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# Registered File Disposal Form

FILE TITLE: (Main Heading - Secondary Heading - Tertiary Heading etc)  
*Information Management - Defence Information  
 Management - Freedom of Information - Requests  
 Re Information*

Reference:  
 (Prefix and Number):  
*D/DAS/101218/13*  
 Part: *T*

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

Date of last enclosure: *21/11/06*

Date closed: *21/11/06*

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

Destroy after \_\_\_\_\_ years

Forward to INFO(EXP)-R after \_\_\_\_\_ years

No recommendation

**FOR DEFENCE INFO(EXP)-R USE ONLY**

<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Date of 1st review	Date of 2nd review	Forward Destruction Date
Reviewer's	Reviewer's	
	Signature: _____	

**PART 2. BRANCH REVIEW**  
 (To be fully completed at time of file closure)  
 (Delete as appropriate)

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

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

LEGAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	DEFENCE POLICY + OPERATIONS <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
CONTRACTUAL <input type="checkbox"/>	ORIGINAL COMMITTEE PAPERS <input type="checkbox"/>
FINANCE/AUDIT <input type="checkbox"/>	MAJOR EQUIPMENT PROJECT <input type="checkbox"/> [ _____ ]
DIRECTORATE POLICY <input type="checkbox"/>	OTHER (Specify) <input type="checkbox"/>

*For Permanent Preservation*

(ii) Key enclosures which support the recommendation are:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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

Destroyed

Considered by DR for permanent preservation



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

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

Signature: **Section 40** \_\_\_\_\_

Name: **Section 40** \_\_\_\_\_  
(Block Capitals)

Grade/Rank: C2 Date: 20-8-10

Branch Title and Full Address:

RAF Busby  
HQ Air Comd  
RAF High Wycombe  
Bucks  
HP14 4UE

Tel No:

**PART 4 DESTRUCTION CERTIFICATE**

It is certified that the specified file has been destroyed.

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

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Block Capitals)

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

Witnessed by (TOP SECRET\* and SECRET only)

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

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Block Capitals)

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

\*(FOR DR USE ONLY)

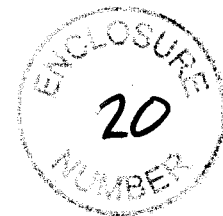
Enc	Subject	Last Name	1 <sup>st</sup> name	AIT Ref
1	Visiting Forces	Section 40		27-09-2006-114026-006
2	UFO			29-09-2006-123350-005
3	UFO			29-09-2006-095441-001
4	Equipment			16-10-2006-114844-001
5	UFO			18-10-2006-132041-004
6	UFO			30-10-2006-064852-008
7	UFO			30-10-2006-182049-016
8	UFO			13-10-2006-182918-003
9	UFO			19-10-2006-063638-003
9	UFO			19-10-2006-063926-004
9	UFO			19-10-2006-064208-005
9	UFO			19-10-2006-064457-006
10	Aircraft Accident			26-10-2006-063339-003
11	Visiting Forces			02-10-2006-142343-002
11	Visiting Forces			02-10-2006-150700-004
11	Visiting Forces			02-10-2006-151938-005
12	UFO			19-10-2006-142124-003
13	UFO			19-10-2006-143448-005
14	UFO			20-10-2006-065035-001
15	UFO			26-10-2006-063604-004
16	UFO			03-10-2006-125252-002
17	UFO			03-11-2006-165623-003
18	Aircraft Accident			03-11-2006-064207-001
19	Aircraft Accident			03-11-2006-104031-005
20	UFO			06-11-2006-164110-006



From: Section 40

Directorate of Air Staff - Freedom of Information  
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

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



Telephone

(Direct dial)  
(Switchboard)  
(Fax)

Section 40  
020 7218 9000

e-mail

das-ufo-office@mod.uk

Section 40

Section 40



Sheffield  
South Yorkshire

Section 40

Our Reference

D/DAS/06-11-2006-164110-006

Date

21 November 2006

Dear Section 40

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request of 24 October asking information relating to the advertisement of the vacant post in DAS responsible for dealing with FOI and UFO inquiries.

I attach a copy of the advertisement for the post that has appeared internally within the MoD (it has not been advertised externally) which provides a description of the post. The contact telephone number at the foot of the advert has been redacted as it does not form a substantive part of the information you requested.

I also attach the core competences covering the general skills required of staff at various grades, including the D grade, which is the grade the post is advertised at. The Band D grade is the most junior of the MoD managerial grades.

This post has been advertised on the MoD internal intranet which has effectively done away with the need for paperwork. There is no internal correspondence as such surrounding the advertising of this post.

If this information does not address your requirements or you wish to complain about any aspect of the handling of this request, then you should contact the undersigned in the first instance. Should you remain dissatisfied, then you may apply for an internal review by contacting the Director of Information Exploitation, 6th Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB.

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

You should note that at the moment, the post remains vacant. I am covering the post whilst a replacement is found.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

**Job Title:** Secretariat & Private Office  
**Salary Administration Plan:** Broad Banding D  
**Location:** Main Building  
**Reference:** 324863  
**Salary Grade:** D

**Eligibility:**

Staff who hold the substantive grade of this post, or hold promotion passport/ticket to Band D may apply for this post. IMPORTANT NOTE: If you apply at a stage when you are ineligible your application will not be considered. Should the requisition proceed to a stage in which you become eligible and still wish to be considered you should submit an offline application to the PSC.

**Post Security:**

This post is Non Reserved Security Clearance: Security Check

**Job Description:**

The Directorate of Air Staff is responsible for providing support to the Chief and Assistant Chief of the Air Staff and Ministers in all central policy, political and parliamentary aspects of non-operational RAF activity both at home and overseas. As the Freedom of Information Focal Point you will be responsible for monitoring all FOI requests received by the Air Staff in London. You will provide guidance to staff on the release of information and the use of exemptions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and liaise as necessary with other FOI Focal Points and DG Information staff. You will also be the MOD Focal Point for correspondence with the general public and MPs about unidentified flying objects (UFOs), including researching and writing responses to FOI requests. You will have responsibility for one E1. It would be desirable for the successful applicant to have an FOI Practitioner qualification and an ECDL qualification.

**Competences:**

Working together, Communicating and Influencing, Analysing and Using Evidence, Improvement and Change, Leadership and Developing People.

**Transfer Terms and Allowances:**

Tour Length: Minimum 2 years This post is Full-Time but suitable for part-time/job-share Transfer Terms: Permanent

**Interview Details:**

Interviews for this job will take place Wednesday 14th December 06 in Main Building, London. For further information regarding this post please contact **Section 40** DAS ADSec

**Equality and Diversity:**

The MoD is an Equal Opportunities employer and seeks to reflect the diverse community it serves. Applications are welcome from anyone who meets the stated requirements.  
Please apply before: 04/12/2006



## 1. Working Together

**Outcome – People work together in a productive, open and supportive way.**

### Effective indicators

Band E – Skill Zones 1 to 3	Band D – Skill Zone 4	Band C	Band B
You promote diversity and fair treatment for everyone. You are open, honest and polite in dealing with other people. You answer questions readily and listen to the views and opinions of others.			
You treat information, knowledge and experience as vital assets, readily sharing and learning from others and encouraging others to do the same.			
You are aware of, and carry out, your responsibilities in line with legislation and Departmental policies (for example, Anti-discrimination, Security, Freedom of Information, Health and Safety).			
You understand your own role and that of others in the team, and work together to achieve team goals.	You take account of the contributions, background and experience of others and are aware of how the team works together.	You build an effective team, drawing on the diversity of others.	You build a high performing team by exploiting the diversity within it.
You willingly accept responsibility for your own work while keeping other people informed of progress and possible problems.	You willingly accept responsibility for delivering your own results and those of the team, keeping others informed of progress and possible problems.		
You appreciate shared team goals and work with others to achieve Departmental aims.		You understand and can explain shared team goals and work with others to achieve Departmental aims.	You understand organisational priorities and set and communicate shared team/individual objectives aligned with them.
You encourage an environment where team members take responsibility for team results as well as their own results.		You create a supportive environment in which team members take responsibility for team results as well as their own individual results.	
Ineffective indicators			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>You are not aware of the needs and values of others.</li> <li>You work alone, rarely involving others, which threatens the overall group or team aims.</li> <li>You do not co-operate with other people.</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>You leave staff and colleagues to struggle.</li> <li>You blame others for your mistakes.</li> <li>You do no more than the minimum amount of work.</li> <li>You constantly check up on your team as you do not trust them to deliver.</li> </ul>	

## 1. Working Together

## 2. Leadership and Developing People

**Outcomes – People are motivated to achieve success and to inspire others to do so.  
People develop the necessary skills and experience to perform well and continuously improve.**

### Effective indicators

Band E – Skill Zones 1 to 3	Band D – Skill Zone 4	Band C	Band B
You are committed to continuously developing your skills and those of other people. You recognise your own limitations and learn from experience and setbacks.			
You understand your role and how what you do links to the business plan.	You make sure that staff understand what they need to do and how this links to the business plan through setting SMART objectives.		You set and communicate a compelling vision for the team, linking individual contributions to the business plan through setting SMART objectives.
You set an example by working efficiently with as little supervision as possible.	You are aware of your own leadership style.	You are aware of and can adapt your leadership style to the situation.	
You take opportunities to develop yourself by learning from others and taking on new challenges.	You recognise other people's strengths and weaknesses, delegating effectively to provide suitable development opportunities. You coach/mentor other people, encouraging them to develop broader skills.		You recognise people's potential delegating effectively to provide development opportunities. You coach/mentor other people encouraging them to develop broader skills.
You acknowledge good performance by others. You act promptly and positively to deal with inappropriate behaviour.	You recognise and reward good individual and team performance, and celebrate success. You act promptly and positively to deal with poor performance and inappropriate behaviour.		
You ask for feedback and respond constructively to criticism.	You monitor people's progress and provide encouragement and constructive feedback without apportioning blame. You ask for and act on feedback, and respond constructively to criticism.		
You put forward ideas and contribute to business decisions.	You encourage ideas and involve others in making decisions. You delegate responsibility to the right level so that others can deliver, and you know when to intervene.		You create an environment which gives people the freedom to contribute and deliver. You delegate responsibility to the right level, balancing challenge with support and knowing when to intervene.
	You know how and when to engage with human resources experts in tackling people issues.		
Ineffective indicators			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• You are aloof and arrogant. You intimidate colleagues and staff.</li> <li>• You constantly change rules or conditions.</li> <li>• You do not accept people's differences.</li> <li>• You keep work that should be done by your team.</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• You are not aware of what the team is doing.</li> <li>• You do not consider your development needs or those of other people.</li> <li>• You take sole credit for achieving results.</li> <li>• You do not meet your obligations with the performance management process.</li> </ul>	

## 2. Leadership and Developing People

### 3. Communicating and Influencing

**Outcome – People share the right information to support agreed courses of action.**

**Effective indicators**

Band E – Skill Zones 1 to 3	Band D – Skill Zone 4	Band C	Band B
You provide balanced, impartial advice, presenting information and dealing with people tactfully. You use the most appropriate method, language and style of communication for the situation and people involved.			
You check your own and other people's information for accuracy and consistency.			
You listen, clarifying to check mutual understanding. You take account of other people's views when deciding what action to take.			
You present a case confidently and persuasively.		You present a case confidently and persuasively, using the best methods for presenting to the relevant audience (including public, parliamentary and media relations).	
You speak and write clearly and accurately, and check that people understand your message.	You speak and write clearly in a well-structured and concise way, checking that your message is understood.	You speak and write in a well-structured, clear and concise way. You draft accurately and concisely to persuade and inform, checking that your message is understood.	You speak and write in a well-structured, clear and concise way. You draft quickly, accurately and concisely under pressure to persuade and inform, checking that your message is understood.
You develop good working relationships, and recognise breakdowns in communication.	You develop good working relationships, and take positive steps to deal with conflict or breakdowns in communication.	You promote good working relationships, and respond quickly to deal with conflict or breakdowns in communication.	You promote good working relationships dealing, where possible, with communication breakdowns before they arise, defusing tense situations.
You negotiate with colleagues to agree day-to-day activities.	You carry out day-to-day negotiations to agree what action to take.	You negotiate effectively to achieve agreed courses of action with stakeholders, maintaining their buy-in.	
You stick to the point in discussions or meetings.	You intervene in meetings and discussions when relevant and at the right time.	You lead meetings or discussions effectively to achieve clear results and make telling contributions to move business forward.	
			You prepare co-ordinated advice for Ministers which they can rely on without question.

**Ineffective indicators**

- You talk down to other people.
- You do not listen.
- You do not make yourself understood.

- You do not make adjustments for other people's needs.
- You ignore all challenge or criticism and react with hostility.

## 4. Analysing and Using Evidence

Outcome – People make informed decisions based on clear analysis of relevant evidence and information.			
Effective indicators			
Band E – Skill Zones 1 to 3	Band D – Skill Zone 4	Band C	Band B
You identify and use some appropriate sources of evidence when making decisions.	You identify what sources of evidence and experts are needed to make decisions.	You identify and use key sources of evidence and relevant experts when evaluating evidence to support outputs.	You exploit key sources of evidence, and engage with relevant experts when using evidence to support outputs.
You are able to adapt to changing priorities.	You are able to work with changing priorities and uncertainty.	You adapt easily to changing priorities and uncertainty.	You are comfortable with uncertainties. You predict possible outcomes and change priorities as a result.
You are aware of the limits of your own authority when making decisions.	You take decisions at the right time, within the limits of your own authority. You identify the main parts of, and solutions to, a problem.	You take decisions at the right time, based on best available evidence and analysis, within the limits of your own authority.	You seek the facts but; when necessary, take timely difficult decisions based on limited information.
	You check sources of evidence to make sure they are valid and accurate.	You know which evidence is valid and relevant and can make sense of a range of material to get at the underlying issue and see the links between complex factors.	
	You analyse evidence to support the development of policies, projects and programmes.	You use evidence to evaluate policies, projects and programmes, seeing where the main risks lie and thinking through whole life implications.	
You can collect and summarise information and data relating to your area of work.		You work confidently with information and data, and understand commonly used methods for summarising data.	
Ineffective indicators			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>You base decisions on rumours, not facts.</li> <li>You work only from your own point of view or make assumptions about issues.</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>You fail to make connections between wider issues, people or organisations.</li> <li>You accept all evidence without question.</li> </ul>	

## 4. Analysing and Using Evidence

## 5. Managing Customers and Suppliers

Outcomes – People develop productive relationships with customers and suppliers that give value for money.			
Effective indicators			
Band E – Skill Zones 1 to 3	Band D – Skill Zone 4	Band C	Band B
You understand the need to get best value for money, being aware of and applying relevant commercial policies and processes.		You get best value for money using relevant commercial policies and processes.	
You have a strong focus on customers and suppliers.		You promote a strong focus on customers and suppliers and know how to shape business processes and priorities around the customer.	
You know who your customers and suppliers are and build good working relationships with them.		You establish relationships that will get the best out of each party and optimise the distribution of risk.	
You identify ways to improve customer service.		You motivate improved performance sharpening the way business is done with a clear distinction between requirement and delivery.	
You understand customers' and suppliers' needs and manage expectations by explaining what is and is not possible.	You understand customers' and suppliers' needs and explore practical solutions with them. You manage expectations by explaining what is and is not possible.	You understand customers' and suppliers' needs in terms of performance, time and cost. You plan for and put into practice alternatives and negotiate trade-offs when constraints affect delivery.	
	You work effectively with different organisations to achieve common goals.	You take a wide view, successfully achieving common goals with organisations that have different priorities.	
Ineffective indicators			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• You do not try to identify customers and suppliers.</li> <li>• You make promises that cannot be met.</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• You don't look beyond existing services.</li> <li>• You are uncooperative and unhelpful.</li> </ul>	

## 6. Improvement and Change

Outcomes – People are committed to improving the business, turning visions for change into reality and adapting well to change.			
Effective indicators			
Band E – Skill Zones 1 to 3	Band D – Skill Zone 4	Band C	Band B
You make suggestions for improving working practices.	You improve relevant practices and tackle issues with an open mind.	You analyse practices, suggesting new or more effective methods.	You challenge accepted assumptions, developing and putting into practice imaginative proposals to successfully encourage new and more effective methods.
You understand the need for change.	You understand the need for change and encourage and support other people to become involved in the process.	You communicate the purpose of and need for change, encouraging other people to contribute and take part in the process.	You understand and communicate the vision for change and act as a role model in encouraging others.
You respond quickly, flexibly and positively to change, using it as an opportunity to learn, develop and practise new skills. You put into practice new ways of working and exploit new technology.			You promote change and use it as an opportunity to apply new skills, ideas and technology. You create an environment where people are able to take considered risks.
		You understand how business change relates to system change.	You understand how business change relates to system change and can shape a change programme accordingly.
		You assess the effect of options for other people, supporting them in adapting to different ways of working.	You gain other people's commitment to change and know how to prepare people for different ways of working.
		You recognise the effect change has on stakeholders, and deal with issues promptly.	You recognise the effect change has on stakeholders, and deal with issues promptly. You manage links with other change programmes.
		You can identify the benefits of a change.	You know how to identify and track different sorts of benefit.
			You are aware of the need to reposition the organisation as the environment changes.
Ineffective indicators			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>You propose change for the sake of change.</li> <li>You ignore new ideas and proposals without considering them.</li> <li>You use rules as an excuse to prevent change.</li> <li>You will not risk exposure of uncertainty.</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>You cannot justify change.</li> <li>You stick to outdated methods and are not willing to change.</li> <li>You do not learn from previous experiences.</li> <li>You always see difficulties, not possibilities.</li> </ul>	

## 6. Improvement and Change

## 7. Planning and Managing Resources to Deliver Business Results

**Outcome – People plan effectively and make best use of resources to deliver business results.**

### Effective indicators

Band E – Skill Zones 1 to 3	Band D – Skill Zone 4	Band C	Band B
You understand how the MOD is structured, where you fit in, and your role in delivering business results.	You understand, and can explain, the operation and structure of the MOD, and your own and other people's roles in delivering business results.		You understand and can explain the Department's business model and how you and others contribute to delivering its business (including financial) results.
You are aware of parliamentary and ministerial procedures and processes and how these influence business.		You understand and can explain the structure of government, parliamentary and ministerial procedures and processes, and how these influence business.	
You use resources appropriately and follow appropriate business rules.		You lead by example in incurring expenditure and managing business relationships and risks, promoting and enforcing business rules including scrutiny and controls to ensure propriety.	
You understand the need to ask for the advice of others when making decisions.	You know when to engage with other functional experts (such as Finance or Commercial) when making business decisions.		You understand how to engage with functional business experts (such as Finance or Commercial) and know when to provide them with routine or exceptional information.
You understand business data about your own area of work.	You understand and interpret business (including financial) data relating to your own area of work.	You understand and interpret business (including financial) data to inform decisions.	You work confidently with business (including financial data) when making decisions. You interpret trends and risks in routine, and where appropriate, investment appraisals.
	You gather and present evidence to support bids for resources.		You ensure personal delivery against the business plan, negotiating the resources needed to deliver business results and inform key decisions.
You look for best value from resources (people, money, assets and time).	You review spending against budget and seek best value from resources (people, money, assets and time).		You seek best value from resources (people, money, assets and time), relating the use of resources to results and forecasting and managing expenditure accurately.
You use processes, information and appropriate tools to deliver business results.	You make best use of business processes, information and tools to deliver results, including seeking and acting on feedback to improve business performance and processes.		You manage business processes, information and tools effectively to deliver results and know how to use business process reviews to improve business delivery.
<b>Ineffective indicators</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• You focus on process at the expense of results.</li> <li>• You ignore people's needs.</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• You misuse resources.</li> <li>• You fail to deliver business results.</li> </ul>	

## 7. Planning and Managing Resources to Deliver Business Results

## 8. Programme and Project Management

Outcome – People use Programme and Project Management techniques and tools to do business faster, cheaper and better.			
Effective indicators			
Band E – Skill Zones 1 to 3	Band D – Skill Zone 4	Band C	Band B
You prioritise and manage your own work, using your own time, technology and resources effectively.	You plan ahead, setting realistic targets.	You create clear and achievable plans.	You translate complex aims into clear and manageable plans.
You review progress to improve performance.		You review progress to improve performance, understanding the purpose and use of analysis processes such as Peer reviews (such as the Gateway process).	
You are aware of programme and project management techniques, including risk management.	You understand basic programme and project management techniques including risk management.	You understand and use programme and project management techniques, including risk management.	You understand and use programme and project management techniques, including risk management. You can manage a programme or many projects at the same time.
You understand your role in delivering a programme or project.	You understand how you contribute to delivering programme benefits and developing business cases.	You understand and contribute to defining and delivering programme benefits and developing business cases.	
You are aware of the need to involve stakeholders.	You understand the need to involve key stakeholders.	You identify and engage with stakeholders, keeping them informed. You regularly ask for and act on their feedback.	You plan and deliver strong relationships with stakeholders making sure the organisation is a respected customer and provider.
You recognise the effects of decisions on other people.	You make basic links between issues, and recognise the effects of decisions on other areas.	You identify and manage the main links and dependencies between issues.	You identify and manage all links and dependencies between complex issues.
	You engage with programme and project management experts, and in acquisition projects, procurement and commercial experts.		
Ineffective indicators			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Your plans are not structured or realistic.</li> <li>You fail to keep stakeholders informed.</li> <li>You fail to consider risks.</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>You do not monitor and review progress.</li> <li>You approach tasks in a disorganised way.</li> </ul>	

## 8. Programme and Project Management



Ref - 06-11-2006 - 154110-006  
Expiry date - 21/11/06.

Section 40

From: Section 40  
Sent: 24 October 2006 11:09  
To: DAS-UFO-Office  
Subject: Freedom of Information request

Section 40



Sheffield Section 40  
South Yorkshire

tel: Section 40  
email: Section 40

24 October 2006

Dear Sir/Madam

I wish to make a request under the FOI for the following information:

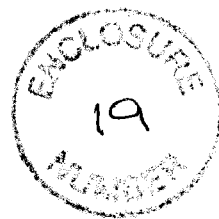
- ✓ a) a copy of any current advertisement (internal MoD or external, in whatever format) for the vacant post at DAS which is responsible for dealing with FOI and UFO inquiries.
- ✓ b) with reference to (a) a copy of the job description, list of responsibilities, qualifications required for this post
- ✓ c) any information relating to the Civil Service grade relevant to the vacant post
- ✓ d) any internal correspondence relating to the current vacancy not covered by exemptions to the FOIA.

Please could you supply any substantive information as hard copy to the address given above, please use my email address if you require any further information in handling this request.

I look forward to hearing from you,

Section 40

*ELECTRONICALLY - PUBLISHED IN INTERNET WITH ELECTRONIC APPLICATIONS*



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



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

Section 40



From: Section 40   
 Sent: 23 November 2006 14:54  
 To: 'sussex.reporters@courier.co.uk'  
 Subject: Internet-Authorised: FOI Request.

Dear Section 40

I am writing concerning your Freedom of Information request regarding the number of reported UFO sightings in East Sussex since January 1996 and if we investigate those sightings. Your request has been passed to this Department as we are the focal point within the Ministry of Defence for correspondence regarding UFOs.

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

With regard to the records the MOD holds of reported UFO sightings, I should inform you that they are not held electronically but are filed on paper files in the order in which they are received and we currently hold records spanning a 25 year period. They are not segregated by geographical area. In order to identify records specifically from East Sussex, a manual search of thousands of records would be required and this would exceed the £600 cost limit set for compliance with the FOI Act 2000. However, we are currently in the process of compiling a database of UFO sighting reports and this has now been completed for the years 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005 and to date in 2006. I examined these records and found nine reports for those years and the details are as follows.

15/05/2002	02:15	Uckfield	East Sussex	One object with red and green flashing lights.
16/08/2002	20:12	Brighton	East Sussex	Big flying object, looked like a glider.
22/08/2002	22:25	Heathfield	East Sussex	Aerial lights seen in the sky.
22/08/2002	22:25	Heathfield	East Sussex	Anomalous aerial lights were seen.
19/12/2002	06:30	Brighton	East Sussex	Large cylindrical object, white flowing light from the front and flames coming from the rear.
22/09/2003		Hove	East Sussex	A red, unidentified flying object.
03/08/2005	00:00	Peacehaven	East Sussex	There were seven red and white flashing lights. They were moving in an erratic type of way.
16/05/2006	19:41	Hastings	East Sussex	Two witnesses thought they saw an alien outside their kitchen window.
Seen in Aug 2006.		Polgate	East Sussex	The first object changed shape. The second object was red and star shaped.

I hope this is helpful. If you are unhappy with the response or wish to complain about any aspect of the handling of this request, then you should contact the undersigned in the first instance. Should you remain dissatisfied, then you may apply for an internal review by contacting the Director of Information Exploitation, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall SW1A 2HB (e.mail: [InfoXD@mod.uk](mailto:InfoXD@mod.uk)).

If you are still unhappy following an internal review, you may be able to take your complaint to the Information

23/11/2006

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

Yours sincerely

**Section 40**

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

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

23/11/06

Ref - 03-11-2006-165623-003  
Expiry - 1/12/2006.

Section 40

From: Section 40  
Sent: 03 November 2006 16:57  
To: Section 40  
Subject: FW: FOI written request 03-11-2006-165623-003 Section 40

Section 40

Please see.

Thanks.

Section 40

Info-AccessOps5

Section 40

Main Building

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

From: feedback@www.mod.uk [mailto:feedback@www.mod.uk]  
Sent: 03 November 2006 15:10  
To: Info-Access-Office  
Subject: FOI written request 03-11-2006-165623-003 Section 40

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted on Friday, November 3, 2006 at 15:10:04

-----  
txttitle: Section 40

txtfirstname: Section 40

txtlastname: Section 40

txtoccupation: Reporter

txtorganisation: Kent and Sussex Courier

txtaddress1: 4b Belmont Buildings

txtaddress2: High Street

txttowncity: Crowborough

txtstatecountry: East Sussex

txtzipcodepostcode: TN6 2QB

txtcountry: UK

txtemailAddress: sussex.reporters@courier.co.uk

txttelephone: Section 40

txtinforequest:

1. Details of all UFO sightings the MoD has investigated in East Sussex since January 1 1996.

Including:

- a. How many cases have been reported
  - b. How many have subsequently been explained and how they were explained.
- Details of the actual sightings themselves.

2. How much money has been spent on MoD UFO investigations in East Sussex since January 1 1996?

---

Booked off  
today.

sent 10/01/06.

Do authorisation  
sheet.

---





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



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

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

**Section 40**



Belfast  
Co. Antrim

**Section 40**

Your Reference:

Our Reference:  
03-10-2006-125252-002

Date:  
10 October 2006

Dear **Section 40**

I am writing concerning your Freedom of Information request regarding UFO sightings in Northern Ireland. Your request has been passed to this Department as we are the focal point within the Ministry of Defence for correspondence regarding UFOs.

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

With regard to the records the MOD holds of reported UFO sightings, I should inform you that they are not held electronically but are filed on paper files in the order in which they are received and we currently hold records spanning a 25 year period. They are not segregated by geographical area. In order to identify records specifically from Northern Ireland, a manual search of thousands of records would be required and this would exceed the permitted £600 cost limit set for compliance with the FOI Act 2000. However, we are currently in the process of compiling a database of UFO sighting reports and this has now been completed for the years 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005 and to date in 2006. I examined these records, and have found 3 reports from these years, and the details are as follows.

13/05/2003	17.45	Belfast	Northern Ireland	Two objects that looked like stars.
15/12/2004	08.30	Lisburn/Belfast	Northern Ireland	Three bright lights moving in the sky.

24/01/2005	23.10	Portadown	Northern Ireland	There were eighteen lights moving across the sky.
------------	-------	-----------	------------------	---

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

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

Yours sincerely

Section 40



Ref - 03-10-2006-125252-002.  
Expiry - 31/10/06.

Section 40

**From:** Section 40  
**Sent:** 04 October 2006 07:45  
**To:** Section 40  
**Subject:** FW: FOI written request PS 03-10-2006-125252-002 Section 40

**Categories:** FOI Information Request

Section 40

Can I interest you with this FOI request?

Regards

Section 40

FOI Helpdesk

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

**From:** feedback@www.mod.uk [mailto:feedback@www.mod.uk]  
**Sent:** 03 October 2006 10:25  
**To:** Info-Access-Office  
**Subject:** FOI written request PS 03-10-2006-125252-002 Section 40

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted on Tuesday, October 3, 2006 at 10:24:43

-----  
txttitle: Section 40

txtfirstname: Section 40

txtlastname:

txtaddress1:

txtaddress2:

txttowncity: Belfast

txtstatecountry: Co Antrim

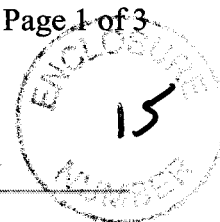
txtzipcodepostcode: Section 40

txtcountry: UK

txtemailAddress: Section 40

txttelephone: Section 40

txtinforequest: I am requesting details of all Unidentified Flying Object (UFO) sightings in Northern Ireland. These details should include dates, locations and descriptions of the objects sighted.  
I am also requesting details of what action, if any, the Ministry of Defence took in response to these possible sightings.



Section 40

From: Section 40

Sent: 14 November 2006 14:24



To: Section 40

Subject: Internet-Authorised: FOI Request.

Dear Section 40

I am writing concerning your Freedom of Information request regarding the number of reported UFO sightings in Essex since the year 2000. Your request has been passed to this Department as we are the focal point within the Ministry of Defence for correspondence regarding UFOs.

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

With regard to the records the MOD holds of reported UFO sightings, I should inform you that they are not held electronically but are filed on paper files in the order in which they are received and we currently hold records spanning a 25 year period. They are not segregated by geographical area. In order to identify records specifically from Essex, a manual search of thousands of records would be required and this would exceed the £600 cost limit set for compliance with the FOI Act 2000. However, we are currently in the process of compiling a database of UFO sighting reports and this has now been completed for the years 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005 and to date in 2006. I examined these records and found twenty six reports for those years, and the details are as follows.

07/03/2002	19.45	Hornchurch	Essex	Two semi-circular, elliptical shapes dully illuminated yellow & white. There was a faint murmur.
31/05/2002	23.00	Harlow	Essex	Two very large disc type aircraft that were white and had a dull glow.
18/09/2002	19.20	Halstead	Essex	Display of three lights in a sort of a star shape. The lights were in formation-circling.
04/10/2002	20.30	Southend	Essex	One white, very small object, very high up in the sky.
11/04/2003	22.21	Stansted Airport	Essex	A ball of fire – very bright.
09/01/2004	22.30	Thaxted	Essex	Strange light that was watched for one and a half hours.
09/04/2004	17.57	Greater Chesterford	Essex	60ft long symmetrical object.
29/08/2004	03.05	Loughton	Essex	The object was white, hazy and round, and there was no noise.
10/10/2004	22.15	Colchester	Essex	Bright orange/red colour object rapidly and randomly changing direction, from East to West.
11/11/2004	14.15	Ilford	Essex	The object was the size of a round beach ball and black. Looked disc shaped when it became stationary in the sky.

14/11/2006

03/09/2005	17.45	Little Waltham	Essex	The witness saw a cylindrical shaped object, that changed from silver to black as it was moving across the sky. Was about 100ft wide.
05/09/2005	21.00	Hornchurch	Essex	A 'UFO'.
10/09/2005	22.00	Loughton	Essex	Three glowing lights. They were a bright orange colour.
10/09/2005	22.00	Loughton	Essex	Three golden orbs seen hovering in the sky for an hour. They were moving in a triangle formation.
10/09/2005	22.00	Loughton	Essex	Three suspicious, very bright orange lights up in the sky.
10/09/2005	21.00	Loughton	Essex	Three orange objects were seen in the sky.
10/09/2005	20.58	Loughton	Essex	Three balls of fire in the sky.
20/09/2005	20.39	Romford	Essex	Four orange lights above the witness's house.
20/10/2005	20.17	Chigwell	Essex	Eight orange glows above cloud cover with planes below. They looked like parachute flares.
23/10/2005		Stapleford Abbots	Essex	A sighting in the evening.
18/12/2005	07.45	Leigh-on-Sea	Essex	Some strange craft in the sky.
Seen in April 2005.		Basildon	Essex	There was a spacecraft – with aliens (the greys), sitting on top of it, above the witness's home.

07/02/2006	14.08	Colchester	Essex	Four lights in the sky, were floating and then disappeared. They looked like fluorescent light strips.
Seen in Sept 2006.		Chigwell	Essex	Just said a 'UFO'.
09/09/2006	22.30	Basildon	Essex	Large lights static in the sky.
22/09/2006	20.00	White Roding/Dunmow	Essex	Hundreds of glowing lights moving North East in a line formation.

I hope this is helpful. If you are unhappy with the response or wish to complain about any aspect of the handling of this request, then you should contact the undersigned in the first instance. Should you remain dissatisfied, then you may apply for an internal review by contacting the Director of Information Exploitation, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB (e.mail: [InfoXD@mod.uk](mailto:InfoXD@mod.uk)).

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

Yours sincerely

#### Section 40

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

14/11/2006

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

14/11/06.

Ref - 26-10-2006-063604-004  
Expiry date - 23/11/06

Section 40

From: Section 40  
Sent: 26 October 2006 12:18  
To: Section 40  
Subject: RE: FOI written request PS 26-10-2006-063604-004 Section 40

Section 40 I will accept this one, can you please transfer it to me on the toolkit.

Thanks

Regards

Section 40

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

From: Section 40  
Sent: 26 October 2006 06:38  
To: Section 40  
Subject: FW: FOI written request PS 26-10-2006-063604-004 Section 40

Section 40

Can I interest you with this FOI request?

Regards

Section 40

FOI Helpdesk

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

From: feedback@www.mod.uk [mailto:feedback@www.mod.uk]  
Sent: 25 October 2006 19:01  
To: Info-Access-Office  
Subject: FOI written request PS 26-10-2006-063604-004 Section 40

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted on Wednesday, October 25, 2006 at 19:00:48

-----  
txttitle: Section 40

txtfirstname: Section 40

txtlastname: Section 40

txtoccupation: journalist

txtorganisation: Southend Echo

txtaddress1: Southend Echo

txtaddress2: 18 Clarence Road

txttowncity: Southend

txtstatecountry: Essex

txtzipcodepostcode: SS1 1AN

txtcountry: UK

txtemailAddress: Section 40

txttelephone: Section 40

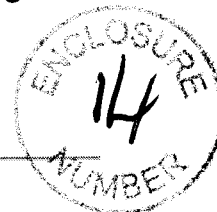
txtinforequest: Please could I have the number of reported UFO sightings in Essex. If possible the number since you started keeping records. If not since 2000 please. Could

I also have the details of the reported sightings, including date location and description.

Thank you very much

---





Section 40

From: Section 40

Sent: 23 November 2006 09:43

To: Section 40

Subject: Internet-Authorised: FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST - UFO SIGHTING 28 OCT  
1980 - 20-10-2006-065035-001

Dear Section 40

Your Freedom of Information request of 19 October 2006 asked for any records held by the MoD relating to an incident you saw on 28 October 1980.

I have checked our records for that period but have been unable to find any trace of an incident being reported to us for that date.

You also raised the issue of RAF Neatishead radar tapes. Given it is now a quarter of a century later, it is difficult to respond with 100% accuracy. However, as far as is known, at that time, the live picture from the radar screen was recorded onto a 16mm film so that it could be reviewed if necessary e.g. if two aircraft had come close to collision. Any review would take place at either RAF Neatishead or the MoD in London. Once the review was concluded and there was therefore no need to retain the tape, it would be destroyed.

Any tapes not required for review would be routinely destroyed after 30 days. We have no knowledge of any tapes from this time being archived or held at RAF Neatishead.

I am sorry I could not be of more help.

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

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

Section 40

DAS Sec 1

Section 40

MoD Main Building  
Whitehall  
London  
SW1A 2HB

23/11/2006

Ref-20-10-2006-065035-001.  
Expiry date-17/11/06.

Section 40

From: Section 40  
Sent: 23 October 2006 09:02  
To: Section 40  
Subject: FW: foi email request PS 20-10-2006-065035-001 Section 40  
Categories: FOI Information Request

Section 40

Can I interest you with this FOI request?

Regards

Section 40

FOI Helpdesk

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

From: feedback@www.mod.uk [mailto:feedback@www.mod.uk]  
Sent: 19 October 2006 22:26  
To: Info-Access-Office  
Subject: foi email request PS 20-10-2006-065035-001 Section 40

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted on Thursday, October 19, 2006 at 22:26:27

-----  
txttitle: Section 40

txtfirstname: Section 40

txtlastname: Section 40

txtoccupation: Parttime driver

txtorganisation: pct

txtemailAddress: Section 40

txtinforequest: Below is an event that I witnessed back in 1980. I don't believe I was the only one to notice it as it was a prolonged and dramatic event that was over our capital city and started in the upper atmosphere or beyond falling through the airplanes before spreading out over Kent and Surrey.

On October 28th, 1980, between 4.40 and 4.55 pm. After observing a bright star like object almost directly overhead (Peckham, South London), to high an elevation to be an evening star, a strange event took place. I saw a black corkscrewing plume almost to feint to see at first dropping below the ?star? which remained in place. This black trail was observed falling for over ten minutes.

?When the object causing the trail reached about 30,000ft it divided into three, still leaving trails, which fell levelling out at about a 1,000ft and these objects then flew towards the horizon disappearing to the SE, S, SW. The ?star? stayed directly overhead throughout and the whole event took about 15 minutes. I believe about this time tapes recording radar contacts were removed by the MOD from RAF Neatishead. If there are any records that are forthcoming I would be grateful as it was quite frightening at the time. My first thought was of an ICBM which is why I was transfixed (no point in running).

Section 40

Section 40

---

From: Section 40  
Sent: 14 November 2006 14:29  
To: Section 40  
Subject: RE: FOI REQUEST 20-10-2006-065035-001

Section 40

Happy to discuss. The live picture was always recorded so that if an incident occurred the tape (16mm film) could be reviewed. Once "pulled" the tapes could be reviewed at Neatishead or be sent to MOD. For air incidents the tapes would go to MOD and once investigated and findings concluded they would be destroyed. Any tapes held at Neatishead would routinely be destroyed after 30 days. I have no knowledge that any tapes were ever archived and none are held at RAF Neatishead now. I confirmed all this info with the Air Defence Radar Museum people at RAF Neatishead.

---

From: Section 40  
Sent: 14 November 2006 10:06  
To: Section 40  
Subject: FOI REQUEST 20-10-2006-065035-001

Section 40

I have a FOI request asking if there are any records of a UFO incident on 28 October 1980 between 16.40 and 16.55 over Peckham in South London.

We can handle the general request, but he states that ***"about this time, tapes recording radar contacts were removed by the MoD from RAF Neatishead"*** and would like further information.

Can you advise what tapes RAF Neatishead would have had (I have no idea what Neatishead does or did), if any are likely to still exist and why MoD would remove them from RAF Neatishead.

I suspect that as its 25 years ago, getting hold of any records would be a trifle difficult.

My deadline is the end of the week!

Can we discuss?

Section 40

DAS Sec 1

Section 40

Section 40

From: Section 40

Sent: 14 November 2006 15:15

To: Section 40 @tnt.co.uk

Subject: Internet-Authorised: REQUEST FOR FILES

I should be grateful if you would forward me the following files:

- D/DS8/75/2/2 Part L - Section 40 - C info memory
- D/DS8/75/2/2 Part M - out of old mod system.
- D/DS8/75/2/1 Part G - Section 40
- D/DS8/75/2/1 Part H -
- D/DS8/75/2/5 Part A -
- D/DS8/75/2/5 Part B - out of old mod system

My address is:

Section 40

DAS Sec 1

Section 40

Section 40

MoD Main Building  
Whitehall  
London  
SW1A 2HB

My UIN is

F6208A

Section 40

DAS Sec 1

Section 40

Section 40

---

From: Section 40

Sent: 16 November 2006 14:13

To: Section 40

Subject: Internet-Authorised: FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST 20-10-2006-065035-001

Dear Section 40

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request dated 19 October 2006 regarding events you witnessed on 28 October 1980. I have requested our files for this period from archive and search them for any record of any other reports on that date. This may however, take a little time to complete.

Section 40

Das Sec 1

Section 40

MoD Main Building  
Whitehall  
London  
SW1A 2HB



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



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

**Section 40**

Our Reference

19-10-2006-143448-005

Cwmbran

Date

Gwent

16 November 2006

**Section 40**

Dear **Section 40**

I am writing in response to your Freedom of Information request for information relating to an incident you saw in August 1995.

Given the length of time since the incident, it has not been possible to find records of military helicopter activity in the area of Golden Ball/Milk Hill during August 1995. Local airbases would not keep records of aircraft flights going back as far as 1995. Were it possible to identify the specific aircraft, it might have been possible to ask the pilots, if they were still serving, to check their own log books to see what the purpose of their flights were. However, as we do not know which aircraft were involved, we cannot identify the pilots and therefore cannot take this forward any further.

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

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

I am sorry I could not be more helpful.

Yours sincerely

**Section 40**

Section 40

GxAITESTPTCD/

16 November 06

Home My Cases Log New Request Policy Guidance Help

Request: Section 40 19-10-2006-143448-005

Received: 18 Oct 06

Days Left: 0

Expiry Date: 15 Nov 06

All sources

Status: Open

Workflow Options

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

AIT Main

View

Date request received: 18 October 2006

Audit Trail

Comments Log

Saved Search Result

Contact Details

Documents

Applicant Details

Actions

Title: Section 40

Other:

Assign Within My Group

First Name:

\*Surname: Section 40

Change Alert Settings

Organisation:

Edit Request Details

Applicant Type: Private Individuals

Other:

Upload Document

Close Case

Take Ownership

Contact Details (Mailing or email address required)

Address Line1: Section 40

Address Line2:

Address Line3:

Town/City: Cwmbran

Postcode: Section 40

Country: United Kingdom

Email:

Telephone:

Fax:

Clear

< Back

Next >

Cancel

Section 40

GxAITESTPTCD/

16 November 06

Home My Cases Log New Request Policy Guidance Help

Request: Section 40 19-10-2006-143448-005  
Days Left: 0

Received: 18 Oct 06  
Expiry Date: 15 Nov 06  
Status: Open

All sources

Workflow Options

- Standard Response
- Quick Response
- Transfer Internally
- Refer Externally
- Vexatious
- Task Off-line
- Clarify Request

View

- Audit Trail
- Comments Log
- Saved Search Result
- Contact Details
- Documents

Actions

- Assign Within My Group
- Change Alert Settings
- Edit Request Details
- Upload Document
- Close Case
- Take Ownership

Workflow Options - AIT Main - Processing Options

Request

Request Details

Response Format Requested:

Language Requested  Welsh

Request for Information

Any information you may have on an incident i witnessed in August 1995. In Aug 95 (one of the saturday nights, I don't recall which) I witnessed a large orange orb of light being "chased" by several Lynx type helicopters (they were smallish type heilicopters) and there were also two Chinook helicopters in the sky that night. this lasted at least half an hour, I won't recount the whole story, this was in the Alton barnes area of Wiltshire looking towards Golden Ball/Milk Hill area, would it be possible to access under the FOIA what "operations" involved helicopters those nights in August 1995. Would there [be] logs of what helicopters were airborne that night from the local RAF bases? many thanks for

Last Comment Entered

Process Request

Select an Action from the left to begin processing this request





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



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

**Section 40**

Cwmbran  
Gwent

**Section 40**

Our Reference  
D/DAS/19-10-2006-142124-003  
Date  
14 November 2006

Dear **Section 40**

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request of 16 October 2006 asking for all information held on "Operation Blackbird" and a D Notice that was allegedly issued in relation to it.

My predecessor checked all of our UFO related files around this period and the only relevant information located was a letter from a member of the public dated 2 October 1990, where they stated "during the Project Blackbird, studying the corn-circles, the army did participate, by manning some equipments borrowed by the project organisers". This letter was accompanied by a copy of some photographs of helicopters flying over a field containing crop circles at Westbury, Wiltshire on 4 August 1987. At the time, the General Service Secretariat at the MOD were asked about this and responded with the following comment:

"Helicopters from the Army Air Corps flying school in Middle Wallop are a common sight over many of the farms in the Wiltshire / Hampshire / Berkshire area. Much of the training which pilots from the school undertake involves practising standard rotary wing manoeuvres such as moving to and from a prolonged hover. Where possible manoeuvres of that kind would normally be carried out well away from houses and livestock, and so a patient observer would stand a good chance of sighting a helicopter hovering above a field where corn circles have appeared. I respectfully suggest that this may be all that the photographs attached to your letter show."

They also commented that "neither the British Army nor the Ministry of Defence have the slightest interest in solving this conundrum". Simply put, there was, and is, no evidence held by the MoD to suggest that crop circles are caused by anything of military concern and it is hard to see what value there would be to the MoD in "assisting" in any investigation of this nature.

Additionally, this office received a Freedom of Information request in February 2006 from another member of the public asking for information about Operation Blackbird. He was given the same information as you.

The Ministry of Defence does not have responsibility for answering questions regarding D Notices which falls to the Independent Defence and Broadcasting Advisory Committee which is not subject to the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

If this information does not address your requirements or you wish to complain about any aspect of the handling of this request, then you should contact the undersigned in the first instance. Should you remain dissatisfied, then you may apply for an internal review by contacting the Director of Information Exploitation, 6th Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB.

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

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

19-10-2006 - 142124 - 003

Expiry date 15 Nov 06

Section 40

Cwmbran  
Gwent

Section 40

16th October 2006

Dear Sir/Madam,

Under the Freedom of Information Act I am making a request for any information you may have on 'Operation Blackbird' which was an Army assisted operation based around surveillance of crop circles forming. I believe this took part in the summer of 1990. I am also interested in the 'D' notice that was allegedly issued in regards to the media at certain points during this 'exercise'. Many thanks in your assistance in this matter.

Yours faithfully

Section 40

NOTE:

WHILST IT IS  
NOT A MAJ MATTER  
TO COMMENT ON  
'D' NOTICES, THERE  
IS NO RECORD OF  
ANY 'D' NOTICE  
REGARDING THIS  
MATTER.

Section 40

WAS sec 1.



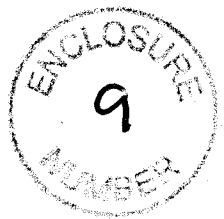
**ENCLOSURE TRANSFERRED TO  
FILE D/DAS/10/2/8/16 PART G**



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



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



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

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

**Section 40**

Wakefield  
West Yorkshire

**Section 40**



Your Reference:

Our Reference:  
19-10-2006-063638-003

Date:  
7 December 2006

Dear **Section 40**

I am writing concerning your Freedom of Information request regarding paperwork in relation to four UFO sightings seen by Police Officers. Your request has been passed to this Department as we are the focal point within the Ministry of Defence for correspondence regarding 'UFO's. I apologise for the delay in responding.

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

You will find enclosed three of the four sighting reports that you require. The report for 4 September 2005 cannot be located at this present time. When it becomes available I shall send it to you. Names and addresses on the sighting reports have been removed in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998.

I hope this is helpful. If you are unhappy with the response or wish to complain about any aspect of the handling of this request, then you should contact the undersigned in the first instance. Should you remain dissatisfied, then you may apply for an internal review by contacting the Director of Information Exploitation, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall SW1A 2HB (e.mail: [InfoXD@mod.uk](mailto:InfoXD@mod.uk)).

If you are still unhappy following an internal review, you may be able to take your complaint to the Information Commissioner under the provisions of Section 50 of the Freedom of Information

Act. Please note that the Information Commissioner will not normally investigate your case until the MOD internal review process has been completed. Further details of the role and powers of the Information Commissioner can be found on the Commissioner's website, <http://www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk>.

Yours sincerely

Section 40

A large black rectangular redaction box covers the signature area, with the text "Section 40" visible in orange at the top left corner of the box.

Home My Cases Log New Request Policy Guidance Help

Request: Section 40 19-10-2006-063638-003  
Days Left: 20

Received: 19 Oct 06  
Expiry Date: 16 Nov 06  
Status: Open

Workflow Options

- AIT Main
- View
- Audit Trail
- Comments Log
- Saved Search Result
- Contact Details
- Documents

Actions

- Assign Within My Group
- Change Alert Settings
- Edit Request Details
- Upload Document
- Close Case
- Take Ownership

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

Date request received: 19 October 2006

Applicant Details

Title: Section 40 Other:

First Name:  \*Surname: Section 40

Organisation: THE PRUFOS POLICE DA

Applicant Type: Non-profit organisations Other:

Contact Details (Mailing or email address required)

Address Line1: Section 40

Address Line2:

Address Line3: WAKEFIELD

Town/City: WEST YORKSHIRE

Postcode: Section 40  Country: United K

Email:

Telephone:  Fax:

Clear <Back Next>

please send me all the paperwork in relation to a police sighting dated 17/10/02 at 0254 hours which is recorded on the 2002-2003 yearly log.



Home My Cases Log New Request Policy Guidance Help

Request: Section 40 19-10-2006-063926-004  
Days Left: 20

Received: 19 Oct 06  
Expiry Date: 16 Nov 06  
Status: Open

Workflow Options

AIT Main

View

- Audit Trail
- Comments Log
- Saved Search Result
- Contact Details
- Documents

Actions

- Assign Within My Group
- Change Alert Settings
- Edit Request Details
- Upload Document
- Close Case
- Take Ownership

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

Date request received: 19 October 2006

Applicant Details

Title: Section 40 Other:

First Name:  \*Surname: Section 40

Organisation: THE PRUFOS POLICE DA

Applicant Type: Non-profit organisations Other:

Contact Details (Mailing or email address required)

Address Line1: Section 40

Address Line2:

Address Line3: WAKEFIELD

Town/City: WEST YORKSHIRE

Postcode: Section 40  Country: United K

Email:

Telephone:  Fax:

please send me all the paperwork in relation to a police sighting dated 17/11/03 at 0225 hours in Bromley, Kent which is recorded on the 2003-MOD yearly log.

Home My Cases Log New Request Policy Guidance Help

Request: Section 40 19-10-2006-064208-005  
Days Left: 20

Received: 19 Oct 06  
Expiry Date: 16 Nov 06  
Status: Open

Workflow Options

AIT Main

View

- Audit Trail
- Comments Log
- Saved Search Result
- Contact Details
- Documents

Actions

- Assign Within My Group
- Change Alert Settings
- Edit Request Details
- Upload Document
- Close Case
- Take Ownership

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

Date request received: 19 October 2006

Applicant Details

Title: Section 40 Other:

First Name:  \*Surname: Section 40

Organisation: THE PRUFOS POLICE DA

Applicant Type: Non-profit organisations Other:

Contact Details (Mailing or email address required)

Address Line1: Section 40

Address Line2:

Address Line3: WAKEFIELD

Town/City: WEST YORKSHIRE

Postcode: Section 40 Country: United K

Email:

Telephone:  Fax:

Clear <Back Next>

please send me all paperwork in connection with the police sighting dated 7/8/05 at 21.30 in Kirby, Merseyside, which is recorded on the 2005 log of yearly MOD-sightings.

Home My Cases Log New Request Policy Guidance Help

Request: Section 40 19-10-2006-064457-006  
Days Left: 20

Received: 19 Oct 06  
Expiry Date: 16 Nov 06  
Status: Open

Workflow Options

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

AIT Main

View

Date request received: 19 October 2006

Audit Trail

Comments Log

Saved Search Result

Contact Details

Documents

Actions

Applicant Details

Assign Within My Group

Change Alert Settings

Edit Request Details

Upload Document

Close Case

Take Ownership

Title: Section 40 Other: [redacted]  
First Name: [redacted] \*Surname: Section 40  
Organisation: THE PRUFOS POLICE DA  
Applicant Type: Non-profit organisations Other: [redacted]

Contact Details (Mailing or email address required)

Address Line1: Section 40  
Address Line2: [redacted]  
Address Line3: WAKEFIELD  
Town/City: WEST YORKSHIRE  
Postcode: Section 40 Country: United K  
Email: [redacted]  
Telephone: [redacted] Fax: [redacted]

Clear <Back Next >

Please send me all paperwork in connection with the police sighting dated 4/10/05 at 02:35 - in Wolsingham, Northumbria which is recorded on the 2005 log of yearly MAD sightings.

✓

**REPORT OF AN UNEXPLAINED AERIAL SIGHTING**

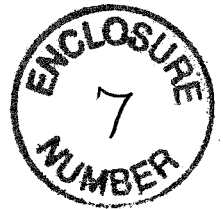
1.	<b>Date and time of sighting.</b> (Duration of sighting.)	7 August 2005 21.30L
2.	<b>Description of object.</b> (No of objects, size, shape, colour, brightness, noise.)	There were four oblongs that were equally spaced. They also looked like bright lights. He took a video of the oblong objects on his mobile phone, but when he looked back at the picture, they were not there, but there was a black square wobbling in the shot.
3.	<b>Exact position of observer.</b> <b>Geographical location.</b> (Indoors/outdoors, stationary/moving.)	Stationary in the police car.
4.	<b>How object was observed.</b> (Naked eye, binoculars, other optical device, camera or camcorder.)	With the naked eye.
5.	<b>Direction in which object was first seen.</b> (A landmark may be more helpful than a roughly estimated bearing.)	Seen very high up over the town of Kirby.
6.	<b>Approximate distance.</b>	Not given.
7.	<b>Movements and speed.</b> (side to side, up or down, constant, moving fast, slow)	Not given.
8.	<b>Weather conditions during observation.</b> (cloudy, haze, mist, clear)	It was dusky.

9.	<b>To whom reported.</b> (Police, military, press etc)	<p>[REDACTED] from Merseyside                  Police rang my work number after I had left it for him and told me the details of his sighting. He had rung some other area in the MOD and they had put him through to my area too.</p>
10.	<b>Name, address and telephone no of informant.</b>	<p>[REDACTED]                  Merseyside                  [REDACTED]                  [REDACTED]</p>
11.	<b>Other witnesses.</b>	<p>[REDACTED] that was with him in the car.</p>
12.	<b>Remarks.</b>	<p>[REDACTED] said that this was a strange thing that he witnessed and could we explain to him what it could be. I told him that we do not investigate sightings.</p>
13.	<b>Date and time of receipt.</b>	<p>15 August 2005                  10.45L</p>

D UK/270/1/13

18 Nov 03

REDACTION ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT



DAS Sec 3

CREDIBLE WITNESS 'UFO' REPORT - 17 NOV 03

Reference:

A. D/Sec(AS)/64/2 dated 17 Nov 03.

At Reference, you asked whether the report submitted by [redacted] New Scotland Yard, through [redacted] regarding "20-30 red flashing lights in the sky accompanied by a whirring noise" at 0225hrs on 17 Nov 03 at Bromley in Kent, represented anything of air defence interest. CRC Neatishead have reviewed the radar tapes for the time period specified and other than routine air traffic in the area, nothing additional was detected in the area despite good radar coverage. Therefore, I can now confirm that the incident does not represent anything of air defence interest.

*Signed on CHOtS*

Action:

[redacted] at New Scotland Yard is not on duty. Message of outcome passed to control room. No details of the people reporting this sighting, so unable to reply direct. Police given my telephone number in case [redacted] wanted to contact me or pass us the addresses of those reporting the sighting.

19/11/03.

LOOSE MINUTE

D/Sec(AS)/64/2

REDACTION ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT

17 November 2003

D UK-SO1 AIR

17 Nov '03

**CREDIBLE WITNESS REPORT DATED 3 NOVEMBER 1999.**

1. In line with our current policy, please find below a 'UFO' report which you may wish to be aware of. Although the report was originally from a member of the public, these lights were also seen by Police Officers and a Police helicopter crew. Swanwick and RAF Neatishead have also become involved. I would be grateful if you could let me know if the report represents anything of air defence interest.



REDACTION ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT

Follow-up UFO Report - 170612z Nov 03

UFO report relayed to STCDO from the Duty Surveillance Officer [redacted] RAF Neatishead who had received the report from [redacted] [redacted] has also passed this report to MOD Sec (AS) 2a and to CAOC [redacted]

[redacted] had received the report from [redacted] Scotland Yard Ref. No CAD

contact Tel No [redacted]

'At 2.25am 17 Nov 03 2 adults and 1 child in Bromley, Kent saw 20-30 red flashing lights in the sky accompanied by a whirring noise and they recorded the occurrence on video tape. The family called the police who confirmed the sighting. The policeman using a lamppost as a marker concluded the lights were zigzagging / turning across the sky at a speeds faster than any man-made aircraft.

A crew of a police helicopter airborne at the time also confirmed the lights but they thought they might be lights of aircraft on the approach in to LHR. However Swanick Mil declared that there were no aircraft in the approach pattern at that time all aircraft on their radar were at high level.'

[redacted]

[redacted]

Message left on DAS answerphone at 05.34 Monday 17<sup>th</sup> Nov by [redacted] of RAF Neatishead. UFO sighting details as above reported to Neatishead at 04.00 by Swanwick ATC. The sighting was confirmed by the Police and Scotland Yard reported it to Swanick Mil. Police helicopter in the area thought they were aircraft approaching Heathrow but Swanwick say there were no such aircraft in the area.

[redacted] is on Neatishead Crew Room [redacted] or website number [redacted]

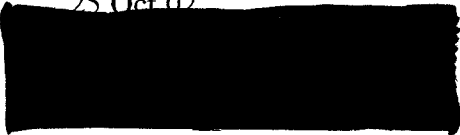


D/DAO/1/13

REDACTION ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT

72

25 Oct 02



**CREDIBLE WITNESS REPORT - 17 OCT 02**

Reference:

A. Your Loose Minute dated 21 Oct 02.

1. At Reference, you asked whether the credible witness report submitted by 2 police officers from Humberside represented anything of air defence interest. Following enquiries through HQ 2 Gp and RAF Neatishead, there is no evidence that unauthorised military activity or any other activity of air defence interest occurred on 17 Oct 02 in the Hull area.

*Signed on CHOtS*



REDACTION ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT

JOSE MINUTE


DAO ADGE 1

D10AS/64/2

21 October 2002

CREDIBLE WITNESS UFO SIGHTING – 17/10/2002

1. In line with our current policy, please find attached a 'UFO' report two police officers from Humberside in the early hours of 17 October 2002.
2. I would be grateful if you could let me know if the report represents anything of air defence interest.



CHOTS: DAS-LA-OPS & POL 1A

REDACTION ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT



HUMBERSIDE POLICE  
[Redacted]

Hessle Police Station  
Hessle Road  
Kingston Upon Hull  
HU4 7BA

[Redacted]

Northern Command Centre

If you have received this communication in error, please telephone the sender immediately, and return the document to us: your cost will be reimbursed. You must not copy the document, show it to anyone else, or otherwise act upon it. Thank you for your co-operation.

Date 17th October 2002

FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

From: [Redacted] Force Duty Officer

For the attention of: **Ministry of Defence**

Page one of 2 Pages

Message

Sighting Of Unidentified Flying Object

Humberside Police Incident Log Number 70 of 17/10/02 timed at 0239hrs Thursday 17/10/02 refers

At 0239 hrs on Thursday 17th October 2002 a member of the public contacted Humberside Police to report seeing a UFO. The adult male caller wished to remain anonymous but it is believed he lives in Hull (eastern area of the City). Whilst making the report the caller stated he could see two lit objects in the sky - one over the the Eastern Cemetary, Preston Road, Hull and the other one over B.P. Saltend. He stated the objects appeared to be 'communicating' with each other. He described one of the objects as having a blue light in the middle, a white light and two green lights with a red light going around the top. The object was spinning around and hovering. The caller was looking through binoculars.

Local Police Officers were alerted and sighted what they believed to be the object being reported by the caller. The below report is from two Police Officers rather than from the initial caller who was reluctant to become involved. Other officers also saw the 'object'.

- a) Police Officers involved [Redacted]
- b) 0254 hrs 17/10/02 - duration of approx 45 minutes
- c) Appeared as the size of a 'normal' bright star but of different colours - blue, green, red and white
- d) Viewed from various locations in the Hedon area (east of Hull) from a police vehicle
- e) Viewed with naked eye
- f) First viewed by officers to be in the sky over B.P. Chemicals Plant at Saltend near Hull and then in the Thorgumbald area.
- g) Angular elevation of approx 45 degrees
- h) Distance from observers is difficult to estimate (but not near to them)

Object appeared to move fast and then stop - it stopped and started on a couple of occasions and repeatedly changed its colour/shape, fading and also becoming brighter at times

j) Meteorological conditions - weather fine and dry with no cloud initially and no other objects nearby to obstruct the view.

k) A chemical plant is nearby and also the River Humber with industrial/chemical plants on the south bank at Killingholme/Immingham

l) The Humberside Police Helicopter attended the area and perceived the object to be a star or satellite and the colour changes being an optical effect due to possible gasses emitted from the nearby industrial plants. It has to be said however that the above officers were not convinced of this explanation.

This report is submitted for your information and attention. If further details or clarification are required please contact the Humberside Police Northern Command Centre





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



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

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

**Section 40**  
[Redacted]

York  
North Yorkshire  
**Section 40**

Your Reference:

Our Reference:  
13-10-2006-182918-003  
Date:  
5 December 2006

Dear **Section 40**

I am writing concerning your Freedom of Information request regarding a log of reported UFO sightings in the UK, from 1 January 2006 to present time 2006. Your request has been passed to this Department as we are the focal point within the Ministry of Defence for correspondence regarding UFOs. I apologise for the long delay in responding.

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

You will find enclosed the complete log of UFO sightings to date for 2006.

*COPY OF DATABASE  
- NOT COPIED ON  
FILE TO SAVE PAPER!*

I hope this is helpful. If you are unhappy with the response or wish to complain about any aspect of the handling of this request, then you should contact the undersigned in the first instance. Should you remain dissatisfied, then you may apply for an internal review by contacting the Director of Information Exploitation, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall SW1A 2HB (e.mail: [InfoXD@mod.uk](mailto:InfoXD@mod.uk)).

If you are still unhappy following an internal review, you may be able to take your complaint to the Information Commissioner under the provisions of Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act. Please note that the Information Commissioner will not normally investigate your case until the MOD internal review process has been completed. Further details of the role and powers of the

Information Commissioner can be found on the Commissioner's website,  
<http://www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk>.

Yours sincerely

Section 40

A large black rectangular redaction box covers the signature area, with the text "Section 40" written in orange at the top left corner of the box.

Ref - 13-10-2006-182918-003.  
Expiry - 10/11/06.

Section 40

From: Section 40  
Sent: 17 October 2006 17:42  
To: Section 40  
Subject: FW: FOI written request 13-10-2006-182918-003 Section 40

Categories: FOI Information Request

Section 40

Can you take?

Thanks

Section 40

Info-AccessOps5

Section 40

Main Building

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

From: feedback@www.mod.uk [mailto:feedback@www.mod.uk]  
Sent: 13 October 2006 18:24  
To: Info-Access-Office  
Subject: FOI written request 13-10-2006-182918-003 Section 40

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted on Friday, October 13, 2006 at 18:23:48

-----  
txttitle: Section 40

txtfirstname: Section 40

txtlastname: Section 40

txtaddress1: The Press

txtaddress2: Section 40

txttowncity: York

txtstatecountry: North Yorkshire

txtzipcodepostcode: Section 40

txtcountry: UK

txtemailAddress: Section 40

txttelephone: Section 40

txtinforequest: Please send me a complete log of reported UFO sightings in the UK, from January 1 to September 30, 2006.

I note that similar logs have been provided for previous years, and would like the equivalent data for the first nine months of 2006.



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



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

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

**Section 40**  
 [Redacted]

Paisley  
 Renfrewshire  
**Section 40**



Your Reference:

Our Reference:  
 30-10-2006-182049-016  
 Date:  
 28 November 2006

Dear **Section 40**

I am writing concerning your Freedom of Information request regarding information on UFO sighting reports made by Airline, RAF and Helicopter Pilots. Your request has been passed to this Department as we are the focal point within the Ministry of Defence for correspondence regarding 'UFOs.'

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

With regard to the records the MOD holds on UFO sightings, I should inform you that they are not held electronically but are filed on paper files in the order in which they are received and we currently hold records spanning a 25 year period. They are not segregated by geographical area. In order to identify records specifically made by Airline, RAF and Helicopter Pilots, a manual search of thousands of records would be required and this would exceed the £600 cost limit set for compliance with the FOI Act 2000. However, we are currently in the process of compiling a database of UFO sighting reports and this has now been completed for the years 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005 and to date in 2006. I examined these records and found four reports for those years and the details are as follows.

11/04/2003	22:21	Stansted Airport	Essex	Captain and First Officer/Airliner.	A ball of fire, very bright.
------------	-------	------------------	-------	-------------------------------------	------------------------------



17/11/2003	02:25	Bromley	Kent	Police Helicopter Crew.	There were 20-30 red flashing lights accompanied by a whirring noise.
13/08/2005	17:11	10 miles West of Gatwick.	Sussex	French Pilot.	The object was one-two metres in length. Was a yellow colour and cylindrical in shape.
17/09/2005	15:58	(No area given).		Pilot.	One object, that was dark brown and military shaped and fast moving.

I hope this is helpful. If you are unhappy with the response or wish to complain about any aspect of the handling of this request, then you should contact the undersigned in the first instance. Should you remain dissatisfied, then you may apply for an internal review by contacting the Director of Information Exploitation, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall SW1A 2HB (e.mail: [InfoXD@mod.uk](mailto:InfoXD@mod.uk)).

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Yours sincerely

Section 40

Ref - 30-10-2006-182049-016.

Expiry date - 27/11/06.

Section 40

From: Section 40  
Sent: 30 October 2006 18:25  
To: Section 40  
Subject: FW: FOI written request 30-10-2006-182049-016 Section 40

Section 40

Please see.  
Thanks.

Section 40

Info-AccessOps5

Section 40

Main Building

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

From: feedback@www.mod.uk [mailto:feedback@www.mod.uk]  
Sent: 30 October 2006 17:02  
To: Info-Access-Office  
Subject: FOI written request 30-10-2006-182049-016 Section 40

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted on Monday, October 30, 2006 at 17:02:16

-----  
txttitle: Section 40  
txtfirstname: Section 40  
txtlastname:   
txtoccupation: unemployed  
txtaddress1: Section 40  
txtaddress2:   
txttowncity: Paisley  
txtstatecountry: renfrewshire  
txtzipcodepostcode: Section 40  
txtcountry: Scotland  
txtemailAddress: Section 40  
txtinforequest: i would like to recieve information regarding sightings of unidentified objects by british airline pilots, raf pilots and helicopter pilots. I hope its not classified or whatever, as i'd like to read about it as i have saw a few strange zipping lights among the stars .

Thanks very much,

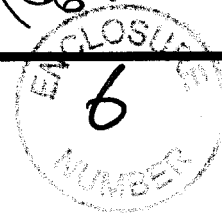
Section 40

Ref - 30-10-2006-064852-008

Expiry Date - 27/11/06

Section 40

From: Section 40  
Sent: 30 October 2006 07:00  
To: Section 40  
Subject: FW: foi email request PS 30-10-2006-064852-008 Section 40



Section 40

Can I interest you with this FOI request? Original request dealt with in your department.

Regards

Section 40  
FOI Helpdesk

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

From: feedback@www.mod.uk [mailto:feedback@www.mod.uk]  
Sent: 29 October 2006 18:56  
To: Info-Access-Office  
Subject: foi email request PS 30-10-2006-064852-008 Section 40

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted on Sunday, October 29, 2006 at 18:56:02

-----  
txttitle: Section 40

txtfirstname: Section 40

txtlastname: [redacted]

txtorganisation: Daily Telegraph

txtemailAddress: Section 40

txttelephone: Section 40

txtinforequest: Please provide me with copies of documentation released in response to this request by another applicant:

19-10-2006-142124-003 15/11/2006 Any information you may have on "Operation Blackbird" which was an Army assisted operation based around surveillance of crop circles forming. I believe this took part in the summer of 1990

**Section 40**

**From:** **Section 40**  
**Sent:** 21 November 2006 16:14  
**To:** **Section 40**  
**Subject:** Internet-authorized: FOI REQUEST 30-10-2006-064852-008 - OPERATION BLACKBIRD  
**Attachments:** Redacted Response ref Operation Blackbird.tif

Dear **Section 40**

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request concerning documentation released in response to request 19-10-2006-142124-003 regarding "Operation Blackbird".

I attach a copy of the letter we sent out. The name and address of the original requester has been removed under the Data Protection Act.

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

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

**Section 40**

DAS Sec 1

**Section 40**

MoD Main Building  
Whitehall  
London  
SW1A 2HB



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

Telephone

(Direct dial)  
(Switchboard)  
(Fax)

Section 40  
020 7218 9000

e-mail

das-ufo-office@mod.uk

Section 40

[REDACTED]

Our Reference

D/DAS/19-10-2006-142124-003

Date

14 November 2006

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request of 16 October 2006 asking for all information held on "Operation Blackbird" and a D Notice that was allegedly issued in relation to it.

My predecessor checked all of our UFO related files around this period and the only relevant information located was a letter from a member of the public dated 2 October 1990, where they stated " during the Project Blackbird, studying the corn-circles, the army did participate, by manning some equipments borrowed by the project organisers". This letter was accompanied by a copy of some photographs of helicopters flying over a field containing crop circles at Westbury, Wiltshire on 4 August 1987. At the time, the General Service Secretariat at the MOD were asked about this and responded with the following comment:

"Helicopters from the Army Air Corps flying school in Middle Wallop are a common sight over many of the farms in the Wiltshire / Hampshire / Berkshire area. Much of the training which pilots from the school undertake involves practising standard rotary wing manoeuvres such as moving to and from a prolonged hover. Where possible manoeuvres of that kind would normally be carried out well away from houses and livestock, and so a patient observer would stand a good chance of sighting a helicopter hovering above a field where corn circles have appeared. I respectfully suggest that this may be all that the photographs attached to your letter show."

They also commented that "neither the British Army nor the Ministry of Defence have the slightest interest in solving this conundrum". Simply put, there was, and is, no evidence held by the MoD to suggest that crop circles are caused by anything of military concern and it is hard to see what value there would be to the MoD in "assisting" in any investigation of this nature.

Additionally, this office received a Freedom of Information request in February 2006 from another member of the public asking for information about Operation Blackbird. He was given the same information as you.

The Ministry of Defence does not have responsibility for answering questions regarding D Notices which falls to the Independent Defence and Broadcasting Advisory Committee which is not subject to the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

If this information does not address your requirements or you wish to complain about any aspect of the handling of this request, then you should contact the undersigned in the first instance. Should you remain dissatisfied, then you may apply for an internal review by contacting the Director of Information Exploitation, 6th Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB.

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

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

From: Section 40

Sent: 09 November 2006 11:01

To: Section 40

Subject: PRESS LINES - OPERATION BLACKBIRD 19-10-2006-142124-003

Section 40

I understand that you want some press lines regarding Operation Blackbird in 1990 which is the subject of an FOI request from a member of the public (a UFO regular) and, subsequently, a journalist.

Operation Blackbird is an alleged Army operation to observe crop circles, carried out in the summer of 1990. There is video available showing men who look like soldiers skulking around bushes at night. Since the video is allegedly taken in the Wiltshire area, which is home to various military bases, it is entirely possible that individuals did see soldiers skulking in bushes.

The leap that was made to it being part of an operation to study crop circles is probably in line with the logic of UFO buffs who believe that everyone takes their hobby as seriously as they do.

The allegation that the Army was running this operation was investigated at the time and basically dismissed on the grounds that the Army has better things to do than waste the time of its men on looking for crop circles. That remains our position. I am not however, able to say either way whether there was a thorough investigation. Certainly any investigation now would flounder as we don't know where the "soldiers" came from, and therefore don't know who to ask.

I can therefore only suggest the lines below. If you need anything more, let me know, but I am afraid there is little to tell.

#### **Lines to take**

There is no record of the alleged Operation Blackbird taking place.

There is no evidence to suggest that these phenomena are caused by anything of military concern and the MOD does not therefore investigate reported sightings or carry out any research into them.

Section 40

DAS Sec 1

Section 40



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

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

**Section 40**

Stoke-on-Trent

**Section 40**

Our Reference  
D/DAS/18-10-2006-132041-004  
Date  
10 November 2006

Dear **Section 40**

Your Freedom of Information request of 10 September 2006 asked for details of when a number of branches within the MoD were established or closed and in my letter of 24 October 2006, I stated I would inform you when I located the information.

I am afraid that I am unable to provide you with exact dates, however, towards the end of 2004 (not 2003 as I had previously thought) as part of an internal MoD reorganisation, DAO was split up, with a number of its posts migrating over a period of time into CT&UK Ops.

Ops(GE), was a post within DAO that supplied military policy and direction to UKADGE, also went across to CT&UK Ops and is now entitled SO1 Airspace Integrity. Its role did not alter as a result of the transfer. UKADGE was renamed UK Air Surveillance and Control Systems in the late 1990s.

If this information does not address your requirements or you wish to complain about any aspect of the handling of this request, then you should contact the undersigned in the first instance. Should you remain dissatisfied, then you may apply for an internal review by contacting the Director of Information Exploitation, 6th Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB.

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

Finally, please accept my apologies for the length of time it is taking to respond to your request. Your patience over this matter has been appreciated

Yours sincerely,

**Section 40**





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

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

**Section 40**  
**Section 40**  
 Stoke-on-Trent  
**Section 40**

Our Reference  
 D/DAS/18-10-2006-132041-004  
 Date  
 24 October 2006

Dear **Section 40**

Your Freedom of Information request of 10 September 2006 raised a number of questions that I will attempt to answer.

Firstly, I can confirm that CT&UK Ops were not aware of Airprox 113/06 and hold no paperwork on the matter.

You asked for details of when Ops(GE)/UKADGE and DAO were integrated with CT&UK Ops and what their department titles are now. This is proving slightly more difficult to track down than I expected but I will let you have the information as soon as it becomes available. However, I believe, but cannot yet confirm, that the integrations took place during 2003.

I attach copies of the twelve UFO sightings that were passed to CT&UK Ops in the last five years, together with any supporting correspondence. I should make it clear that communication between DAS and CT&UK ops is frequently by telephone (or occasionally in person) and therefore sometimes no written record exists. You will note that names, addresses and telephone numbers have been redacted as they are not relevant to the information you requested.

If this information does not address your requirements or you wish to complain about any aspect of the handling of this request, then you should contact the undersigned in the first instance. Should you remain dissatisfied, then you may apply for an internal review by contacting the Director of Information Exploitation, 6th Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB.

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

Finally, please accept my apologies for the length of time it is taking to respond to your request. I will forward the outstanding information as soon as it becomes available. Your patience over this matter has been appreciated

*JRE 18-10-2006-132041-004  
 DATED 24 OCT FOR  
 COPIES OF REPORT. INFO  
 IS DUPLICATED.*

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

A large black rectangular redaction box covers the signature area, obscuring the name and any handwritten notes.

18/10/2006 - 132041 - 504

Section 40

From: Section 40  
Sent: 18 October 2006 12:47  
To: Section 40  
Subject: FW: [Fwd: FOIA Request - UFO reports]

Section 40

DAS-Secretariat

Section 40

DII: DAS-Sec e-mail: Section 40@mod.uk

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

From: Section 40  
Sent: 18 October 2006 12:08  
To: DAS-Sec  
Subject: FW: [Fwd: FOIA Request - UFO reports]

Section 40

Please see below as discussed.

Many thanks

Section 40

Info-AccessPol 3  
MOD Floor Section 40  
Main Building  
Whitehall  
London  
SW1A 2HB  
Section 40@mod.uk  
Tel: Mil: Section 40  
BT: Section 40

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

From: Section 40  
Sent: 16 October 2006 17:07  
To: Section 40  
Subject: FW: [Fwd: FOIA Request - UFO reports]

Dear Section 40

Please see the e-mail below from Section 40 I have checked on AIT and cannot locate this request, although there are a number from Section 40 Would you please respond to Section 40 and let me know if this request is being dealt with already.

Many thanks

Section 40

Section 40

Info-AccessPol 3  
MOD Floor Section 40  
Main Building  
Whitehall  
London  
SW1A 2HB  
Section 40@mod.uk  
Tel: Mil: Section 40  
BT: Section 40



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

From: Section 40 [redacted] mailto:Section 40 [redacted]@ntlworld.com]  
Sent: 16 October 2006 11:42  
To: info-XD  
Cc: DAS-UFO-Office  
Subject: [Fwd: FoIA Request - UFO reports]

Hello,

Please see the text of the emails inserted below.

I submitted the original request via email using address das-ufo-office@mod.uk on 10/9/06 (a Sunday), and requested confirmation of receipt via the same email address on 30th September, as I could not identify my request amongst the request log entries.

Allowing for the fact that the working week is Monday-Friday, I expected a response of some kind within the 20-day timescale published on the MoD web site, i.e. by 6th October or shortly thereafter, but I have not received any communication in connection with the request to date.

I gather that Section 40 [redacted] has now moved to a new post and that this may be the cause of any delay, but I would at least have expected a notification to this effect.

Regards,

Section 40 [redacted]

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

Subject: FoIA Request - UFO reports  
Date: Sat, 30 Sep 2006 09:42:33 +0100  
From: Section 40 [redacted]@ntlworld.com>  
To: DAS-UFO-Office <DAS-UFO-Office@mod.uk>

Hello,

Please can you confirm whether or not you have received the following request, originally sent via email on 10/9/06? I have checked the listings of requests and have not identified any likely requests.

Please also advise the FoIA case number.

Regards,

Section 40 [redacted]

Hello,

As a follow-up to request 05-06-2006-143408-013, please can you provide copies of the twelve reports contained in the response, and any associated documentation held by DAS and CT&UK ops.

Please can you also confirm whether or not CT&UK ops are aware of AIRPROX report 113/05, and if so, provide any documentation held by them in relation to that case. (The report has very close similarities to the report on 17/9/05 which was included in the response to my previous FoIA request).  
*NOT AWARE*

Please can you also confirm when Ops (GE)/UKADGE and DAO were integrated with CT&UK Ops, and what their department titles now are.

Regards,

Section 40 [redacted]

Stoke-on-Trent

Section 40 [redacted]

Section 40 [redacted]@ntlworld.com

Tel. Section 40 [redacted]

Mob. [redacted]

*← where are they.*

Section 40

From: Section 40

Sent: 18 October 2006 13:30

To: Section 40@ntlworld.com'

Subject: Internet-Authorised: FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST DATED 10 SEPTEMBER 2006

Dear Section 40

Please accept my apologies for not keeping you up to date on the status of your FOI request of 10 September 2006, in was remise of me.

Following Section 40 transfer to another branch I have been covering her work whilst her replacement is found. I can confirm that we have been researching your request of the 10 September and I hope to be in a position to answer it shortly.

Until the beginning of this week I have been unable to allocate an FOI number to your request due to access problems. These problems have now been addressed and the FOI number pertinent to your request is 18-10-2006-132048-004.

Section 40

DAS Sec 1

Section 40

MoD Main Building

Whitehall

London

SW1A 2HB

18/10/2006



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

Do subraigstia-  
erect.

Sent ~~to~~ 10/06.

Signed off -  
Hollak.

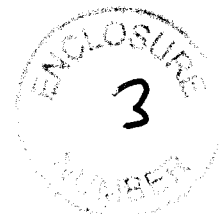




From: **Section 40**  
Directorate of Air Staff – Freedom of Information 1

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

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



**Section 40**

Northampton

**Section 40**

Your Reference:

Our Reference:

29-09-2006-095441-001

Date:

4 October 2006

Dear **Section 40**

I am writing in response to your request for a copy of the released Ministry of Defence report entitled "Unidentified Aerial Phenomena in the UK Air Defence Region" otherwise known as the Condign Report. Your request has been passed to this Department as we are the focal point within the Ministry of Defence for correspondence regarding UFOs (also known as UAP) and we are the Department responsible, in conjunction with the Defence Intelligence Staff, for the release of this report.

In order to make the report available to as many individuals as possible the MOD has scanned this document and placed it on the MOD website at:

<http://www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/FreedomOfInformation/PublicationScheme/SearchPublicationScheme/UnidentifiedAerialPhenomenauapInTheUkAirDefenceRegion.htm>. If you do not have access to the internet at home, most public libraries now have facilities for public use. The MOD makes no charge to view, download or print this information. As the document consists of some 465 pages it would not be an efficient use of public funds to produce and post paper copies to every individual who would like a personal copy and your request is therefore refused in accordance with Section 21 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 as the information is already reasonably accessible to you by other means.

I am sorry to send what will be a disappointing reply. If you are dissatisfied with our decision to refuse information or you wish to complain about any aspect of the handling of this request, then you should contact the undersigned in the first instance. Should you remain dissatisfied, then you may apply for an internal review by contacting the Director of Information Exploitation, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB. (e.mail: [InfoXD@mod.uk](mailto:InfoXD@mod.uk)).

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

Yours sincerely

Section 40

A large black rectangular redaction box covers the signature area, with the text 'Section 40' written in orange at the top left corner of the box.

Section 40

~~Expiry - 26/10/06.~~

29-09-2006

095441-001.

NORHAMPTON

Section 40

25-9-06

DEAR SIR  
AS A UFO RESEARCHER COULD YOU  
TELL ME IF (THE CONDIGN REPORT 460 PAGE)  
IS FREE OR YOU HAVE TO PAY FOR IT. IF  
FREE COULD YOU SEND ME A COPY TO  
ADDRESS ABOVE.

THANKS

Section 40



**AUTHORISATION FOR THE RELEASE OF INFORMATION**



Applicant: **Section 40** [redacted]



Case Number: 29-09-2006-123350-005

Expiry: 16 Oct 2006

The Applicant has made the following request for information:

Documents relating to UFO reports in Staffordshire in 1988. Copies of correspondence between MoD and Willam Cash MP relating to UFO incidents during 1988.

Case for release of information

There is no reason to withhold any information.

It has not been possible to retrieve all the relevant files from archive. A full response is therefore not possible.

Authorisation

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

Grade/Rank: ..... **B2** ..... Name: ..... **Section 40** [redacted] .....

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

Date: ..... **16/1/2007** .....

Ref - 29-09-2006-123350-005.

Expiry - 16/10/06.

Section 40

From: [redacted]@ntlworld.com]  
Sent: 18 September 2006 06:52  
To: DAS-UFO-Office  
Subject: FOIA request - UFO reports, Staffordshire 1988

Hello,

①

Please can you provide all correspondence between William Cash, MP for Stafford in relation to an UFO report from his constituency during 1988. I am led to understand that he communicated with the MoD on behalf of one of his constituents, [redacted] [redacted] this particular report concerned one or two triangular objects or formations.

②

Please can you also provide any documentation relating to UFO reports in Staffordshire during 1988.

Regards,

[redacted]  
[redacted]

Stoke-on-Trent

[redacted]

[redacted]@ntlworld.com

Tel. [redacted]  
Mob. [redacted]

*Can't find file - send intorn*

*Can't get file from Archive.*



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

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

Section 40

Stoke-on-Trent

Section 40

Our Reference

D/DAS/29-09-2006-123350-005

Date

16 January 2007

Dear Section 40

Your Freedom of Information request of 29 September 2006 asked for copies of correspondence with William Cash, MP for Stafford, regarding a UFO report in his constituency in 1988 and any other documentation relating to UFO reports for Staffordshire during 1988.

Firstly, please accept my apologies for the amount of time it has taken to respond to your request. I am afraid that we have had considerable difficulty in locating the relevant files and I am therefore only able to give you a partial answer.

I attach copies of correspondence between the MoD and William Cash MP, regarding an alleged UFO sighting that took place on 16 May 1988, which I assume will be the incident you are referring to. You will note that names and addresses of individuals other than Mr Cash and the then Under Secretary of State, Roger Freeman, have been withheld under Exemption s.40 (Personal Information) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

You will note that information has also been excluded from the two documents marked "Report Form" and the two signals marked as E72 and E71. This information was blacked out on the original file, but I suspect that it was names and addresses of individuals. The latter two documents are also rather difficult to read, despite my best efforts with the photocopier.

I have been unable to locate any further UFO reports for 1988. Should any come to light at a later date, I will let you know.

If this information does not address your requirements or you wish to complain about any aspect of the handling of this request, then you should contact the undersigned in the first instance. Should you remain dissatisfied, then you may apply for an internal review by contacting the Director of Information Exploitation, 6th Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB.

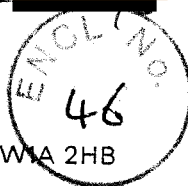
If you are still unhappy following an internal review, you may take your complaint to the Information Commissioner under the provisions of Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act. Please note that the Information Commissioner will not investigate your case until the MOD internal review process has been completed. Further details of the role and powers of the

Information Commissioner can be found on the Commissioner's website,  
<http://www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk>

Once again, please accept my apologies for the length of time it is taking to respond to your request.  
Your patience over this matter has been appreciated

Yours sincerely,

Section 40



MINISTRY OF DEFENCE  
 MAIN BUILDING WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2HB

Telephone 01-218..... (Direct Dialling)

01-218 9000 (Switchboard)

(1 of 2 PAGES)



PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE  
 FOR DEFENCE FOR THE ARMED FORCES

D/US of S(AF)/RNF 6123 and 6278

19th September 1988

Dear Gill,

Thank you for your letters of 15 June and 4 July on behalf of a number of your constituents, about unusual sightings witnessed in the Stafford area during the evening of 16 May 1988.

As you may know, the Ministry of Defence receives and co-ordinates information about Unidentified Flying Objects (UFOs), usually in the form of brief reports of the sightings which have been passed onto us by those individuals who witnessed them. Our sole concern is then to establish whether or not the sightings present a threat to the security and defence of the United Kingdom. Unless we judge that they do, and this is not normally the case, we do not usually attempt any further investigation.

As far as the 16 May sightings are concerned, I can confirm that we received a number of reports from members of the public, which appear to correspond roughly with the details given by your constituents and I enclose copies of these, which your constituents may find of interest. In order to maintain the privacy of the report originators, you will see that some details have been obscured.

Although as I have said above, we do not normally find it necessary to investigate specific sightings, and could not justify the use of scarce MOD resources to this end, I am advised by my staff that the reported phenomenon is quite likely to be connected with civil air traffic going into Birmingham Airport, which was exceptionally busy at the time in question. The differing times of the sightings could thus correspond to aircraft following a holding

William Cash Esq MP



pattern around the airport, and the descriptions could relate to a modern jet aircraft. Our experience is certainly that most sightings can be adequately explained in term of natural occurrences such as aircraft observed at unusual angles, satellite debris, meteorological balloons to mention just a few.

I hope you and your constituents will find this helpful.

*I apologise for the delay in replying but hope this letter is helpful.*

*Yours truly*

Section 40

Roger Freeman

Encl:  
UFO Reports

DRAFT

D/US of S(AF)/RNF 6123 and 6278

September 1988

Thank you for your letter of 15 June and 4 July on behalf of a number of your constituents, about unusual sightings witnessed in the Stafford area during the evening of 16 May 1988.

As you may know, the Ministry of Defence receives and co-ordinates information about Unidentified Flying Objects (UFOs), usually in the form of brief reports of the sightings which have been passed onto us by those individuals who witnessed them. Our sole concern is then to establish whether or not the sightings present a threat to the security and defence of the United Kingdom. Unless we judge that they do, and this is not normally the case, we do not usually attempt any further investigation.

As far as the 16 May sightings are concerned, I can confirm that we received a number of reports from members of the public, which appear to correspond roughly with the details given by your constituents and I enclose copies of these, which your constituents may find of interest. In order to maintain the privacy of the report originators, you will see that some details have been obscured.

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with civil air traffic going into Birmingham Airport, which was exceptionally busy at the time in question. The differing times of the sightings could thus correspond to aircraft following a holding pattern around the airport, and the descriptions could relate to a modern jet aircraft. Our experience is certainly that most sightings can be adequately explained in term of natural occurrences such as aircraft observed at unusual angles, satellite debris, meteorological balloons to mention just a few.

I hope you and your constituents will find this helpful.

Roger Freeman

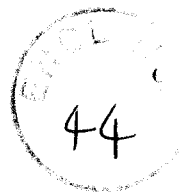
William Cash Esq MP

Encl:

UFO Reports

REDACTION ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT

12/4



M2

file copy

(1 OF 7 PAGES)

APS/US of S(AF)

I attach at E2 a self explanatory draft response to William Cash's letter of 15 June 1988. I also enclose copies of the sighting reports we received that relate to the details given by Mr Cash's constituents, which US of S(AF) may wish to send with his reply. In line with our usual policy of maintaining the privacy of the report originators, identifying details have been obscured.

12 September 1988

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Sec(AS)2

Section 40

DRAFT

D/US of S(AF)/RNF 6123 and 6278

September 1988

Thank you for your letter of 15 June on behalf of a number of your constituents, concerning unusual sightings witnessed in the Stafford area during the evening of 16 May 1988.

As you may know, the Ministry of Defence receives and coordinates information about Unidentified Flying Objects (UFOs), usually in the form of brief reports of the sightings which have been passed onto us by those individuals who witnessed them. Our sole concern is then to establish whether or not the sightings present a threat to the security and defence of the United Kingdom. Unless we judge that they do, and this is not normally the case, we do not usually attempt any further investigation.

As far as the 16 May sightings are concerned, I can confirm that we received a number of reports from members of the public, which appear to correspond roughly with the details given by your constituents and I enclose copies of these, which your constituents may find of interest. In order to maintain the privacy of the report originators, you will see that some details have been obscured.

Although as I have said above, we do not normally find it necessary to investigate specific sightings, and could not justify the use of scarce MOD resources to this end, I am advised by my staff that the reported phenomenon is quite likely to be connected

with civil air traffic going into Birmingham Airport, which was exceptionally busy at the time in question. The differing times of the sightings could thus correspond to aircraft following a holding pattern around the airport, and the descriptions could relate to a modern jet aircraft. Our experience is certainly that most sightings can be adequately explained in term of natural occurrences such as aircraft observed at unusual angles, satellite debris, meteorological balloons to mention just a few.

I hope you and your constituents will find this helpful.

Roger Freeman

William Cash MP

Encl:

UFO Reports

12/2

UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECT

- A. 16/05/88 2150 10 MIN
- B. TRIANGULAR IN SHAPE. TWO OBJECTS IN FORMATION, WHITE LIGHT AT FRONT OF EACH ONE. THE TWO OTHER CORNERS OF THE OBJECTS WERE REDDISH ORANGE IN COLOUR.
- C. OUTDOORS. [REDACTED] CANNOCK STATIONARY.
- D. NAKED EYE.
- E. IN THE DIRECTION OF PENKRIDGE FROM POSITION OF THE OBSERVER.
- F. 30°
- G. UNCERTAIN.
- H. THE TWO OBJECTS MOVED IN FORMATION KEEPING SAME DISTANCE APART HEADING NORTH TOWARDS CANNOCK CHASE.
- J. CLEAR, FINE AND DRY.
- K. HOUSING ESTATE.
- L. CANNOCK CHASE POLICE.
- M. [REDACTED]
- N. NONE.
- O. [REDACTED]
- P. 16/05/88 2325 UTC.
- Q.

Copy sent to MAIS ..... 17.00.25Z ..... date/time

from ATC Civil Watch Supervisor.

REPORT FORM

12/2

UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECT

- A. 16/05/88 2150 10 MIN
- B. TRIANGULAR IN SHAPE. TWO OBJECTS IN FORMATION, WHITE LIGHT AT FRONT OF EACH ONE. THE TWO OTHER CORNERS OF THE OBJECTS WERE REDDISH ORANGE IN COLOUR.
- C. OUTDOORS. [REDACTED] CANNOCK STATIONARY.
- D. NAKED EYE.
- E. IN THE DIRECTION OF PENKRIDGE FROM POSITION OF THE OBSERVER.
- F. 30°
- G. UNCERTAIN.
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- J. CLEAR, FINE AND DRY.
- K. HOUSING ESTATE.
  
- L. CANNOCK CHASE POLICE.
- M. [REDACTED]
  
- N. NONE.
  
- O. [REDACTED]
  
- P. 16/05/88 2325 UTC.
- Q.

Copy sent to HAIS ..... 17 00 25 Z ..... date/time  
 from ATC Civil Watch Supervisor.



(E77)

Section 40

17/5

U N C L A S S I F I E D

CAB022 170650 13806603

FOR CAB

ROUTINE 170612Z MAY 88

FROM RAF WEST DRAYTON  
TO MODUR AIR

U N C L A S S I F I E D

SIC 26F

SUBJECT: AERIAL PHONONEMA

- A. 162130A MAY 88. 15 MINS
- B. ONE. INDETERMINABLE. UMBRELLA SHADED. YELLOW AND GREEN. WHITE SKIRT. NIL. NIL
- C. BACK GARDEN OF HOUSE. [REDACTED]
- D. NAKED EYE AND BINOCULARS
- E. NORTH WEST FROM LUDLOW
- F. 30 TO 40 DEGREES
- G. UNKNOWN
- H. CHANGING
- J. SKY CLEAR
- K. HOUSES AND TREES
- L. SANDO.
- M. [REDACTED]

PAGE 2 RSDAID 002 UNCLAS

N. NIL

O. [REDACTED]

P. 162140A MAY 88

BT

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE  
Sec 1/2  
17 MAY 1988  
FILE 12/2



REDACTION ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT



17/5

UNCLASIFIED

CAB021 17/06/88 130000Z

FOR CAS

ROUTINE 170610Z MAY 88

FROM RAF WEST DRAGON  
TO MODUK AIR

UNCLASIFIED  
SIC Z6F

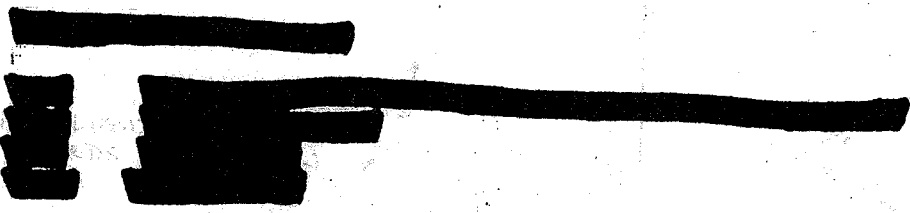
SUBJECT: AERIAL PHENOMENA

- A. 162140Z MAY 88 FOR 2/11/88
- B. TWO (AN SHARED) OBJECTS WITH VERT BRIGHT GREEN REZ AND AMBER
- C. OUTDOORS STATIONARY
- D. NAKED EYE
- E. FROM BROMSGROVE TO KIDDERMINSTER
- F. 48 DEGREES
- G. NONE GIVEN
- H. STEADY
- I. SKY CLEAR
- J. HOUSES TREES AND LAMPPOSTS
- K. WEST MERCIA POLICE

BROMSGROVE



PAGE 2 REDALL 001 UNCLAS  
N. NIL  
O. [REDACTED]  
P. 162210Z MAY 88  
BT



FILE 12/2

WILLIAM CASH, M.P.

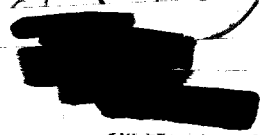


HOUSE OF COMMONS  
LONDON SW1A 0AA

ENCL No. 1

See

ENCL No. 43



REDACTION ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT 4 July 1988

*Dear Roger*

I enclose some eye witness reports on the question of the unidentified flying objects in the vicinity of Stafford which you may wish to consider when replying to my letter to you on this matter.

*Yours truly,*

Section 40

Roger Freeman, Esq., MP  
Under Secretary of State for  
the Armed Forces  
Ministry of Defence  
Main Building  
Whitehall  
London SW1A 2HB

ACKN  
5/7/88

MR B. CASH. MP.  
CASTLE STREET,  
STAFFORD.

REDACTION ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT



ENCL No.  
42

Dear Sir,

I am writing in reply to the plea in the Newsletter regarding the object seen in the sky on approximately 16 May this year. I too saw this object for a good four minutes from start to finish.

The My house is situated at the front of Wildwood on the Radford side with an unrestricted view over Moss Pitt, Highfields and across to the castle. Sitting by my lounge window, I observed two bright lights at approximately 9.40pm approaching from the Acton Trussell / Penkridge direction. At first my thoughts were of a low flying plane, (very low) with lights on the wings coming towards my direction. The lights were at first horizontal to each other but after about one minute they very steadily moved in an arc from horizontal to vertical and then climbed up vertically. (see sketch)

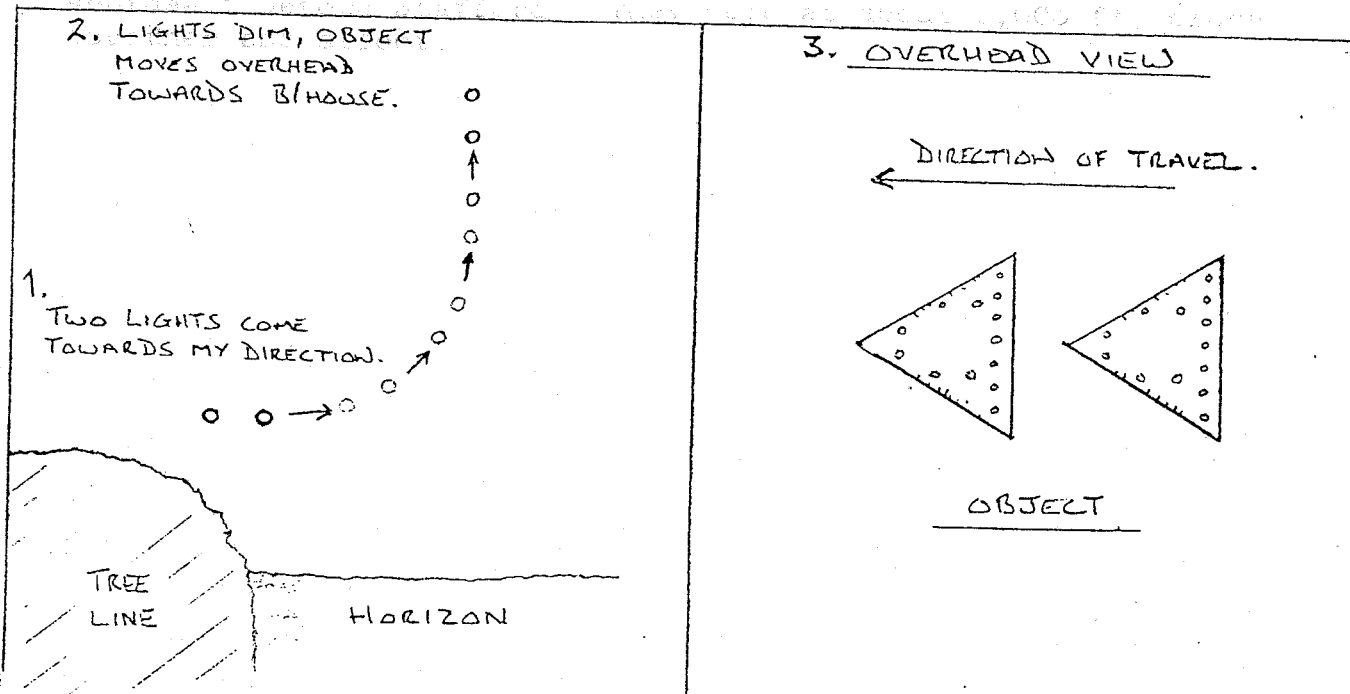
On seeing this I was intrigued as to what manoeuvre this "plane?" was taking and wanted to get a better view. I walked out on to the lawn and after a further minute or so the two bright lights started to dim, I could see the object was to come overhead. By now I could make out numerous coloured lights but no shape. As it flew overhead I started to make out two perfect triangles, but in line not one over the other as stated in the Newsletter. However, the lights were as stated but still none flashing as conventional lights do on aircraft. There was sound but very very faint. The sound was of a very high aircraft, 30 - 40 thousand feet but the object was nowhere near this altitude, if it was it would have been very big.

It moved overhead in the direction of Baswich House and out of view. I cannot beggin to explain what it was but I know of no plane that can manoeuvre in this manner at such a slow speed. The triangles were equal in size and the distance apart did not fluctuate at all. If it had not been in the air I would have said that it could not fly at all.

A real eye opener, lets hope for more! I hope this has been of some use to you,

Regards,

[Redacted signature]  
25.6.88  
[Redacted address]



Mrs. [REDACTED] Stafford, Section 40

She was mentioned in one of the Newsletter articles. She was standing in a front garden with 5 other people and the objects were seen in a northerly direction over the town. They were below the height that a microlight would fly. There was no noise. They moved slowly towards them and then banked round. She said a normal plane would not have banked in the same way. She phoned Shawbury RAF Station who told her that there were no movements that they knew of.

Mrs. [REDACTED] Section 40 [REDACTED] Hixon, Stafford  
[REDACTED] Not a constituent.

9.45 pm was in the garden and saw two lights in the shape of a cross. There was no noise and they came over where she lives in went off in the direction of Uttoxeter. She ran into the house to phone her sister and when she came out again they had gone.

Unidentified objects and lights in the vicinity of Stafford  
16th May 2007 9.45 pm

Mrs. [REDACTED] Bradley, Stafford.

[REDACTED] knows her and says she is perfectly sane. She was out walking with her son in law who is a policeman at 9.30. It looked like 2 headlights coming towards them, no sound. When it came overhead there was a mass of lights underneath. Moved very slowly and appeared to go in an eastward direction.

Mr. & Mrs. [REDACTED], Stafford Section 40

They were sitting in their lounge approx 10pm. Suddenly saw two delta shaped objects coming from the south, which then turned southeast before Stafford. They were at about 5,000 ft, close together and silent.

WILLIAM CASH, M.P.



ENCL NO. 41  
ENCL 1  
(See CAS)

HOUSE OF COMMONS  
LONDON SW1A 0AA

15 June 1988

I attach at Pt 2 a self explanatory draft response to a recent inquiry letter of 10 June 1988. I also enclose copies of the original reports we received that relate to the details given by Mr Caswell's constituents, which Mr Caswell may wish to send to you. In line with our usual policy of maintaining the privacy of our report originators, identifying data have been obscured.

*Dear Roger*

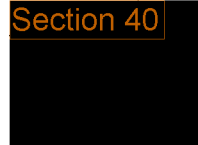
I have been requested to write to you by constituents of mine regarding reports in my constituency of sightings of unidentified objects and lights in the vicinity of Stafford on 16th May at 9.45 pm.

I have to confess to being highly sceptical about UFOs but apparently a number of people who saw these things were very emphatic and, therefore, I feel it is right to raise this matter with you.

I look forward to hearing from you.

*Yours truly,*

Section 40



Roger Freeman, Esq., MP  
Under Secretary of State for  
the Armed Forces  
Ministry of Defence  
Main Building  
Whitehall  
London SW1A 2HB

*ad/d  
20/6/88*

Section 40

Section 40

Some haven't had time to study.

Section 40

1/7

E40/1

FILE COPY  
12/4

UFO RE FROM BILL CASH ME

I attach a draft reply for USQ S (AF). We have several reports on file which correspond (approximately) to the details given by Cash. I intend to send copies with the reply.

I have tried to find a definitive answer for the sightings but can't. The three reports do not correlate easily with each other on either description or direction of flight. It is likely therefore that they could be coincidental sightings of separate a/c.

My reply suggests that the sightings could possibly be a/c going in Birmingham Airport - who have confirmed that they were particularly busy at the time. (20 movements during period 2100 - 2200 hours.) They also confirmed that a/c come in from all directions and "stack" prior to entry into the airport. I have also spoken to S155 who agree that an a/c using B'ham airport is a possibility. Also spoke to the Police Flying Unit based at B'ham airport - but they said that they were not flying at the time.

Section 40

20/6

OIC pd



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