrolmen to proceed on foot. The individuals reported seeing a strange glowing object in the forest. The object was described as being metalic in appearance and triangular in shape, approximately two to three meters across the base and approximately two meters high. It illuminated the entire forest with a white light. The object itself had a pulsing red light on top and a bank(s) of blue lights underneath. The object was hovering or on legs. As the patrolmen approached the object, it maneuvered through the trees and disappeared. At this time the animals on a nearby farm went into a frenzy. The object was briefly sighted approximately an hour later near the back gate.

2. The next day, three depressions 1 1/2" deep and 7" in diameter were found where the object had been sighted on the ground. The following night (29 Dec 80) the area was checked for radiation. Beta/gamma readings of 0.1 milliroentgens were recorded with peak readings in the three depressions and near the center of the triangle formed by the depressions. A nearby tree had moderate (.05-.07) readings on the side of the tree toward the depressions.

3. Later in the night a red sun-like light was seen through the trees. It moved about and pulsed. At one point it appeared to throw off glowing particles and then broke into five separate white objects and then disappeared. Immediately thereafter, three star-like objects were noticed in the sky, two objects to the north and one to the south, all of which were about 10^{o} off the horizon. The objects moved rapidly in sharp angular movements and displayed red, green and blue lights. The objects to the north appeared to be elliptical through an 8-12 power lens. They then turned to full circles. The objects to the north remained in the sky for an hour or more. The object to the south was visible for two or three hours and beamed down a stream of light from time to time. Numerous individuals, including the undersigned, witnessed the activities in paragraphs 2 and 3.

Section 40 [redacted]

CHARLES I. HALT, Lt Col, USAF
Deputy Base Commander

The National Archives' reference DEFE 24/1983/1

Sec (AS) 2/MP

ENCL No 14

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
MAIN BUILDING WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2HB

Telephone 0171-21.....(Direct Dialling)
0171-21 89000 (Switchboard)

PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE
FOR DEFENCE

64/4

D/US of S/FH 3517/95/A

29th November 1995

Dear Elaine.

Thank you for your letter of 9 November to Nicholas Soames enclosing one from your constituent, Section 40 Lancaster, about "unidentified flying objects". I am replying as this matter falls within my area of responsibility.

It may be helpful if I begin by clarifying my Department's role in respect of "unexplained" aerial sightings. In the context of MOD and HM Forces' responsibility for ensuring the effective defences of the United Kingdom we remain vigilant for any potential threat to the security of this country from whatever source. As such, we look at reports of "unexplained" aerial sightings in order to establish whether what was seen may have defence significance. If no threat is discerned, and in connection with "unexplained" aerial sightings this has been the case in all instances to date, we make no further attempt to investigate and establish exactly what may have been seen. My Department does not have any direct interest, expertise or role in relation to "UFO/flying saucer" matters or to those relating to the existence of extraterrestrial lifeforms. I should point out however that we are still not aware of any evidence which might substantiate the existence of these alleged phenomena.

Turning to Section 40 specific query there have been no questions raised in either House on the subject of "UFOs" since December 1994. However, I believe Section 40 might instead be referring to the lobby of Members of Parliament by "Operation Right to Know, Britain" on 11 October, which received some Press coverage at the time. "Operation Right To Know, Britain" is a group which campaigns for the immediate release of all MOD files held on the subject of "UFOs" into the public domain.

Such files, in common with other MOD files, are subject to the provisions of the Public Records Act of 1958 and 1967 which states that government files should generally stay closed for thirty years

Dame Elaine Kellett-Bowman DBE MP

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
SEC (AS) 2
-5 DEC 1995
FILE

Recycled Paper

after the date of the top enclosure. Unfortunately most of our old "UFO" reports files from before 1967 were destroyed as at the time they were not considered to be of sufficient public interest to merit retention. Since that date, in the context of an increase in public interest, files have been preserved. However, a few files from the Fifties have survived and can be viewed at the Public Record Office, Ruskin Avenue, Kew, Richmond, Surrey, TW9 4DU. The references of these files are as follows:

AIR 16/1199	AIR 2/16918
AIR 20/7390	AIR 2/17318
AIR 20/9320	AIR 20/9994
AIR 20/9321	AIR 2/17526
AIR 20/9322	PREM 11/855

I should like to assure Section 40 that the MOD and our Armed Forces remain properly vigilant for any potential physical threat to the security of the United Kingdom from whatever source and there is no question of our attempting to cover up any information on this subject.

I hope this clarifies the position.

Yours ever

Section 40

THE EARL HOWE

Recycled Paper

The National Archives' reference DEFE 24/1983/1

File

ENCL No 13

LOOSE MINUTE

D/Sec(AS)/64/4

22 Nov 95

Parliamentary Branch

LETTER FROM DAME ELAINE KELLETT-BOWMAN MP - US 3517/95

1. Dame Kellett-Bowman's constituent appears to be under the impression that a PQ was recently tabled in the House of Commons concerning the release of information on the subject of "unidentified flying objects". The last PQ on the subject of "UFOs" was tabled in the House of Lords in December 1994. However, we believe that the constituent may be confusing Press reports about a protest outside the Houses of Parliament by "Operation Right to Know, Britain", a Group which campaigns in favour of the release of all information that the MOD holds on the subject of "UFO/flying saucers". The lobby of MPs took place on 11 October and received modest press coverage.

2. I attach a self-explanatory draft reply which is consistent with the line that we adopt when replying to enquiries of this nature.

Section 40

Section 40

Sec(AS)2
MB8247 Section 40

The National Archives' reference DEFE 24/1983/1

DRAFT

US 3517/95 November 1995

Thank you for your letter of 9 November addressed to Nicholas Soames enclosing one from Section 40 [redacted] Section 40 [redacted] Lancaster, concerning "unidentified flying objects". I am replying as this matter falls within my area of responsibility.

First perhaps it would be useful if I were to clarify the role of this Department with respect to the subject of "unexplained" aerial sightings. In the context of MOD and HM Forces' responsibility for ensuring the effective defences of the United Kingdom we remain vigilant for any potential threat to the security of this country from whatever source. As such, we look at reports of "unexplained" aerial sightings in order to establish whether what was seen may have defence significance. If no threat is discerned, and in connection with "unexplained" aerial sightings this has been the case in all instances to date, we make no further attempt to investigate and establish exactly what may have been seen. The MOD does not have any direct interest, expertise or role in relation to "UFO/flying saucer" matters or to those relating to the existence of extraterrestrial lifeforms. I should point out however that it

Dame Elaine Kellett-Bowman MP

The National Archives' reference DEFE 24/1983/1

remains the case that we are not aware of any evidence which might substantiate the existence of this alleged phenomena.

Turning to Section 40 specific query there have been no questions raised in either House on the subject of "UFOs" since December 1994. However, I believe Section 40 might instead be referring to the lobby of Members of Parliament by "Operation Right to Know, Britain" on 11 October, which received some Press coverage at the time. "ORTK, Britain" is a group which campaigns for the immediate release of all MOD files held on the subject of "UFOs" into the public domain.

Such files, in common with other MOD files, are subject to the provisions of the Public Records Act of 1958 and 1967 which states that government files should generally stay closed for thirty years after the date of the top enclosure. Unfortunately most of our old "UFO" reports files from before 1967 were destroyed as at the time they were not considered to be of sufficient public interest to merit retention. Since that date, in the context of an increase in public interest, files have been preserved. However, a few files from the Fifties have survived and can be viewed at the Public Record Office, Ruskin Avenue, Kew, Richmond, Surrey, TW9 4DU. The references of these files are as follows:

AIR 16/1199 AIR 2/16918

AIR 20/7390 AIR 2/17318

AIR 20/9320 AIR 20/9994

AIR 20/9321 AIR 2/17526

AIR 20/9322 PREM 11/855

I should like to assure Section 40 that the MOD and our Armed Forces remain properly vigilant for any potential physical threat to the security of the United Kingdom from whatever source and there is no question of our attempting to cover up any information on this subject.

I hope this clarifies the position.

THE LORD HOWE

The National Archives' reference DEFE 24/1983/1

64/4

ENCL No 12

PARLIAMENTARY ENQUIRY

FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION

TO: SEC(AS)2a

PE REF NUMBER: US 3517 /95

MINISTER REPLYING: US of S

DRAFT REQUIRED BY: 24/11/95

DATE: 15 /11/95 FROM: Section 40 PE Unit TEL: Section 40

GUIDANCE NOTE

Ministers reply to some 8,000 such letters a year. They place great importance on the content style and speed of the 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. Do not be unduly defensive.

No background note is required unless essential to explain the line taken in the draft reply.

Layout Draft replies should be double spaced.

Always include the full PE reference number at the top left of the draft.

Put the MP's full title at the bottom left of the first page. Only add the address if the letter is from the Minister direct to a constituent.

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 ..., Toytown about ...."

If a Minister is replying on behalf of another Minister start:
"Thank you for your letter of ... addressed to Michael Portillo/ Nicholas Soames/James Arbuthnot/Frederick Howe on behalf etc"
Mr Soames and Earl Howe add "I have been asked to reply" and "I am replying as this matter falls within my area of responsibility." respectively.

Do not end "I hope this is helpful" when the reply is obviously disappointing. Alternatives are:
"I hope this explains the position"
"I am sorry I cannot be more helpful"
"I am sorry to send what I know will be a disappointing reply."

Deadlines If, exceptionally, you cannot meet the deadline let me know at once - an interim reply might be needed.

Departmental action Action 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.

ALL DRAFTS MUST BE CLEARED BY A NAMED OFFICIAL AT GRADE 7 LEVEL AND ANNOTATED TO CONFIRM THIS.

WHEREVER POSSIBLE DRAFTS SHOULD BE SENT ON CHOTS E-MAIL TO: Parliamentary Enquiries other wise send drafts by fax to Section 40

PLEASE USE ONLY ONE METHOD

The National Archives' reference DEFE 24/1983/1

From: Dame Elaine Kellett-Bowman MP

HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

09 November 1995

Hon. Nicholas Soames MP
Minister of State for the Armed Forces
Ministry of Defence
Main Building
Whitehall
LONDON
SW1A 2HB

Dear Nicholas

I enclose a letter from my constituent Section 40 Section 40 Lancaster, who considers that information on U.F.O. landings and sightings should be made public.

I was not present when the question she refers to was put, and have therefore advised her that I would forward her letter to you. I will be grateful for your reply to the points raised by Section 40

Yours ever,

Section 40

Section 40

Horsham Sx 3rd 1995

Damens &

Section 40

Dear Mrs. Bowman,

I understand that a request was made in the House of Commons recently, regarding information of U.F.O. sightings and hoverings.

It was requested that information of this subject held by H.M. Government should no longer be kept secret.

I would ask you if you were in the House when the subject was raised and if you know in what way the matter was received and what is the latest position.

It is pretty common knowledge that Lord Louis Mountbatten was in charge of this field of knowledge right up to the end of his life and that his department held a great deal of photographic evidence, surely, because of the time which has passed since, the British public can be told of these early leads and findings at least.

I thank you for your attention, and, I am,

Yours sincerely

Section 40

The National Archives' reference DEFE 24/1983/1

Sec(AS)2a

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
MAIN BUILDING WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2HB

Telephone 0171-21.....(Direct Dialling)
0171-21 89000 (Switchboard)

ENCL No 11
6/4/4

PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE
FOR DEFENCE

D/US of S/FH 3216/95/M

26th October 1995

Dear Mr. Mohacd,

Thank you for your letter of 9 October (reference: CSP/95/3806) to Malcolm Rifkind enclosing one from Section 40 [redacted] Section 40 [redacted] Cardiff, about unidentified flying objects. I am replying as this matter falls within my area of responsibility.

As you are already aware, in the context of MOD and HM Forces' responsibility for ensuring the effective defences of the United Kingdom, we remain vigilant for any potential threat to the security of this country, from whatever source. As such, we look at reports of unexplained aerial sightings in order to establish whether what was seen may have defence significance. If no threat is discerned, and in connection with unexplained aerial sightings this has been the case in all instances to date, we make no further attempt to investigate and establish exactly what may have been seen.

Section 40 [redacted] makes specific reference to the alleged incident at Rendlesham Forest/RAF Woodbridge in December 1980. When the MOD was informed of this occurrence 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 UK's air defences had occurred on the nights in question. As there was no evidence to indicate a matter 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 which has given us any reason to believe that the original assessment made by this Department was incorrect.

I hope that this explains our position.

Yours sincerely

Section 40 [redacted]

THE EARL HOWE

Alun Michael Esq JP MP

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Sec.(AS)2
30 OCT 1995
Recycled Paper

The National Archives' reference DEFE 24/1983/1

Sec(AS)2

644

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

ENCL No. 10

PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE
FOR DEFENCE

D/US of S/FH 3135/95/A

24th October 1995

Dear Tim

Thank you for your letter of 30 September enclosing one from your constituent, Section 40 [redacted] Section 40 Farthinghoe, about an alleged "UFO" sighting at Rendlesham Forest in December 1980.

First perhaps it would be useful if I were to clarify the role of this Department with respect to subject of "UFO sightings". In the context of MOD and HM Forces' responsibility for ensuring the effective defences of the United Kingdom we remain vigilant for any potential threat to the security of this country, from whatever source. As such, we look at reports of unexplained aerial sightings in order to establish whether what was seen may have defence significance. If no threat is discerned, and in connection with unexplained aerial sightings this has been the case in all instances to date, we make no further attempt to investigate and establish exactly what may have been seen.

You make specific reference to the alleged incident at Rendlesham Forest/RAF Woodbridge in December 1980. When the MOD was informed of this occurrence 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 UK's air defences had occurred on the nights in question. As there was no evidence to indicate a matter of defence concern no further investigation into the matter was necessary, and as such no official report was ever

Tim Boswell Esq MP

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Sec(AS)2
25 OCT 1995

Recycled Paper

The National Archives' reference DEFE 24/1983/1

written. Nothing has subsequently emerged which has given us any reason to believe that the original assessment made by the Department was incorrect.

I hope this explains the position.

Yours ever,

Section 40

THE EARL HOWE

Recycled Paper

A 64/4B

ENCL No 9

Wed Oct 25, 1995 11:19 mailbox log Page 1

DATE	TO	SUBJECT	
25/10/95	Parliamentary Enqu	US 3216/95	Ref: 328

Sent : 25/10/95 12:16
To : Parliamentary Enquiries
Cc :

Ref : 328
Subject: US 3216/95

Text : The attachment mentioned in the covering letter will be walked down to you within the next 15 minutes.

This PE has been cleared and signed by Section 40

Priority: Urgent View Acknowledge [*] Attachments [1]
Reply Request [ ] Delivery Acknowledge [*] page 1

Bcc :

Auth by :

Defer Date : Defer Time :

No Redirection [ ]

page 2

The National Archives' reference DEFE 24/1983/1

LOOSE MINUTE

D/Sec(AS)/64/4

Oct 95

Parliamentary Branch

US 3216/95; ALUN MICHAEL JP, MP - "UFOs"

1. The incident which is alleged to have occurred in December 1980 in Rendlesham Forest, near RAF Woodbridge, is one which still fascinates "UFO" enthusiasts. The events at Rendlesham Forest have been highlighted in books, magazines articles and television programmes. This office continues to receive a steady stream of correspondence on this subject. The attached draft reflects the standard line we adopt when replying to such correspondence.

2. On 15 Jan 81 a report (of copy of which will be walked down to you) was sent to the MOD under cover of a letter from RAF Bentwaters. It is a statement from the then Deputy Base Commander at RAF Woodbridge, Lt Col Charles Halt, officially recording what a few USAF personnel, and in part he himself, witnessed outside RAF Woodbridge over the nights of 27-29 Dec 80. The report was examined by the Department at the time and no other evidence of any matter of defence significance was found. This is of course the Department's only interest in such sightings.

3. Our official line regarding this alleged incident is that all available evidence was examined at the time and we are satisfied that nothing of defence concern occurred in the location on the nights in question. No additional information has come to light over the last 14 years which calls the original judgement into question.

4. Section 40 mentions a previous letter forwarded to the Department to which he did not receive a reply. Mr Michael did forward a letter from Section 40 to the Secretary of State in January and Lord Henley replied on 28 January (ref: D/USofS OH 0124/95). Since the MP quotes this reference at the top of his latest covering leter it would appear that he did indeed receive the previous response and that any failure to pass it, or a summary of its contents, to Section 40 rests with Mr Michael's office.

Section 40
Sec(AS)2
MB8247 Section 40

Enc.

The National Archives' reference DEFE 24/1983/1

DRAFT

US 3216/95 October 1995

Thank you for your letter of 9 October to the former Secretary of State (CSP/95/3806) enclosing one from Section 40 Section 40 Cardiff, concerning unidentified flying objects. I am replying as this matter falls within my area of responsibility.

As you are already aware, in the context of MOD and HM Forces' responsibility for ensuring the effective defences of the United Kingdom, we remain vigilant for any potential threat to the security of this country, from whatever source. As such, we look at reports of unexplained aerial sightings in order to establish whether what was seen may have defence significance. If no threat is discerned, and in connection with unexplained aerial sightings this has been the case in all instances to date, we make no further attempt to investigate and establish exactly what may have been seen.

Section 40 makes specific reference to the alleged incident at Rendlesham Forest/RAF Woodbridge in December 1980. When the MOD was informed of this occurrence all available substantiated evidence was looked at in the usual manner by those within the

Alun Michael JP, MP

The National Archives' reference DEFE 24/1983/1

MOD/RAF with responsibility for air defence matters. The judgement was that there was no indication that a breach of the UK's air defences had occurred on the nights in question. As there was no evidence to indicate a matter 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 which has given us any reason to believe that the original assessment made by this Department was incorrect.

I hope that this explains our position.

THE EARL HOWE

The National Archives' reference DEFE 24/1983/1

PARLIAMENTARY ENQUIRY

FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION

TO Sec(AS)2a

PE REF NO US 3216/95

Please let me have by 25/10/95 a draft reply for the ~~Secretary of State/Minister(AF)/Minister(DP)~~/the Under-Secretary of State to send to the attached letter. No background note is required unless you need to explain additional points that should be taken into acount when considering the draft.

2. If, exceptionally, you cannot meet this deadline, you should let me know immediately. An interim reply might be required.

3. Departmental action, including that on letters passed out for official action on the same case, should be held until the Minister has signed off a full reply.

4. ALL DRAFTS MUST BE CLEARED BY A GRADE 7 OR EQUIVALENT AND MUST BE ANNOTATED TO SHOW THAT THIS HAS BEEN DONE.

5. WHEREVER POSSIBLE, DRAFTS SHOULD BE PREPARED ON CHOTS AND SENT BY E-MAIL TO Parliamentary Enquiries. OTHERWISE SEND DRAFTS AND ANY ATTACHMENTS BY FAX TO MB EXTN Section 40

DATE: 16/10/95

Section 40

PE Clerk
Parliamentary Branch
MB6138 Section 40

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Sec.(AS)2
16 OCT 1995

The National Archives' reference DEFE 24/1983/1

GUIDANCE NOTE

Ministers reply to some 8,000 letters every year from MPs, MEPs and Peers on every aspect of policy and operations. It is the most effective day-to-day way they have of explaining and defending their policies and the actions of the Department and they therefore place great importance on the content, tone and speed of their replies.

The PE Unit in the Parliamentary Branch can discuss the handling of individual cases.

STYLE. Drafts should:

- be double spaced;

- be polite but informal in tone, to the point, in clear and uncomplicated language free from acronyms and jargon. Use short, familiar words; abbreviations only after using the words or name in full; and technical terms only sparingly and always with an explanation. Short sentences are best.

- emphasise the positive aspect of Government policy and not be unduly defensive.

- include reference to any recent meetings between the correspondent and the Minister.

- if appropriate, say what has gone wrong unless there is good reason not to (and the reasons should then be spelt out in the background note) BUT always say what has/is being done to put matters right.

- write numbers between one and ten in words and use digits for numbers over ten. Percentages should be written as "ten per cent". The Government is treated as a singular noun (the Government believes, not believe);

HEADING. You must always:

- write the MP's full title, shown on their letter head, at the bottom left of the first page of the draft. Do not add the address unless the letter is from the Minister direct to one of his constituents;

- include the PE reference number at the top of the draft.

OPENING, COURTESIES, MAIN ISSUE AND CLOSING

OPENING

The SECRETARY OF STATE prefers to say:

To an MP or Peer: Thank you for your letter of 25 September (MP's reference if given) on behalf of/enclosing one from Mrs Bloggs of 15 High Street, Toytown about the situation in Bosnia.

To a constituent: Thank you for your letter of 25 September about the situation in Bosnia/in which you mention your concerns about the situation in Bosnia.

After an interim reply: I said I would write to you again when we had made further enquiries about the issues raised by Mrs Bloggs of 15 High Street, Toytown about the situation in Bosnia.

The National Archives' reference DEFE 24/1983/1

MINISTER(AF) as for SofS and:

To an MP or Peer in response to a letter addressed to the Secretary of State (or another Minister): Thank you for your letter of 25 September to Michael Portillo/James Arbuthnot/Frederick Howe etc. I have been asked to reply.

MINISTER(DP) also replies in the same way but omits "I have been asked to reply."

USofS as for Minister(AF) with the last sentence 'I am replying in view of my responsibility for "X"' or 'as this matter falls within my area of responsibility'.

COURTESIES - Where the constituent or MP mentions any difficulties or misfortune you should sympathise with them.

You should indicate issues to which the Minister is able to reply and those that are for another Government Department.

You should include an apology for the delay if the reply will take more than a month to reach the MP even if an interim reply was sent.

MAIN ISSUE - Decide what is the main or underlying point at issue and address that point first. Peripherpoints may not need to be addressed in detail or at all. Relate any standard Departmental line to the MP's point or constituent's circumstances if appropriate.

CLOSING - Do not end "I hope this is helpful" when the reply is obviously disappointing. Alternatives are:

- I hope that this explains/ clarifies the position.

- I hope that Mrs Bloggs will be reassured by this explanation.

- I am sorry I cannot be more helpful.

- I am sorry to send what I know will be a disappointing reply for Mrs Bloggs but I hope it helps to explain the position.

- Please thank Mrs Bloggs for her interest/concern in this [important] matter.

TRANSFERS FROM OGDs Where a letter has been transferred from another Government Department to MOD for answer, there is no need to mention this fact in the draft reply since the MP concerned will have already been advised of the transfer by the OGD at the transfer stage.

The National Archives' reference DEFE 24/1983/1

In reply please quote

CSP/95/3806

Your ref.

D/US of S OH 0124/95

ALUN MICHAEL JP, MP
House of Commons,
London SW1A 0AA

3216

Rt Hon M Rifkind MP
Secretary of State for Defence
Ministry of Defence
Main Building,
Whitehall
London SW1A 2HB

ROOM 6134 MAIN BLDG
FAX 10 OCT 1995

Desk Phone Section 40 [redacted]
Messages
Constituency

(24-hour Answerphone)

Fax: London Section 40 [redacted]
Constituency

9 October 1995

Dear Malcolm,

I enclose a further letter which I have received from my constituent, Section 40 [redacted] Section 40 [redacted] regarding UFOs.

I shall be grateful for your comments.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40 [redacted]

Alun Michael

The National Archives' reference DEFE 24/1983/1

Section 40

Cardiff.
Section 40

16th September 1995

Dear Mr. Michael,

I wrote to you before concerning the subject of UFOs and in your reply you said that you had written to the Secretary of State for Defence on my behalf so I'm writing to you again as I have had no reply since.

The Ministry of Defence claim that they do not conduct any research into UFOs and the phenomena is of no defence significance but there is evidence which suggests that this is not the case. I have found out that events which took place around the twin American air bases of Bentwaters and Woodbridge in Suffolk in December 1980 did cause a threat of defence significance. I understand that contrary to what was publicly known, Bentwaters had the largest stockpile of nuclear weapons in the whole of NATO and during the three nights of UFO activity some of the nuclear weapons were adversely affected.

Also I understand that on the third night of events which took place a UFO was witnessed on the ground in a farmer's field nearby by many people, one of which I have spoken to myself, and the whole event was recorded on film. The soil in the field where the object was positioned was also affected as analysis on soil samples from the area have shown.

I find it pretty unbelievable that these events, which I have no doubt went on as the evidence for them is strong, are of no defence significance and aren't worth looking into. The public I believe have a right to know the truth about what went on as we live in a democracy and pay the bills for all of this.

I look forward to your reply.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

The National Archives' reference DEFE 24/1983/1

ENCL. NO. 7

LOOSE MINUTE

D/Sec(AS)/64/4

24 Oct 95

Parliamentary Branch

US 3216/95; ALUN MICHAEL JP, MP - "UFOs"

1. The incident which is alleged to have occurred in December 1980 in Rendlesham Forest, near RAF Woodbridge, is one which still fascinates "UFO" enthusiasts. The events at Rendlesham Forest have been highlighted in books, magazines articles and television programmes. This office continues to receive a steady stream of correspondence on this subject. The attached draft reflects the standard line we adopt when replying to such correspondence.

2. On 15 Jan 81 a report (of copy of which will be walked down to you) was sent to the MOD under cover of a letter from RAF Bentwaters. It is a statement from the then Deputy Base Commander at RAF Woodbridge, Lt Col Charles Halt, officially recording what a few USAF personnel, and in part he himself, witnessed outside RAF Woodbridge over the nights of 27-29 Dec 80. The report was examined by the Department at the time and no other evidence of any matter of defence significance was found. This is of course the Department's only interest in such sightings.

3. Our official line regarding this alleged incident is that all available evidence was examined at the time and we are satisfied that nothing of defence concern occurred in the location on the nights in question. No additional information has come to light over the last 14 years which calls the original judgement into question.

4. Section 40 mentions a previous letter forwarded to the Department to which he did not receive a reply. Mr Michael did forward a letter from Section 40 to the Secretary of State in January and Lord Henley replied on 28 January (ref: D/USofS OH 0124/95). Since the MP quotes this reference at the top of his latest covering leter it would appear that he did indeed receive the previous response and that any failure to pass it, or a summary of its contents, to Section 40 rests with Mr Michael's office.

Section 40

Sec(AS)2
MB8247 Section 40

Enc.

The National Archives' reference DEFE 24/1983/1

DRAFT

US 3216/95 October 1995

Thank you for your letter of 9 October to the former Secretary of State (CSP/95/3806) enclosing one from Section 40 Section 40 Cardiff, concerning unidentified flying objects. I am replying as this matter falls within my area of responsibility.

As you are already aware, in the context of MOD and HM Forces' responsibility for ensuring the effective defences of the United Kingdom, we remain vigilant for any potential threat to the security of this country, from whatever source. As such, we look at reports of unexplained aerial sightings in order to establish whether what was seen may have defence significance. If no threat is discerned, and in connection with unexplained aerial sightings this has been the case in all instances to date, we make no further attempt to investigate and establish exactly what may have been seen.

Section 40 makes specific reference to the alleged incident at Rendlesham Forest/RAF Woodbridge in December 1980. When the MOD was informed of this occurrence all available substantiated evidence was looked at in the usual manner by those within the

Alun Michael JP, MP

The National Archives' reference DEFE 24/1983/1

MOD/RAF with responsibility for air defence matters. The judgement was that there was no indication that a breach of the UK's air defences had occurred on the nights in question. As there was no evidence to indicate a matter 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 which has given us any reason to believe that the original assessment made by this Department was incorrect.

I hope that this explains our position.

THE EARL HOWE

The National Archives' reference DEFE 24/1983/1

EMCL MP 6

LOOSE MINUTE

D/Sec(AS)/64/4

20 Oct 95

Parliamentary Branch

US 3135/95; TIM BOSWELL, MP - "UFOs"

1. The incident which is alleged to have occurred in December 1980 in Rendlesham Forest, near RAF Woodbridge, is one which still fascinates "UFO" enthusiasts. The events at Rendlesham Forest have been highlighted in books, magazines articles and television programmes. This office continues to receive a steady stream of correspondence on this subject. The attached draft reflects the standard line we adopt when replying to such correspondence.

2. On 15 Jan 81 a report (of copy of which will be walked down to you) was sent to the MOD under cover of a letter from RAF Bentwaters. It is a statement from the then Deputy Base Commander at RAF Woodbridge, Lt Col Charles Halt, officially recording what a few USAF personnel, and in part he himself, witnessed outside RAF Woodbridge over the nights of 27-29 Dec 80. The report was examined by the Department at the time and no other evidence of any matter of defence significance was found. This is of course the Department's only interest in such sightings.

3. Our official line regarding this alleged incident is that all available evidence was examined at the time and we are satisfied that nothing of defence concern occurred in the location on the nights in question. No additional information has come to light over the last 14 years which calls the original judgement into question.

Section 40

Section 40

Sec(AS)2
MB8247 Section 40

The National Archives' reference DEFE 24/1983/1

DRAFT

D/US 3135/95 October 1995

Thank you for your letter of 30 September enclosing one from your constituent, Section 40 [redacted] Section 40 [redacted] Farthinghoe, South Northants, Section 40 [redacted] on the subject of an alleged "UFO" sighting at Rendlesham Forest in December 1980.

First perhaps it would be useful if I were to clarify the role of this Department with respect to subject of "UFO sightings". In the context of MOD and HM Forces' responsibility for ensuring the effective defences of the United Kingdom we remain vigilant for any potential threat to the security of this country, from whatever source. As such, we look at reports of unexplained aerial sightings in order to establish whether what was seen may have defence significance. If no threat is discerned, and in connection with unexplained aerial sightings this has been the case in all instances to date, we make no further attempt to investigate and establish exactly what may have been seen.

Tim Boswell Esq, MP

The National Archives' reference DEFE 24/1983/1

You make specific reference to the alleged incident at Rendlesham Forest/RAF Woodbridge in December 1980. When the MOD was informed of this occurrence 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 UK's air defences had occurred on the nights in question. As there was no evidence to indicate a matter of defence concern no further investigation into the matter was necessary, and as such no official report was ever written. Nothing has subsequently emerged which has given us any reason to believe that the original assessment made by this Department was incorrect.

I hope this explains the position.

THE EARL HOWE

The National Archives' reference DEFE 24/1983/1

64/4 ENCL NO 5

DATE	TO	SUBJECT	
20/10/95	Parliamentary Enqu	US 3135/95	Ref: 316

Sent : 20/10/95 16:06
To : Parliamentary Enquiries
Cc :

Ref : 316
Subject: US 3135/95

Text : The attached has been seen and signed off by Section 40 Sec(AS)2.
The attachment mentioned in the covering minute was walked down to you earlier this afternoon.

Priority: Urgent View Acknowledge [*] Attachments [1]
Reply Request [ ] Delivery Acknowledge [*] page 1

Bcc :

Auth by :

Defer Date : Defer Time :

No Redirection [ ]

The National Archives' reference DEFE 24/1983/1

LOOSE MINUTE

D/Sec(AS)/64/4

20 Oct 95

Parliamentary Branch

US 3135/95; TIM BOSWELL, MP - "UFOs"

1. The incident which is alleged to have occurred in December 1980 in Rendlesham Forest, near RAF Woodbridge, is one which still fascinates "UFO" enthusiasts. The events at Rendlesham Forest have been highlighted in books, magazines articles and television programmes. This office continues to receive a steady stream of correspondence on this subject. The attached draft reflects the standard line we adopt when replying to such correspondence.

2. On 15 Jan 81 a report (of copy of which will be walked down to you) was sent to the MOD under cover of a letter from RAF Bentwaters. It is a statement from the then Deputy Base Commander at RAF Woodbridge, Lt Col Charles Halt, officially recording what a few USAF personnel, and in part he himself, witnessed outside RAF Woodbridge over the nights of 27-29 Dec 80. The report was examined by the Department at the time and no other evidence of any matter of defence significance was found. This is of course the Department's only interest in such sightings.

3. Our official line regarding this alleged incident is that all available evidence was examined at the time and we are satisfied that nothing of defence concern occurred in the location on the nights in question. No additional information has come to light over the last 14 years which calls the original judgement into question.

[Original Signed]

Section 40
Sec(AS)2
MB8247 Section 40

The National Archives' reference DEFE 24/1983/1

DRAFT

D/US 3135/95 October 1995

Thank you for your letter of 30 September enclosing one from your constituent, Section 40 [redacted] Section 40 [redacted] Farthinghoe, South Northants, Section 40 [redacted] on the subject of an alleged "UFO" sighting at Rendlesham Forest in December 1980.

First perhaps it would be useful if I were to clarify the role of this Department with respect to subject of "UFO sightings". In the context of MOD and HM Forces' responsibility for ensuring the effective defences of the United Kingdom we remain vigilant for any potential threat to the security of this country, from whatever source. As such, we look at reports of unexplained aerial sightings in order to establish whether what was seen may have defence significance. If no threat is discerned, and in connection with unexplained aerial sightings this has been the case in all instances to date, we make no further attempt to investigate and establish exactly what may have been seen.

Tim Boswell Esq, MP

The National Archives' reference DEFE 24/1983/1

You make specific reference to the alleged incident at Rendlesham Forest/RAF Woodbridge in December 1980. When the MOD was informed of this occurrence 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 UK's air defences had occurred on the nights in question. As there was no evidence to indicate a matter of defence concern no further investigation into the matter was necessary, and as such no official report was ever written. Nothing has subsequently emerged which has given us any reason to believe that the original assessment made by this Department was incorrect.

I hope this explains the position.

THE EARL HOWE

The National Archives' reference DEFE 24/1983/1

64/4

ENCL. No 4

PARLIAMENTARY ENQUIRY

FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION

TO SEC(AS)2a

PE REF NO US3135/95

Please let me have by 20/10/95 a draft reply for ~~the Secretary of State/Minister(AF)/Minister(DP)/~~the Under-Secretary of State to send to the attached letter. No background note is required unless you need to explain additional points that should be taken into acount when considering the draft.

2. If, exceptionally, you cannot meet this deadline, you should let me know immediately. An interim reply might be required.

3. Departmental action, including that on letters passed out for official action on the same case, should be held until the Minister has signed off a full reply.

4. ALL DRAFTS MUST BE CLEARED BY A GRADE 7 OR EQUIVALENT AND MUST BE ANNOTATED TO SHOW THAT THIS HAS BEEN DONE.

5. WHEREVER POSSIBLE, DRAFTS SHOULD BE PREPARED ON CHOTS AND SENT BY E-MAIL TO Parliamentary Enquiries. OTHERWISE SEND DRAFTS AND ANY ATTACHMENTS BY FAX TO MB EXTN Section 40

DATE: 11 Oct '95

Section 40

PE Clerk
Parliamentary Branch
MB6138 Section 40

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Sec.(AS)2
11 OCT 1995

The National Archives' reference DEFE 24/1983/1

GUIDANCE NOTE

Ministers reply to some 8,000 letters every year from MPs, MEPs and Peers on every aspect of policy and operations. It is the most effective day-to-day way they have of explaining and defending their policies and the actions of the Department and they therefore place great importance on the content, tone and speed of their replies.

The PE Unit in the Parliamentary Branch can discuss the handling of individual cases.

STYLE. Drafts should:

- be double spaced;

- be polite but informal in tone, to the point, in clear and uncomplicated language free from acronyms and jargon. Use short, familiar words; abbreviations only after using the words or name in full; and technical terms only sparingly and always with an explanation. Short sentences are best.

- emphasise the positive aspect of Government policy and not be unduly defensive.

- include reference to any recent meetings between the correspondent and the Minister.

- if appropriate, say what has gone wrong unless there is good reason not to (and the reasons should then be spelt out in the background note) BUT always say what has/is being done to put matters right.

- write numbers between one and ten in words and use digits for numbers over ten. Percentages should be written as "ten per cent". The Government is treated as a singular noun (the Government believes, not believe);

HEADING. You must always:

- write the MP's full title, shown on their letter head, at the bottom left of the first page of the draft. Do not add the address unless the letter is from the Minister direct to one of his constituents;

- include the PE reference number at the top of the draft.

OPENING, COURTESIES, MAIN ISSUE AND CLOSING

OPENING

The **SECRETARY OF STATE** prefers to say:

To an MP or Peer: Thank you for your letter of 25 September (MP's reference if given) on behalf of/enclosing one from Mrs Bloggs of 15 High Street, Toytown about the situation in Bosnia.

To a constituent: Thank you for your letter of 25 September about the situation in Bosnia/in which you mention your concerns about the situation in Bosnia.

After an interim reply: I said I would write to you again when we had made further enquiries about the issues raised by Mrs Bloggs of 15 High Street, Toytown about the situation in Bosnia.

The National Archives' reference DEFE 24/1983/1

MINISTER(AF) as for SofS and:

To an MP or Peer in response to a letter addressed to the Secretary of State (or another Minister): Thank you for your letter of 25 September to Michael Portillo/James Arbuthnot/Frederick Howe etc. I have been asked to reply.

MINISTER(DP) also replies in the same way but omits "I have been asked to reply."

USofS as for Minister(AF) with the last sentence 'I am replying in view of my responsibility for "X"' or 'as this matter falls within my area of responsibility'.

COURTESIES - Where the constituent or MP mentions any difficulties or misfortune you should sympathise with them.

You should indicate issues to which the Minister is able to reply and those that are for another Government Department.

You should include an apology for the delay if the reply will take more than a month to reach the MP even if an interim reply was sent.

MAIN ISSUE - Decide what is the main or underlying point at issue and address that point first. Peripherpoints may not need to be addressed in detail or at all. Relate any standard Departmental line to the MP's point or constituent's circumstances if appropriate.

CLOSING - Do not end "I hope this is helpful" when the reply is obviously disappointing. Alternatives are:

- I hope that this explains/ clarifies the position.

- I hope that Mrs Bloggs will be reassured by this explanation.

- I am sorry I cannot be more helpful.

- I am sorry to send what I know will be a disappointing reply for Mrs Bloggs but I hope it helps to explain the position.

- Please thank Mrs Bloggs for her interest/concern in this [important] matter.

TRANSFERS FROM OGDs Where a letter has been transferred from another Government Department to MOD for answer, there is no need to mention this fact in the draft reply since the MP concerned will have already been advised of the transfer by the OGD at the transfer stage.

The National Archives' reference DEFE 24/1983/1

Tim Boswell, M.P.

10 OCT 1995

HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

30th September 1995

Dear Frank,

I am enclosing a letter I have received from my constituent [redacted] Farthinghoe concerning the reported sighting of a UFO in Rendlesham Forest in Suffolk. I would be grateful if you could let me know whether you are able to forward a copy of the official report of the incident to my constituent. I look forward to your advice on this issue.

[redacted]

The Earl Howe,
Ministry of Defence,
Main Building,
Whitehall,
LONDON. SW1A 2HB

The National Archives' reference DEFE 24/1983/1

Mr M Hesletine
Thenford
South Northants

Section 40
Farthinghoe
South Northants
Section 40

Dear Sir

On the 27th December 1980, there was a reported sighting and possible grounding of a UFO in Rendlesham Forest in Suffolk. I understand that at that time you held the position of Secretary of State for Defence, which I assume would mean that you would have had access to this supposed incident.

Would it be possible for you to forward a copy of the official report of the incident to me, or if not to point me in the right direction as regards obtaining a copy ? I have also contacted BUFORA in the hope of obtaining any information.

I understand that you will have more pressing matters in hand at the moment but your assistance would be gratefully appreciated in this matter. I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely

Section 40

The National Archives' reference DEFE 24/1983/1

SEC(AS)29

[redacted]

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
MAIN BUILDING WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2HB

Telephone 0171-21.....(Direct Dialling)
0171-21 89000 (Switchboard)

PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE
FOR DEFENCE

64/4

ENCL No 3

D/US of S/FH 2933/95/M

6th October 1995

Dear Mr. Sutcliffe,

Thank you for your letter of 13 September to [redacted] regarding an enquiry you have received from [redacted] Bradford, concerning unidentified flying objects.

As you are already aware, in the context of MOD and HM Forces' responsibility for ensuring the effective defences of the United Kingdom we remain vigilant for any potential threat to the security of this country, from whatever source. As such, we look at reports of unexplained aerial sightings in order to establish whether what was seen may have defence significance. If no threat is discerned, and in connection with unexplained aerial sightings this has been the case in all instances to date, we make no further attempt to investigate and establish exactly what may have been seen.

Your letter poses five questions which I shall answer in sequence:

(1) No such investigation into the "UFO" phenomenon has been undertaken by the Ministry of Defence (the Air Ministry having been disbanded in 1964). As a consequence there is no report to release.

(2) We are not aware of any evidence which supports this claim.

(3) Equally, we are unaware of any evidence which supports the claim that a "UFO" landed in the Wigan area as stated, or the claim that MOD personnel were present at such an incident.

(4) No.

Gerry Sutcliffe Esq MP

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
SEC(AS)1
10 OCT ..95
FILE

Recycled Paper

The National Archives' reference DEFE 24/1983/1

(5) The MOD does not investigate these phenomena. Criminal aspects of human abductions and animal mutilations would be matters for the civil police. I understand that the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food sometimes receives queries about crop circle formations and animal mutilations. They do not investigate crop circle formations, and would only conduct an investigation into animal mutilation from an animal welfare perspective.

I hope this is helpful.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

[redacted]

THE EARL HOWE

Recycled Paper

The National Archives' reference DEFE 24/1983/1



Fri Sep 29, 1995 17:08 mailbox log Page 1

DATE	TO	SUBJECT	
29/09/95	USofS/Typist1	PARLIAMENTARY ENQUIRY	Ref: 285

Sent : 29/09/95 17:08
To : USofS/Typist1
Cc :

Ref : 285
Subject: PARLIAMENTARY ENQUIRY D/USOFS/OH 2933/95

Text : The attached has been seen and signed by Section 40 Sec(AS)2.

Priority: Urgent View Acknowledge [*] Attachments [1]
Reply Request [ ] Delivery Acknowledge [*] page 1

Bcc :

Auth by :

Defer Date : Defer Time :

No Redirection [ ]

page 2

The National Archives' reference DEFE 24/1983/1

LOOSE MINUTE

D/Sec(AS)/64/4

29 Sep 95

APS/US of S

D/USofS/0H/2933/95; GERRY SUTCLIFFE, MP - "UFOs"

1. Mr Sutcliffe's constituent, Section 40 is a regular correspondent on the subject of "unidentified flying objects" and has written directly to the Department on seven occasions over the last nine months. In addition this is the second Parliamentary Enquiry we have received from Mr Sutcliffe in this connection on behalf of Section 40 The replies Section 40 Section 40 has received to each of his letters clearly set out the MOD's specific and limited role with respect to "UFO" sightings. We look at reports of unexplained aerial sightings in order to establish whether what was seen may have defence significance. If no threat is discerned, and in connection with unexplained aerial sightings this has been the case in all instances to date, we make no further attempt to investigate and establish exactly what may have been seen. Section 40 refuses to accept this explanation.

2. Notwithstanding the above, there are new points raised in this latest letter to which we should offer a response.

Question 1. In view of the fact that Mr Sutcliffe mentions the Air Ministry, which ceased to exist in 1964, it is possible that an error in the date has been made. My staff can find no evidence from the 1964/65 file to support the claim that the Air Ministry conducted any such investigation into the "UFO phenomena". However, as it is not for us to speculate on the question which Mr Sutcliffe intended to ask, we have answered the question as posed, and the reply is self-explanatory.

Question 2. Although we have heard a rumour circulating around the "UFO fraternity" to this effect, we are not aware of any evidence which supports this claim.

Question 3. Again we have heard this rumour; similarly we are not aware of any evidence which supports the claim that a "UFO" landed as stated, or that MOD officials were present. We have been able to confirm that on the evening/location in question no MOD personnel were engaged in other official business which could have accounted for a MOD presence, such as retrieving parts which had fallen from a military aircraft for example.

The National Archives' reference DEFE 24/1983/1

Question 4. The MOD does not pass on information relating to alleged "UFO" incidents to any other government department or agency.

Question 5. The MOD does not have a role with respect to these phenomena. Evidence of criminal action in respect of human abductions and animal mutilations would be investigated by the civil police. Like the MOD, the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food sometimes receives correspondence from members of the public regarding crop circle formations and animal mutilations. The MAFF does not conduct investigations into crop circle formations. It would only investigate animal mutilations from a general animal welfare perspective, and not to determine whether the perpetrator of the mutilation were extraterrestrial in origin, as I believe Section 40 is suggesting.

3. I attach a draft response. Section 40

Sec(AS)2
MB8247 Section 40

The National Archives' reference DEFE 24/1983/1

DRAFT

D/US of S/OH/2933/95 September 1995

Thank you for your letter to Lord Henley of 13 September regarding an enquiry you received from Section 40 of Section 40 Bradford, concerning unidentified flying objects. I replaced Lord Henley in July.

As you are already aware in the context of MOD and HM Forces' responsibility for ensuring the effective defences of the United Kingdom we remain vigilant for any potential threat to the security of this country, from whatever source. As such, we look at reports of unexplained aerial sightings in order to establish whether what was seen may have defence significance. If no threat is discerned, and in connection with unexplained aerial sightings this has been the case in all instances to date, we make no further attempt to investigate and establish exactly what may have been seen.

Your letter poses five questions which I shall answer in sequence:

(1) No such investigation into the "UFO" phenomenon has

Gerry Sutcliffe Esq, MP

The National Archives' reference DEFE 24/1983/1

been undertaken by the Ministry of Defence (the Air Ministry having been disbanded in 1964). As a consequence there is no report to release.

(2) We are not aware of any evidence which supports this claim.

(3) Equally, we are unaware of any evidence which supports the claim that a "UFO" landed in the Wigan area as stated, or the claim that MOD personnel were present at such an incident.

(4) No.

(5) The MOD does not investigate these phenomena. Criminal aspects of human abductions and animal mutilations would be matters for the civil police. I understand that the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food sometimes receives queries about crop circle formations and animal mutilations. They do not investigate crop circle formations, and would only conduct an investigation into animal mutilation from an animal welfare perspective.

I hope this is helpful.

THE EARL HOWE

The National Archives' reference DEFE 24/1983/1

Section 40

64/4 TWCL No 1

PARLIAMENTARY UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR DEFENCE

PARLIAMENTARY ENQUIRY

Reference D/US of S/OH 2933/95 **(to be quoted in all correspondence)**

For action by: See (A8) 2a

I would be grateful if you would prepare a double spaced draft for the Minister to send in reply to the enclosed letter, together with relevant advice. This should be cleared by a grade 7 equivalent or higher. No action should be taken which may prejudice Ministerial consideration of this case.

The deadline for your reply is: 29/9/95

If you cannot meet this deadline, you should forward an interim reply immediately and inform this office of the date when a full reply is expected.

The draft should be sent by CHOTS to US of S TYPIST1. Divisions in Main Building may send a hard copy if they do not have CHOTS; others should send the draft by fax to Main Building extension Section 40. Please use only **one** of these methods.

Your draft should be as short as possible, but it should answer all the points made by the MP and the constituent, in clear and concise language. Never use jargon, abbreviations or any form of words which the recipient may not understand. Drafts should include the reference in the top left hand corner, the constituent's name and address in the first paragraph, the MP's name at the foot of the first page and the Minister's signature block at the end of the text.

If you have any questions about how to deal with this folder please telephone Main Building extension Section 40 **or** Section 40

for the Private Secretary

52

The National Archives' reference DEFE 24/1983/1

RE: Sec (AS) 2a

15 SEP 1995

Gerry Sutcliffe MP
Section 40 Bradford, BD1 5RW
Telephone Section 40

Lord Henley
Ministry of Defence
Main Building
Whitehall
LONDON SW1A 2HB

Tel No : Section 40

My Ref Section 40

13 September 1995

* Sochu to APS Section 40

Only investigate things like Board of Budmin Animal Welfare issues. Not ET issues.

Dear Lord Henley

Section 40

I have been contacted once again by my constituent Section 40 Bradford, regarding UFO sightings.

He has requested that I pass on a number of questions which he has raised in response to your last reply.

1) With reference to a five year investigation into the UFO phenomenon which the Air Ministry concluded in 1995 would it be possible to supply Section 40 with a copy of the final report?

Could be exist 1964.

2) Do the MOD have any information regarding an alleged incident where a security camera at a regional electricity company shot film of a UFO drawing electricity from overhead power cables?

3) Could you supply further information regarding an alleged incident on 23 January 1995 in Ince Park, Wigan when a UFO was apparently seen landing. Were MOD officials present on the night in question?

4) Does the MOD pass on its information relating to alleged UFO incidents to any other government department or agency? *

5) Does the MOD investigate human abduction phenomenon, animal mutilation phenomenon or the crop circle phenomenon and if not which government department does?

MAFF pass such letters to Agriculture Development Advisory Service. They do not investigate crop circles.

ADAS is conducting research into crop circle but for a private client. They are like our DERA.

Contact: Section 40

I look forward to your reply.

Yours sincerely

Section 40

Gerry Sutcliffe, MP for Bradford South