

**UNCLASSIFIED**  
SECRET UK EYES ONLY

accordingly, and discuss the report only with those who have a need to know.

S.40

XXXXXXXXXXXX  
XXXXXX  
DIST  
XXXXXXXXXXXX

Enclosure:

- DCDI, IFS(RAF), HQ MATO, - Executive Summary
- UKADGE - Executive Summary and Volume 3
- DGR&T, ADI/55, ADI/51 - Executive Summary and Volumes 1,2 and 3

<sup>2</sup>  
**UNCLASSIFIED**  
SECRET UK EYES ONLY

Section 40

From: Section 40  
Sent: 13 June 2006 13:02  
To: Section 40  
Subject: RE: FOIA request



Section 40

It's a pity Dr Clarke feels that he is unable to wait until the press event at the end of June!

Looking at the pick-up details from the last two collections - March and May 06 - I see no UFO files.

Section 40

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

From: Section 40  
Sent: 13 June 2006 10:29  
To: Section 40  
Subject: FW: FOIA request

Section 40

Please see below the latest email from Dr Clarke.

Section 40 How are you doing with Dr Clarke's request and the papers outstanding from his earlier request?. I am happy to continue to correspond with him and send the final reply to his request unless you would rather answer this request yourself. Please let me know which it is to be.

Section 40 would appreciate your advice regarding the files transferred to TNA as mentioned by Dr Clarke.

Regards

Section 40

DAS-FOI  
5-H-13

Section 40

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

From: david clarke [mailto:Section 40]  
Sent: 13 June 2006 10:11  
To: Section 40  
Subject: Re: FOIA request

13 June 2006

Dear Section 40

Thanks for your email dated 24 May and the update on my most recent letter and FOI request.

I note that the fresh request has been passed to DIS for action. Does this mean that DIS will reply/respond to me directly, or will you continue to deal with correspondence?

I look forward to an update on the outstanding DIS papers from my earlier FOI request.

Finally, I wondered if you have any information on any imminent releases of UFO-related files at TNA. You will be aware that the last substantial release was back in Jan 2005.

I spoke to the TNA Press Office last week and was told that a number of MoD files in the DEFE and AIR categories are due to be opened on 29 June. Do you know if any of

these are likely to include UFO related records?

Ys,

David Clarke

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

From: Section 40 [redacted]@mod.uk>  
To: "david clarke" <Section 40 [redacted]>  
Sent: Wednesday, May 24, 2006 4:02 PM  
Subject: FOIA request

Dear Dr Clarke

Thank you for your message and the attachment. I have also received the copy of your letter which you put in the post.

A copy of your letter has been sent to the Director General of Information, Access section who deal with MOD Internal reviews and they will contact you separately regarding the first part of your letter.

With regard to your new FOI request, I have recorded this and as you have requested information held by DIS rather than DAS, I have passed it to DIS for action. For your information this request has been allocated the FOI case number of 23-05-2006-100609-001.

You also mentioned some documents from previous FOI requests which you have still not received. I was informed that DIS were examining these in November 2005 and I am afraid they seemed to have got forgotten while we were working on many requests, including the UAP report. I apologise for this. I have asked DIS to look at these papers again and advise me on their release. I will write to you again as soon as I have some news.

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I hope this is helpful.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40 [redacted]

Directorate of Air Staff - Freedom of Information

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

From: david clarke [mailto:Section 40 [redacted]]  
Sent: 22 May 2006 17:32  
To: Section 40 [redacted]  
Subject: FOIA request

Importance: High

2 May 2006

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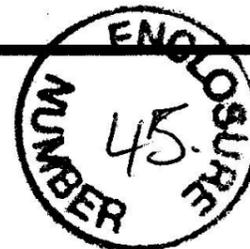
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David Clarke



**Section 40**

**From:** **Section 40**  
**Sent:** 24 May 2006 16:02  
**To:** 'david clarke'  
**Subject:** Internet-authorized: FOIA request



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Yours sincerely,

David Clarke



Dr David Clarke

Section 40

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Directorate of Air Staff - FOI  
Ministry of Defence  
5<sup>th</sup> Floor, Zone H  
Main Building  
Whitehall  
London SW1A 2HB

22 May 2006

FOI Request – UAP Report -26-09-2005-091240-001

Dear Section 40

Thank you for your letter of 28 April and for the copy of the DI55 report “Unidentified Aerial Phenomena in the UK Air Defence Region.”

I do appreciate the amount of scrutiny this document has received and indeed I am pleased with the final result.

I have now had the opportunity to scrutinise the document carefully, especially in relation to information removed under the various qualified exemptions to the FOIA. I have noted the reasoning you have employed using the public interest test, but feel there are grounds to test this decision under the FOI legislation, particularly with regards to Section 27.

As a result, I wish to request an internal review of the decision to redact information under a) Sections 26 and b) Section 27. Please take these specific points into account when carrying out this review:

\*The distribution list and number of copies [Executive Summary] has been redacted and marked “not relevant.” However, in the DIS letter dated 4 December 2000 released under a previous FOI in 2005 the distribution list has not been removed. This anomaly suggests the reviewer has either been over-zealous or was unaware the distribution list had already been released. In my opinion the distribution list is hardly “not relevant” as it shows who received the report and who didn’t, which is most certainly in the public interest.

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which has been publicly acknowledged by the US authorities since 1966. For this reason I fail to understand how it can be argued this information could prejudice relations with the USA. This example suggests to me that other material redacted under Section 27 elsewhere in the document is also likely to be in the public domain.

Further to my original FOI request of 1 September 2005 could I also draw your attention to Request No 3 which asked for "a copy of DI55/108/15/22 January 1997" and two other DI55 documents dated 1993 and 1996 relating to the UAP study. In your letter of 23 November 2005 you say that "DIS staff have located the first two documents and are currently considering release. They have been unable to locate a copy of the third document on their files." Could you provide an update a) on progress with regards the release of these outstanding documents and b) progress on my request for you to reconsider your decision to delete paragraph 3 from DIST's letter of 4 December 2000 (referred to in your letter 23 November 2005, paragraph 4).

In addition, I wish to make a further FOI request, directed at the Defence Intelligence Staff (DIS), as follows:

23-05-2006-100609-001 Expiry: 21 June 2006.

1. Please provide me with copies of correspondence arising from DIST's request to a number of MoD branches (covering letter of UAP report, dated 4 December 2000) for "comments you may wish to make on the [UAP] report...please direct such comments to AD/DI55." This request was directed at six branches who received copies of sections of the report and/or the summary, namely DGR&T, DCDI, IFS(RAF), DI51, UKADGE and HQ MATO. It would appear that correspondence received may be filed with DIS, possibly in DI/DI55/108/15 Pt 6-7 (UFO Policy 2000-present).

2. Further to request (1) could you supply copies of any correspondence arising from the "subsidiary recommendations" made on pg 11 of the UAP Report Executive Summary (February 2000) namely that: "The flight safety aspects of the findings should be made available to the appropriate RAF Air Defence and other military and civil authorities which operate aircraft, particularly those operating fast and at low altitude." Could you confirm these findings were passed to the DAO and CAA and if so what specific recommendations have been made to aircrew as a result.

3. Could you supply a list of files, records or any other material relating to the subject of Unidentified Aerial Phenomena (UAP) held by the DIS. Please include the titles and dates covered and current location of files. *This request relates only to files or records containing the acronym UAP in their title as opposed to UFO.*

I am aware that some of the documents covered in request (1) may be classified and will need to be downgraded before they can be released to me. I would be grateful therefore if you could provide me with an estimate of the likely timescale involved in this process. I look forward to hearing from you,

Yours sincerely,

Attached to my letter of 23 August 2005  
PE-Enc 83-

Air Defence  
Ground Env.



**Dr David Clarke**

Section 40

Section 40

**Directorate of Air Staff - FOI  
Ministry of Defence  
5<sup>th</sup> Floor, Zone H  
Main Building  
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**Unwin, Linda Mrs**

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MoDFOIMay06.doc  
(38 KB)

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In addition, I wish to make a further FOI request, directed at the Defence Intelligence Staff (DIS), as follows:

1. Please provide me with copies of correspondence arising from DIST's request to a number of MoD branches (covering letter of UAP report, dated 4 December 2000) for "comments you may wish to make on the [UAP] report...please direct such comments to AD/DI55." This request was directed at six branches who received copies of sections of the report and/or the summary, namely DGR&T, DCDI, IFS(RAF), DI51, UKADGE and HQ MATO. It would appear that correspondence received may be filed with DIS, possibly in DI/DI55/108/15 Pt 6-7 (UFO Policy 2000-present).
2. Further to request (1) could you supply copies of any correspondence arising from the "subsidiary recommendations" made on pg 11 of the UAP Report Executive Summary (February 2000) namely that: "The flight safety aspects of the findings should be made available to the appropriate RAF Air Defence and other military and civil authorities which operate aircraft, particularly those operating fast and at low altitude." Could you confirm these findings were passed to the DAO and CAA and if so what specific recommendations have been made to aircrew as a result.
3. Could you supply a list of files, records or any other material relating to the subject of Unidentified Aerial Phenomena (UAP) held by the DIS. Please include the titles and dates covered and current location of files. *This request relates only to files or records containing the acronym UAP in their title as opposed to UFO.*

I am aware that some of the documents covered in request (1) may be classified and will need to be downgraded before they can be released to me. I would be grateful therefore if you could provide me with an estimate of the likely timescale involved in this process. I look forward to hearing from you,

Yours sincerely,



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

Dr David Clarke

**Section 40**

Our Reference

26-09-2005-091240-001

Date

28 April 2006

Dear Dr Clarke

Please find enclosed a copy of the report entitled *Unidentified Aerial Phenomena in the UK Air Defence Region* written in December 2000 as you requested on 1 September 2005, in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000. I apologise for the length of time this request has taken, but the meticulous scrutiny this document has received has enabled us to release the vast majority of the report and I hope you will be pleased with the final result.

The report consists of 465 pages divided into four parts, three Volumes and an Executive Summary. While we have endeavoured to release as much information as possible, it has been necessary to remove some information and where this is the case the appropriate Section of the Freedom of Information Act has been indicated beside the redaction. The Sections and the reasons for their use are given below. Sections 26, and 27 are qualified exemptions and in accordance with the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act we have looked at the balance of public interest for and against disclosure for each Section. Details of the public interest test and our conclusions are also detailed below.

**Section 26 (Defence)** – This information consists of details of the operation and performance of UK Air Defence radar. In favour of disclosing this information is the public interest in promoting understanding of the RAF's ability to detect and effectively respond to potential threats in UK airspace. It is important to recognise public anxiety with regard to possible attacks on the UK, particularly from acts of terrorism and the need to reassure the public that everything possible is being done to protect them. However, this public interest has already been served to a considerable extent by the publication of the Sixth Report of the House of Commons Defence Committee in 2002. In the report the Committee outline the measures the Government takes to protect the public from terrorist activity including threats from the air.

Against the limited public interest in disclosure, is a countervailing public interest which favours withholding the information in order to preserve the effectiveness of the UK's air defences. The release of this information could be of significant value to the planning of an attack on the UK, including from terrorism. There is therefore a strong public interest in preserving the RAF's ability to defend the British mainland through the effectiveness of its air defences. and we therefore conclude that the balance of the public interest is firmly in favour of withholding the information in accordance with Section 26(1)(a) & (b).

**Section 27 (International Relations)** – This information consists of information about or supplied by another nation. In favour of disclosing this information is the public interest in understanding the exchange of information between the UK and other nations.

Against the public interest is the need to maintain the UK's ability to effectively share and receive information from our allies, concerning issues of mutual benefit, with a degree of confidentiality. The release of this information is, likely to prejudice the future exchange of such information and may also damage the UK's relationship with that nation. We therefore conclude that the balance of public interest is in favour of withholding this information in accordance with Section 27(1)(a) & (3).

**Section 40 (Personal Information)** – This information contains personal data about the author of the report and members of the public who have reported UFO sightings. This information is exempt under Section 40 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and is covered by the Data Protection Act 1998. Section 40 is an absolute exemption and therefore requires no public interest test.

You will also notice that some minor details have been removed because they are not relevant to your request. These consists of office addresses, telephone numbers and unique job titles. This information is not relevant to the contents of the report and we believe its removal does not prejudice the understanding of the report. The titles of significant branches such as DI55 and Sec(AS)2a have not been removed.

I hope you will find this useful. If you are dissatisfied with our decision to refuse this 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, 6th 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 should also inform you that the information supplied to you continues to be protected by the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988. You are free to use it for your own purposes, including any non-commercial research you are doing and for the purposes of news reporting. Any other reuse, for example commercial publication, would require the permission of the copyright holder. Most documents supplied by the Ministry of Defence will have been produced by government officials and will be Crown Copyright. You can find details on the arrangements for re-using Crown Copyright from the Office of Public Sector Information at: <http://www.opsi.gov.uk/click-use/index.htm>. Information you receive which is not subject to Crown Copyright continues to be protected by the copyright of the person, or organisations, from which the information originated. You must ensure that you gain their permission before reproducing any third party (non Crown Copyright) information. If you intend to use this information for commercial publication or are unsure whether permission is required, please write to the following address for advice:

Section 40

Intellectual Property Rights Group – Policy  
MOD Abbey Wood  
Stoke Gifford  
Bristol  
BS34 8JH

We appreciate that this document is likely to be of interest to a wider public audience and it is our intention to place an electronic version in the Freedom of Information Publication Scheme on the MOD website ([www.mod.uk](http://www.mod.uk)). We have taken into account your request to have time to read and digest the report before it is made available in the Publication Scheme and have agreed to allow you and Section 40 a short period of exclusive sight of the report. The report will be available for viewing in the Publication Scheme from Monday 15<sup>th</sup> May 2006.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40



D/DAS/63/3/11

26 April 2006

**PS/US of S**

Copy to : **DAS-XO**  
**DI BCR CG AD**  
**DCT&UKOps – SOI Airspace Integrity**  
**DGMC-D News- Armed Forces 4**  
**Info-AccessOpsAD**

**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT – RELEASE OF DIS REPORT ON UNIDENTIFIED AERIAL PHENOMENA (UAP) IN THE UK AIR DEFENCE REGION**

**ISSUE**

1. The release of a DIS-commissioned study into Unidentified Aerial Phenomena in the UK Air Defence Region in response to a request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

**RECOMMENDATION**

2. Minister to note the release of a document that is likely to attract media and public attention.

**TIMING**

3. Urgent. The report is to be released into the public domain on 28 April 2006 and will be revealed in the MOD Freedom of Information Publication Scheme on 15<sup>th</sup> May 2006.

**BACKGROUND**

4. Since the introduction of the FOIA on 1 January 2005, the Directorate of Air Staff, as the lead branch, has received a large number of requests for information on reported 'UFO' sightings in UK air space. Several documents have been released in response to these requests, one of which referred to a DIS study entitled 'Unidentified Aerial Phenomena in the UK Air Defence Region'. DAS have now received requests from two members of the public (one of which is an academic researcher) requesting copies of this study report.

5. The study was commissioned by DIST to ascertain whether there was any evidence of a threat to UK air space from Unidentified Aerial Phenomena. DI55 regularly received copies of UAP sighting reports and had formed the view that none of them presented any threat to UK airspace. Neither had any of the reports indicated any potential new technologies which may have been of defence interest. DI55 therefore were of the view that they had no need to receive these reports, but in order to establish whether UFO reports had any value to Defence Intelligence and whether there was a requirement for Defence Intelligence Staff to see them in the future, they decided to

commission a study into the reports that had been received. The study was carried out during the period December 1996 to March 2000 by a contractor, **Section 40** who was employed in DIST and the report was completed in December 2000. Although this was only one of several tasks in which the contractor was engaged, he produced a very comprehensive report (three volumes and an Executive Summary). The conclusion was that there was no evidence of threats to UK airspace and no new technologies which may have been of defence interest. Most aerial phenomena could be easily explained. It was then decided that DI55 would cease to receive UAP sighting reports. Since December 2000, these reports have not been forwarded to DIS.

6. It is understood that this is the most detailed study that has been undertaken by the Ministry of Defence into unidentified aerial phenomena in UK air space. As it is a unique report and in view of the continuing high profile of the 'UFO' phenomenon, it is expected that the release of the report into the public domain will create media and public interest.

7. The contractor wrote the first two volumes of the report with a view to their release, but the third volume was classified SECRET UK Eyes Only because it contained sensitive information concerning the UK Air Defence Region. The report has been scrutinised by the subject matter experts in DIST, DI BCR, CT&UK Ops and DAS and it is considered that the report can be downgraded to UNCLASSIFIED. However, several sections of the report have been withheld in accordance with Sections of the FOIA. These are as follows;

S.26 - Defence – Information which may be likely to compromise the defence of the British Isles.

S.27 - International Relations – Information which would prejudice relations with other States.

S.40 – Personal Information – Personal data were living individuals can be identified from the information. Also covered by the Data Protection Act 1998.

8. The information withheld relates to UK air defence radar performance, UAP studies in other countries, potential military use of UAPs and personal details of the report's author and contributors and members of the public who have submitted 'sighting' reports. It should also be noted that the report contains reference to unexplained RAF aircraft accidents and although some information has been withheld, it has been determined that under the FOIA, there are no justifiable grounds to withhold the information in total. This section is also likely to attract media and public interest.

#### **PRESENTATIONAL ISSUES**

9. In anticipation of the expected reaction of the release of the report, suitable press lines have been prepared and these are attached for attention of the MOD Press Office.

10. The report is to be released to the requesters in hard copy but, in view of the anticipated level of interest and number of new requests for copies, the

report has been scanned and will be posted on the MOD Freedom of Information website on the 15<sup>th</sup> May, where it can be viewed and downloaded by the general public.

Section 40

DAS-FOI

Section 40

Authorised by:

Section 40

DAS-Sec AD

5-H-15

Section 40

**Release of Unidentified Aerial Phenomena in the UK Air Defence Region Report - Possible Press / Public Questions**

**What is the MOD's role in relation to reported UFO (UAP) sightings?**

The MOD examines any UFO sighting reports it receives solely to establish whether there is any evidence to suggest that UK airspace has been compromised by hostile or unauthorised air activity. Unless there is such evidence the MOD does not attempt to positively identify what was seen.

**What is the Defence Intelligence Staff's role in relation to UFOs (UAP).**

Until December 2000, the DIS examined UFO sighting reports received by MOD to see if they contained any information of value in DIS's task of analysing the performance and threat of foreign weapons systems, nuclear, chemical and biological warfare programmes and technologies and emerging technologies.

**If the MOD has no particular interest in UFOs (UAP), why did the DIS undertake such an extensive study? Was it to investigate if aliens were visiting us?**

The study was not conducted to establish the possibility of extraterrestrial visitors. Prior to 2000 UFO reports were copied to the DIS in case they were useful to the work of the DIS. During a policy review in 2000, the DIS wished to establish once and for all the potential value, if any, of UFO (UAP) sighting reports to Defence Intelligence.

**When was the study done and why was it kept secret?**

The study was conducted between December 1996 and March 2000. The report contains sensitive information concerning the UK Air Defence Region and was therefore classified Secret and given a limited distribution. Until the introduction of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, all government records were closed from public viewing for a period of 30 years after the last action was taken in accordance with the Public Records Act 1958 and 1967.

**What is the aim of this study?**

To ascertain whether there is any evidence of a threat to the UK and to identify any potential military technologies of interest.

**How much did it cost the taxpayer?**

It is not possible to provide details of the cost of producing the report. The author was initially employed as a contractor and commenced work on the report in December 1996. The author was employed on a part-time basis and divided his time between working for the DIS and working on his company's business. The author left his company on early retirement in **Section 40** following which he was employed as a consultant for the DIS until completion of the report in March 2000. During the period December 1996 to March 2000,

producing the report was only one of several tasks in which the author was engaged, it is, therefore, not possible to determine how much of his time was divided between producing the report and his other tasks.

**Why was the MOD secretly studying UFOs when you have said on many occasions you are not interested in the subject / is not taken seriously, etc.**

As we have advised on many occasions, the MOD has no role or expertise regarding the existence or otherwise of extraterrestrial life-forms and does not study such alleged phenomena. This study was conducted only to establish whether UFO reports had any value to Defence Intelligence and whether there was a requirement for the Defence Intelligence Staff to see them in the future. Given the conclusion it was decided that there was no such requirement and since December 2000, UFO reports have not been forwarded to the DIS.

**What are the conclusions of the Study / does it say we are being visited by ET and if not how can you be sure?**

Based on all the available evidence remaining in the Department (reported over a 30 year period) the MOD concluded that the UFO sighting reports did not have any significant Defence Intelligence value. The study was not conducted for the purpose of establishing the existence of extraterrestrial life-forms. The MOD remains open-minded but to date we know of no evidence that substantiates the existence of these alleged phenomena.

**Why has the MOD decided to release this information now – what led to the decision?**

The MOD received a Freedom of Information request for a copy of this report. The MOD has embraced the spirit of open government and despite the size and original classification, staff have taken great care to ensure that the majority of this large report is made available. Sections have been withheld only where the information is covered by FOIA exemptions, and it is considered that it is not in the public interest to release it.

**Has the database of UFO reports on which this report is based still available and if so, will the MOD be publishing it?**

When it was decided that there was no intention to add further data to the database and the study report was completed, the database was destroyed. The report does however give details of the construction of the database and provides some screen shots of the fields used.

**Does this mean the MOD is no longer interested in UFOs? Who do people ring now if they want to report seeing something in the sky?**

This study led to the decision that the DIS no longer had a requirement to see

reported UFO sightings, but during the policy review in 2000 it was decided that the Directorate of Air Staff would continue to receive reports and forward those to air defence experts when it was felt that they may be of some interest. Anyone wishing to report their sighting to the MOD can do so by any of the following means;

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

Telephone: 020 7218 2140 (24 hour answerphone, please leave your name and a contact address).

Fax: **Section 40**

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

**What about 9/11? Shouldn't the MOD be taking all reports of unidentified objects seriously given the ongoing terrorist threat? Isn't this the wrong time to take your eye off the ball?**

The MOD takes its duties to defend UK airspace extremely seriously. The integrity of the UK's airspace in peacetime is maintained through continuous surveillance of the UK Air Policing Area by the Royal Air Force. This is achieved by using a combination of civil and military radar installations, which provide a continuous real-time "picture" of the UK airspace. Any threat to the UK Air Policing Area would be handled in the light of the particular circumstances at the time (it might, if deemed appropriate, involve the scrambling or diversion of air defence aircraft). These measures are not connected to, or dependent on, the MOD receiving UFO reports from the public.

**Is Nick Pope aware of this report, and if so did he have any input into it?**

No, Nick Pope would not have had any input into this report and would not have been aware of it. He left the department which deals with UFO matters in 1994 and this study was part of a policy review between 1996 and 2000.

**The report suggests that there is a possibility that unexplained RAF aircraft accidents or near miss incidents may have been caused by the sudden appearance of UFOs (UAP). Why was this not considered when these were first investigated? [Volume 1, Chapter 4, Paragraphs 19-21]**  
During investigations into aircraft accidents and near miss events, all available evidence is examined. The possibility that the aircrew could have been surprised or startled by the sudden appearance of an object (identified or

unidentified) in their vicinity is taken into consideration. In the course of this study RAF Aircraft Accidents over a 30 year period were examined to identify those where aircraft had impacted the surface, due to what appeared to be sudden and inappropriate control inputs by the crew. It was concluded that for various reasons as detailed in the report none of these could be directly correlated with evidence of UFO sightings.



DI BCR/10/4/3/13/59

24 April 2006

PS/CDI   
MA/DCDI  
MA/DGIC  
DI P&R

Copy:  
DI SA  
DI ST  
DI OPS  
DTIO  
DI CAC  
DIST-GM OMS AD

**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT - RELEASE OF DIS REPORT ON UNIDENTIFIED AERIAL PHENOMENA (UAP) IN THE UK AIR DEFENCE REGION**

**ISSUE**

1. The release of a DIS-commissioned study into Unidentified Aerial Phenomena in the UK Air Defence Region in response to a request under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).

**RECOMMENDATION**

2. DIS Management Board members to note.

**TIMING**

3. The report is to be released into the public domain by 28 April 2006.

**BACKGROUND**

4. Since the introduction of the FOIA on 1 January 2005, the Directorate of Air Staff (DAS), as the lead branch, has received a large number of requests for information on reported 'UFO' sightings in UK air space. Several DAS documents have been released in response to these requests, one of which referred to a DIS study entitled 'Unidentified Aerial Phenomena in the UK Air Defence Region'. A request has been received for a copy of the study.

5. The study was commissioned by DIST to ascertain whether there was any evidence of a threat to UK air space from Unidentified Aerial Phenomena. DI55 regularly received copies of UAP sighting reports and had formed the view that none of them presented any threat to UK airspace. Neither had any of the reports indicated any potential new technologies which may have been of defence interest. DI55 therefore were of the view that they had no need to receive these reports, but in order to establish whether UFO reports had any value to Defence Intelligence and whether there was a requirement for

Defence Intelligence Staff to see them in the future, they decided to commission a study into the reports that had been received. The study was carried out during the period December 1996 to March 2000 by a contractor, **Section 40** who was employed in DIST and the report was completed in December 2000. Although this was only one of several tasks in which the contractor was engaged, he produced a very comprehensive report (three volumes and an Executive Summary). The conclusion was that there was no evidence of threats to UK airspace and no new technologies which may have been of defence interest. Most aerial phenomena could be easily explained. It was then decided that DI55 would cease to receive UAP sighting reports. Since December 2000, these reports have not been forwarded to DIS.

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7. The contractor wrote the first two volumes of the report with a view to their release, but the third volume was classified SECRET UK Eyes Only because it contained sensitive information concerning the UK Air Defence Region. The report has been scrutinised by the subject matter experts in DIST, DI BCR, DAS and CT&UK Ops and it is considered that the report can be downgraded to 'Unclassified'. However, several sections of the report have been withheld.

8. Under the FOIA, 23 exemptions may be used to withhold information. The following exemptions have been cited:

- a. S.26 - Defence – information which would be likely to compromise the defence of the British Isles.
- b. S.27 - International Relations – information which would prejudice relations with other States.
- c. S.40 – Personal Information – personal information such as names and addresses.

9. The information withheld relates to UK air defence radar performance, UAP studies in other countries, potential military use of UAPs and personal details of the report's author and contributors and members of the public who have submitted 'sighting' reports. It should also be noted that the report contains reference to unexplained RAF aircraft accidents and although some information has been withheld, it has been determined that under the FOIA, there are no justifiable grounds to withhold the information in total. This section is also likely to attract media and public interest.

10. Under the FOIA, for exemptions 26 and 27, we are required to conduct a Public Interest Test (PIT). A PIT is required to balance the factors for and against disclosure of the exempt information and to determine whether

disclosure of the information is in the public interest. The PIT has been completed and it has been determined that disclosure of the exempt information is not in the public interest and should be withheld. The basis for this decision was that to disclose the exempt information would reveal information on the performance and limitations of UK air defence radar and thereby could prejudice the defence of the UK and could harm international relations with other countries by disclosing their work on UAPs and related programmes.

11. In anticipation of the expected reaction to the release of the report, suitable press lines are being prepared and the MoD Press Office will be informed. A copy of the first draft of the press lines is attached. An updated version is being prepared by DAS and will be completed by 28 April.

12. The report is to be released to the requester in hard copy but, in view of the anticipated level of interest and number of new requests for copies of the report, the report will be scanned and posted onto the MoD Freedom of Information website where it can be viewed and downloaded by the general public.

13. The report is very large, but if any addressees would like to see a copy, it can be viewed by contacting **Section 40** DI BCR CG3, **Section 40**

#### **Way Ahead**

14. We intend to release the report by 28 April 2006 and have a copy of the report available on the MoD Freedom of Information website by 5 May 2006.

**Section 40**

DI BCR CG AD

**Section 40**



**Release of Unidentified Aerial Phenomena in the UK Air Defence Region Report - Possible Press / Public Questions** 

**What is the MOD's role in relation to reported UFO (UAP) sightings?**

The MOD examines any UFO sighting reports it receives solely to establish whether there is any evidence to suggest that UK airspace has been compromised by hostile or unauthorised air activity. Unless there is such evidence the MOD does not attempt to positively identify what was seen.

**What is Defence Intelligence staff role in relation to UFOs (UAP).**

Until December 2000, DIS examined UFO sighting reports received by MOD to see if they contained any information of value in DIS's task of analysing the performance and threat of foreign weapons systems, nuclear, chemical and biological warfare programmes and technologies and emerging technologies.

**If the MOD has no particular interest in UFOs (UAP), why did DIS undertake such an extensive study? Was it to investigate if aliens were visiting us?**

The study was not conducted to establish the possibility of extraterrestrial visitors. Prior to 2000 UFO reports were copied to DIS in case they were useful to the work of the Defence Intelligence Staff. During a policy review in 2000, DIS wished to establish once and for all the potential value, if any, of UFO (UAP) sighting reports to Defence Intelligence.

**When was the study done and why was it kept secret?**

The study was conducted between December 1996 and March 2000. The report contains sensitive information concerning the UK Air Defence Region and was therefore classified Secret and given a limited distribution. Until the introduction of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, all government records were closed from public viewing for a period of 30 years after the last action was taken in accordance with the Public Records Act 1958 and 1967.

**What is the aim of this study?**

To ascertain whether there is any evidence of a threat to the UK and to identify any potential military technologies of interest.

**How much did it cost the taxpayer?**

The study was carried out between December 1996 and March 2000 by one contractor. Details of the exact cost of the study are unavailable.

**Why was the MOD secretly studying UFOs when you have said on many occasions you are not interested in the subject / is not taken seriously, etc.**

As we have advised on many occasions, the MOD has no role or expertise regarding the existence or otherwise of extraterrestrial life-forms and does not study such alleged phenomena. This study was conducted only to establish whether UFO reports had any value to Defence Intelligence and whether there was a requirement for Defence Intelligence Staff to see them in the future. Given the conclusion it was decided that there was no such requirement and since December 2000, UFO reports have not been forwarded to DIS.

**What are the conclusions of the Study / does it say we are being visited by ET and if not how can you be sure?**

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Directorate of Air Staff – Freedom of Information

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Whitehall  
London  
SW1A 2HB

Telephone: 020 7218 2140 (24 hour answerphone, please leave your name and a contact address).

Fax: **Section 40**

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

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**Is Nick Pope aware of this report, and if so did he have any input into it?**

No, Nick Pope would not have had any input into this report and would not have been aware of it. He left the department which deals with UFO matters in 1994 and this study was part of a policy review between 1996 and 2000.

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## Confirmation of Booked Visit

Page 1 of 1

**Host Details :**

Host Name : Section 40

Department : DAS

Building : MAIN BUILDING

Contact No. 1 : Section 40

Contact No. 2 :

Location : 5-H-13

**Visit Details :**

Booking Ref. : 18456

Location :

Entrance : NORTH DOOR

Date : 28/04/2006

Time : 09:00

Length of Visit : 1 day

Reason : MEETING WITH DAS-FOI

**Visitor Details :**

Name : DAVID CLARKE

Company : PRIVATE RESEARCHER

Nationality : BRITISH

Telephone :

Email :

Visitor Badge : ESCORTED 1 DAY

Classification : UNCLASSIFIED ESCORTED

Status : Expected

<http://sisys.ameywhitehall.r.mil.uk/genvcs/Start.asp>

27/04/2006

Section 40

From: david clarke [Section 40]  
Sent: 21 April 2006 14:32  
To: [Section 40]  
Subject: Re: Freedom of Information Request  
  
Importance: High



21 April 2006

Dear [Section 40]

Just to follow-up our telecon on Wednesday re the imminent release of the DIS UFO report.

As I believe I mentioned to you, I will be travelling to London early next Friday, 28 April, to spend two days working at the British Library.

Assuming the report is cleared for release on Tuesday, or Wednesday, would it not be more convenient - and save postal charges - if I was to collect my copy from you directly, at the MoD main building on Friday morning?

If you could let me know if this would be acceptable, I will make the necessary arrangements and would expect to be at Trafalgar Square for around 10.30-11am.

A further point arising from our conversation: with regards to the covering letter to me you plan to upload to the Publication Scheme. If you recall I requested that, in order to make clear who it was who made the FOI request which led to the release of

this report, my name (but not my address) should be left on the covering letter. Under the DPA I presume written consent is required for this to happen, so I hereby give that consent.

Check with [Section 40]

As we discussed, given the fact that [Section 40] and I requested this report in September 2005 I hope that MoD will allow us some time to read and digest its contents etc before you add the document to the online Publication Scheme.

Thankyou for your continued assistance with this matter,

David Clarke

**Section 40**

**From:** **Section 40**  
**Sent:** 10 April 2006 14:27  
**To:** **Section 40**  
**Subject:** Internet-authorised:Freedom of Information Request  
**Importance:** High



Dear Dr Clarke

Further to my e-mail of 31 March, I am writing to inform you that there will be a slight delay to the release of the UAP report. In my earlier e-mail I said it would be released before Easter, but I have now been informed by DIS staff that due to staff absences and some reproduction difficulties this will not now be possible. I have been assured that we will be in a position to send the documents to you during the week beginning the 24<sup>th</sup> April. I apologise for this delay. I will inform you by e-mail when the documents have been placed in the post. In the meantime, if you have any questions, please give me a call.

Yours sincerely,

**Section 40**

Ministry of Defence  
Directorate of Air Staff - Freedom of Information

10<sup>th</sup> April 2006

10/04/2006

Section 40

From: Section 40

Sent: 31 March 2006 09:54

To: Section 40

Subject: Internet-authorised:Freedom of Information Request



Dear Dr Clarke

I writing to provide you with an update on the release of the DIS UAP report.

The whole report including Volumes 1, 2, 3 and the Executive Summary, (a final total of 465 pages) has now been examined and where applicable sensitive information has been removed. DIS staff and myself are currently making one final read through the documents to make sure that we have not missed any sensitive information and then we should be able to release the documents to you. We are aiming to send this information very soon and certainly before Easter. I apologise for the length of time this is taking, but I am sure you will be glad to hear that the careful consideration of this material is going to result in the release of the vast majority of the report, with a comparatively small amount of redaction. Where information is to be withheld, this will be explained in my covering letter.

I hope this is helpful.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

Directorate of Air Staff - Freedom of Information

31 March 2006

10/04/2006

Unwin, Linda Mrs

From: david clarke [Section 40]  
Sent: 21 March 2006 18:31  
To: [Section 40]  
Subject: Re: FOI Request



Dear [Section 40]

Thank you for your email of 20 March and for answering my various comments in detail.

I apologise if I have misinterpreted the information regarding the author of the UAP report. The information relating to him being RAF aircrew relates to a paragraph in the 3-page letter which I presumed was written by the author of the report to Sec(AS) and dated 22 January 1997, which you released last year in response to my last FOI request. This contains a paragraph (no 8) which reads:

"...this leads to another important point, that of the current public UFO questionnaire format - which was 'invented' in the 1950s (I know because I filled one in myself after a sortie when flying in the RAF at the time)."

However, it's possible that he was flying in the RAF in some other capacity than aircrew. But as I'm sure you can see, that is the implication when read at face value.

Thanks also for sending me a copy of the article in Focus and for the definitive statement concerning the non-existent "UFO Project."

I look forward to hearing from you when work on the document is completed (hopefully soon). Please could you convey my thanks and appreciation to all concerned.

Yours sincerely

Dr David Clarke

Section 40

From: Section 40  
Sent: 20 March 2006 16:09  
To: Section 40  
Subject: Internet-authorized:FOI Request  
Importance: High



Dear Dr Clarke

Thank you for your e-mail of 13 March containing comments about the contents of my e-mail of 8 March. I will address these in the same order as your message.

First, with regard to your remarks about the whereabouts of the author of the report, I can confirm he was not an MOD employee or RAF Aircrew. He was a contractor working for a private company, who was temporarily employed by the MOD as a consultant. In order to answer your questions, DIS did take the trouble to contact his employer who advised that he had retired and they had no forwarding address. As he was neither an employee of the MOD or in the RAF, the MOD does not hold any pension details for him.

As for your comments regarding information from the report that is to be redacted / withheld, I can assure you that all of those involved in considering the report for release are keen to ensure that as much information as possible is released and information is only redacted where absolutely necessary. A great deal of time and effort has (and still is) being expended, particularly by DIS staff, in order to check the contents with the Departments subject matter experts and others where necessary, where the report contains information that is still potentially sensitive. Any information that is redacted will be withheld in accordance with appropriate sections of the Freedom of Information Act and the reason for this will be explained in the covering letter which will be sent with the report. Your right of appeal against any of these decisions will also be explained in this letter. With regard to your remarks about the interpretation members of the public may put on any information withheld, we are fully aware of the public interest in UFO information and the fact that the public may make assumptions and allegations about the MOD's motives. However, we believe it is far more important in the general interest of the public that the MOD does not release information that could cause harm to the defence of the UK.

Finally, you mentioned our article in Focus magazine and the remark about the "UFO Project". I can confirm that to our knowledge, there is and never has been any such "Project". Nick Pope also wrote an article for Focus, which appeared in the same addition, below ours. However, this is not the same as the one shown on the Virtually Strange website. As requested, I have sent you a copy of the March issue in the post today.

I hope this is helpful.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

Ministry of Defence  
Directorate of Air Staff - Freedom of Information  
5th Floor, Zone H, Desk 13  
Main Building  
Whitehall  
LONDON  
SW1A 2HB

e-mail:das-ufo-office@mod.uk

20<sup>th</sup> March 2006

31/05/2006



Section 40

From: Section 40  
 Sent: 16 March 2006 09:54  
 To: Section 40  
 Subject: FW: FOI Request

Section 40

Here is the latest e-mail from Dr Clarke. In answer to his remarks in paragraphs 2 and 3 I propose to say the following.

Para 2

With regard to your remarks about the whereabouts of the author of the report, I can confirm he was not an MOD employee or RAF Aircrew. He was a contractor working for a private company, who was temporary employed by the MOD as a consultant.

In order to answer your questions, DIS did take the trouble to contact his employer who advised that he had retired and they had no forwarding address. As he was neither an employee of the MOD or in the RAF, the MOD does not hold any pension details for him.

Para 3

As for your comments regarding information that is to be redacted / withheld from the report, I can assure you that all of those involved in considering the report for release are keen to ensure that as much information as possible is released and information is only redacted

where absolutely necessary. A great deal of time and effort has (and still is) being expended, particularly by DIS staff, in order to check

the contents with the Departments subject matter experts and others where necessary where the report contains information that is still

potentially sensitive. Any information that is redacted will be withheld in accordance with appropriate sections of the Freedom of Information Act

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decisions will also be explained in this letter. With regard to your remarks about the interpretation members of the public may put on any

information withheld, we are fully aware of the public interest in UFO information and the fact that the public may make assumptions and

allegations about the MOD's motives. However, we believe it is far more important in the general interest of the public that the MOD

does not release information that could cause harm to the defence of the UK.

Please let me know what you think. I will not send a response to him, until I hear from you.

Regards

Section 40

DAS-FOI  
 5-H-13

Section 40

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

From: david clarke [mailto:Section 40]  
 Sent: 13 March 2006 16:51  
 To: Section 40  
 Subject: Re: FOI Request

Dear Section 40

Thank you for your email and attachment dated March 8, in reply to my request for an update on progress with my FOI request.

The answers provided were indeed very useful and I'm conscious of not asking anything else that might cause any further delays in the

20/03/2006

processing of my request. However, I must say I find the reply to q1 concerning MoD being unable to trace the whereabouts of the author of the UAP report a little difficult to believe. As a former MoD employee/RAF aircrew he must have a forwarding address for pensions and even if that's not the case the private company he worked for must be known and contactable.

Other than that point, I do hope that DIS and your experts are aware that any material that is redacted or with-held from this report - for whatever good reason - will be interpreted as more evidence of a "cover up" or whitewash by the believer brigade. For that reason, I will have to challenge those deletions so I'm hoping that everything they redact is absolutely necessary, rather than a case of being over-cautious.

On a lighter note, I was interested to read the article "The Truth is Out there" from Focus magazine, which has been posted on the MoD website, containing an interview with yourself and **Section 40**. It's good to see your office playing a proactive role in this way and I hope we'll see more of it in future.

I couldn't help but notice your remark about there being no "UFO Project."

When **Section 40** notified members of the UFO Updates news group about his article in the same issue, he neglected to mention the article which interviews members of your office. He also posted a version of his article which opens with the line

"...the Ministry of Defence's UFO Project...", see:

<http://www.virtuallystrange.net/ufo/updates/2006/mar/m11-003.shtml>

Could you confirm that this line did not appear in the published article in Focus.

This might seem a little niggly, but there seems to be quite a contradiction going on, with one person saying there was and is a "UFO Project" and the official line being that there isn't and never was such a thing.

Could you send me an original copy of the March issue of the magazine for my files?

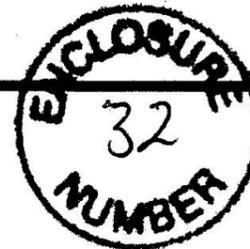
yours sincerely

Dr David Clarke

20/03/2006

Section 40

From: david clarke [Section 40]  
 Sent: 13 March 2006 16:51  
 To: [Section 40]  
 Subject: Re: FOI Request



Dear [Section 40]

Thank you for your email and attachment dated March 8, in reply to my request for an update on progress with my FOI request.

The answers provided were indeed very useful and I'm conscious of not asking anything else that might cause any further delays in the processing of my request. However, I must say I find the reply to q1 concerning MoD being unable to trace the whereabouts of the author of the UAP report a little difficult to believe. As a former MoD employee/RAF aircrew he must have a forwarding address for pensions and even if that's not the case the private company he worked for must be known and contactable.

Other than that point, I do hope that DIS and your experts are aware that any material that is redacted or with-held from this report - for whatever good reason - will be interpreted as more evidence of a "cover up" or whitewash by the believer brigade. For that reason, I will have to challenge those deletions so I'm hoping that everything they redact is absolutely necessary, rather than a case of being over-cautious.

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This might seem a little niggly, but there seems to be quite a contradiction going on, with one person saying there was and is a "UFO Project" and the official line being that there isn't and never was such a thing.

Could you send me an original copy of the March issue of the magazine for my files?

yours sincerely

Dr David Clarke

[Section 40] [Section 40] Assistant Editor of focus confirmed it is fine to send Dr Clarke a copy of Focus. 20/3/2005 [Section 40]

Section 40

From: Section 40  
Sent: 09 March 2006 12:42  
To: Section 40  
Subject: UAP Report



Section 40

Please find attached details of the results of my consultation with Wing Commander Section 40 (DCT&UKOps-SOI Airspace Integrity) regarding the radar information we identified at the meeting. I have only included those where he has indicated information that should be removed. I hope this helps with your redaction of the report. If you spot anything else while you are going through it, please let me know and I will check it with Section 40

Regards

Section 40  
DAS-FOI  
5-H-13



01/06/2006

**UAP REPORT – REDACTION**

**Volume 1**

**Page ii – Paragraph 2, Line 2** – Redact from “only being necessary .....” to the end of the paragraph.

**Chapter 4, Page 8 – Paragraph 26, Line 5** – Redact from “Rarely is a radar contact.....” to the end of the paragraph.

**Chapter 5, Page 2 –Paragraph 6, Line 2** –Redact from “when using .....” to the end of the paragraph.

**Chapter 5, Page 2 – Paragraph 7, Line 1** – Redact from “There are some.....” to the end of the sentence.

**Annex B, Page B-2-** Redact “**Section 40**” signature block.

**Annex B, Page B-3, Paragraph M** – Redact “**Section 40**”  
redact “**Section 40**”

**Annex B, Page B-5, Paragraph 12** – Redact “**Section 40**”  
**Section 40**”. Redact “**Section 40**”

**Volume 2**

**Working Paper No.5, Page 5-1, Paragraph 1** – Redact from “The incidence of visual.....” to the end of the sentence.

**Working Paper No.5, Page 5-1, Paragraph 3d.** – Redact from “and secondly, may exceed the .....” to the end of the paragraph.

**Working Paper No.5, Page 5-1, Paragraph 3f.** – Redact the whole paragraph.

**Working Paper No.5, Page 5-1, Paragraph 3h.** –Redact the whole paragraph.

**Working Paper No.5, Page 5-2, Paragraph 4.** – Redact the whole paragraph including 4a, b & c.

**Working Paper No.5, Page 5-3, Paragraph 9.** – Redact the whole paragraph including 9a & b.

**Working Paper No.5, Page 5-4, Paragraph 19.** – Redact from “Further rejection would come .....” to end of the paragraph.

**Volume 3**

**Page ii, Paragraph 1, Line 4** - Redact from “In particular, the text.....” to end of the paragraph.

**Executive Summary, Page 1, Paragraph 1,** – Redact the whole of the second bullet point.

**Executive Summary, Page 1, Paragraph 4,** – Redact the whole paragraph.

**Executive Summary, Page 2, Paragraph 5,** – Redact the first line “UKADR.....targets”.

**Executive Summary, Page 2, Paragraphs 6, 7 & 8** – Redact each whole paragraph.

**Volume 3 – Miscellaneous Related Studies, Chapter 1, Page1, Paragraph 1 -**  
Redact whole paragraph entitled Smoke reflections.

**Volume 3 – Miscellaneous Related Studies, Chapter 1, Page 2, Paragraph 3 –**  
Redact the whole paragraph.

**Volume 3 – Miscellaneous Related Studies, Chapter 1, Page 2 & 3, Paragraph 7-**  
Redact from “As an example, for a radar.....” to the end of the paragraph.

**Volume 3 – Miscellaneous Related Studies, Chapter 1, Page 3, Paragraph 11–**  
Redact the whole paragraph.

**Volume 3 – Miscellaneous Related Studies, Chapter 1, Page 4, Paragraph 13(d).**  
Redact the whole paragraph.

**Volume 3 – Miscellaneous Related Studies, Chapter 1, Page 5, Paragraph 17-**  
Redact the whole paragraph.

**Volume 3 – Miscellaneous Related Studies, Chapter 1, Page 5, Paragraph 21-**  
Redact the whole paragraph.

**Volume 3 – Miscellaneous Related Studies, Chapter 1, Page 6, Paragraph 22, Line 4-** Redact from “The following paragraphs .....” to the end of the paragraph.

**Volume 3- Miscellaneous Related Studies, Chapter 1, Page 6, Paragraph 24-**  
Redact the whole paragraph.

**Volume 3- Miscellaneous Related Studies, Chapter 1, Page 7, First bullet –**  
Redact the whole paragraph.

**Volume 3- Miscellaneous Related Studies, Chapter 1, Page 7, Second bullet, Line 3 –** Redact from “Further, it should be noted.....” to line 14 “pulse to pulse”.  
**Line 20 –** Redact from “The increase in signal.....” to “of about33%”.

**Volume 3- Miscellaneous Related Studies, Chapter 1, Page 7, Third bullet-**  
Redact the whole paragraph.

**Volume 3- Miscellaneous Related Studies, Chapter 1, Page 8, Paragraph 25, Lines 12 - 21**– Redact from “Having made this point,.....” to “coverage for a short period”.

**Volume 3 – Miscellaneous Related Studies, Chapter 1, Page 8, Paragraph 26** – Redact the whole paragraph.

**Volume 3 – Miscellaneous Related Studies, Chapter 1, Page 8, Paragraph 27, First bullet** - Redact the whole paragraph entitled Horizon Geometry.

**Volume 3 – Miscellaneous Related Studies, Chapter 1, Page 8, Paragraph 27, Second bullet** – Redact the first line from “Occasions when both.....” to “are very rare”.

**Volume 3 – Miscellaneous Related Studies, Chapter 1, Summary, Page 8, Paragraph 28** – Redact from the beginning of the paragraph to line 9 “ special tasks”.

**Volume 3 – Miscellaneous Related Studies, Chapter 1, Page 10**  
Remove the whole page.

**Volume 3 – Miscellaneous Related Studies, Chapter 1, Page 11**  
Remove the whole page.

**Volume 3 – Miscellaneous Related Studies, Chapter 1, Page 13**  
Remove the whole page.

**Volume 3 – Miscellaneous Related Studies, Chapter 1, Page 14**  
Remove the whole page.

**Volume 3 – Miscellaneous Related Studies, Chapter 1, Pages 15, 16 & 17**  
Remove all of these pages.

**Volume 3 – Miscellaneous Related Studies, Chapter 2, Page 2, Paragraph 8**  
Redact the whole paragraph.

**Volume 3 – Miscellaneous Related Studies, Chapter 3, Page 1, Paragraph 1**  
Redact from Line 2 – “First, it was .....” to end of paragraph “ UK RFW programme”.

**Volume 3 – Miscellaneous Related Studies, Chapter 3, Page 3, Paragraph 8**  
Redact from “Radar Decoys.....” to end of paragraph entitled Plasma Cloaking.

**Volume 3 – Miscellaneous Related Studies, Chapter 3, Page 4**  
Remove the whole page.

**Executive Summary**

**Page 3, Paragraph 4** – Redact from “considers why some.....” to “and hence”.

**Page 7, Paragraph 13, First bullet** – Redact the whole paragraph.

**Section 40****From:** **Section 40****Sent:** 08 March 2006 13:23**To:** **Section 40****Subject:** Internet-authorized:FOI Request

Dear Dr Clarke

I am writing concerning your message requesting an update on progress with your FOI request.

As discussed, I meet with DIS last week to discuss any remaining areas of concern regarding the contents of the UAP report and its preparation for release. During the meeting a few issues arose where there is still some concern about sensitive information and we are currently seeking the advice of the Department's experts in the areas affected. We hope this will not take too long to complete and I will let you know when we can be more certain about a date for release. In the meantime DIS staff are preparing the remaining documents for release.

Please see attached the answers to the questions you asked in your email of 23 February. I hope you find these useful. The time taken to research and provide answers to these questions has diverted DIS from the task of preparing the the UAP report, so if you have any further questions, it would be helpful if you could wait until you have seen the released documents. This would allow staff to concentrate on preparing the report and you may find that the answers to your questions could be amongst the released material.

I hope this is helpful. I will contact you again when I have any news about a date for release.

Yours sincerely,

**Section 40**

Ministry of Defence  
Directorate of Air Staff - Freedom of Information  
5th Floor, Zone H, Desk 13  
Main Building  
Whitehall  
LONDON  
SW1A 2HB

e-mail:das-ufo-office@mod.uk

31/05/2006

**DR CLARKE – SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTIONS:** 

1. Would it be possible to correspond with and/or interview the author of the report? The report is an important and historically important document and from my point of view as a historian it is important to record aspects of its production for posterity. While I am aware of the sensitivity of the work of the DIS, I would point out that I have traced and interviewed a number of other former DIS employees who have been involved in UFO work on the understanding that my questions do not touch upon areas related to national security. I have undertaken to protect their identity and my work is for research purposes only, and will not be published without permission. The author of the UAP report is clearly someone with a long-standing knowledge of this subject dating back to the 1950s, who has an RAF background and has acted as an advisor on aspects of the topic for MoD for some time. When the report is in the public domain, there is little doubt that he will be traced by the media. Therefore would it not be better to have him speak to a sympathetic academic rather than door-stepped by a journalist? As I understand he may no longer work for MoD would it be possible to forward a letter to him on my behalf?

**The author of the report was employed by the Ministry of Defence as a contractor and consultant until his departure in 2000. The author is now in retirement and, despite making enquiries, we have been unable to trace his whereabouts. It is therefore not possible to forward any correspondence to him.**

2. Could we clear up the ambiguity surrounding the status of the 21 DI55 UFO files (see Attachment A). It is my understanding that a large proportion of these files (Pts 36-51, covering years 1987-1997) were utilised by the author of the report as a statistic sample in the UAP database. Your letter of 23 November 2005 suggests it is like these files "are amongst the DIS files which are now subject to asbestos contamination." However, as some of these files (those relating to policy) were later found to have escaped contamination, could DIS make another check so we can be certain as to the status of these outstanding files.

**We have checked the files listed in attachment A to your email of 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2006 and it is confirmed that all the files in the list (the files which were used in the compilation of the UAP report) are in the contaminated archives. However, the sighting reports would only have been copies of reports which DAS receive. The DAS sighting files have not been contaminated, but you should be aware that there are 20 paper files covering this period and we have no way of knowing which particular reports were used for the database.**

3. Could we also establish the status of the UAP database. In what form did it exist (i.e. as a computer programme?) and has it definitely been destroyed? If so, why? Was it destroyed for any particular reason?

**The UAP database was in the form of an 'Access' database. It is confirmed that the database has been destroyed, this was in accordance with the commercial and security procedures in place at the time. All hard copy extracts of the database have also been destroyed.**

4. A question I feel the Press will certainly ask (see Attachment B) is how much in the way of public funds were spent on the production of this report. If precise figures have not been kept (as the report was part of a larger contract) is it possible to estimate how has been spent, based upon similar projects undertaken by MoD?

**It is not possible to provide details of the cost of producing the report. The author was initially employed as a contractor and commenced work on the report in December 1996. However, producing the report was only one of several tasks in which he was engaged and it is not possible to determine how much of his time was divided between producing the report and his other tasks. In addition, the author only spent 50-60% of his working week on these tasks (this time was split between working in London and working at his company's offices). The remaining percentage of his time was spent working on his company's business. The author left his company on early retirement in **Section 40** **Section 40** following which he was employed as a consultant for the DIS until completion of the report in March 2000.**

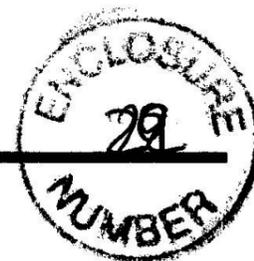
5. Who has had sight of this report in terms of senior officials and/or ministers at the Ministry of Defence?

**The report was not passed to any MoD Ministers. The report was distributed to only three senior officials within the MoD and Royal Air Force at Director level or above.**

6. Further to my email dated 23 February, I should have mentioned one Additional question for DIS relating to the UAP report. I noted that in the three page paper dated 22 January 1997 produced by the author of the report (which you released in August last year), he refers to the UAP project as "Project Condign."

Could DIS confirm that "Condign" was the word used to describe the project during the period 1997-2000. If so, is there any significance in the choice of the word? The similarity to "Condon" (the name of the USAF study, completed in 1969) is striking and I wondered if that was why this name was chosen.

**It is confirmed that 'Condign' was the word used to describe the report. The word 'Condign' was randomly generated and any similarity with the word 'Condon' is purely coincidental.**



Section 40

**From:** david.clarke@defra.gov.uk  
**Sent:** 07 March 2006 17:15  
**To:** Section 40  
**Subject:** Re: FOI Request

**Importance:** High

7 March 2006

Dear Section 40

I'm writing to ask for an update following the meeting you had concerning my FOI request for the UAP report last week. I hope that progress was made and that you might soon be in a position to release the redacted report.

Thanks for your help with this request and I look forward to hearing from you,

Yours sincerely

Dr David Clarke

Section 40



From: david clarke Section 40  
Sent: 24 February 2006 13:14  
To: Section 40  
Subject: Re: FOI Request

Importance: High



TNAUFO.doc (68 KB)

24 February 2006

Dear Section 40

Further to my email dated 23 February, I should have mentioned one additional question for DIS relating to the UAP report. I noted that in the three page paper dated 22 January 1997 produced by the author of the report (which you released in August last year), he refers to the UAP project as "Project Condign."

Could DIS confirm that "Condign" was the word used to describe the project during the period 1997-2000. If so, is there any significance in the choice of the word? The similarity to "Condon" (the name of the USAF study, completed in 1969) is striking and I wondered if that was why this name was chosen.

Finally, if you do get around to visiting TNA and get the opportunity to check out any of the UFO files available there, you may find the attached list of use. I put this together when I was preparing the Research Guide to the UFO records at Kew last year and I have kept it under revision so that it is as comprehensive in coverage as possible.

Yours sincerely

Dr David Clarke

UFO RECORDS HELD BY THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES (TNA)**Key:** **Name of department/branch/creator****NA Class reference - File title/description of file [approx date of opening] - Date**

[Former MoD reference in parenthesis: where known]

mf = microfilm

AIR 1/2455 Passage of a Zeppelin over Sheerness, 1912  
 AIR 1/2456 Unidentified aircraft over Sheerness, 1912  
 ADM 131/119 Spies: Floating Lights on Dartmoor, 1915  
 AIR 1/561/16/15/62 Reports of false alarms or rumoured air raids, 1914-16  
 AIR 1/562/16/15/66 Reports on alleged enemy signalling in Britain, 1915  
 WO 158/989 Intelligence Circular No 6: Alleged enemy signalling, 1916

**World War 2 aerial phenomena ('foo-fighters'): 1940-1944**

AIR 2/5070 Phenomena: Enemy defences: Bomber Command, 1940-42  
 AIR 20/4725 Phenomena: Enemy defences 1940-42  
 AIR 20/2076 Phenomena: Enemy defences 1942-44  
 AIR 14/288 No 115 Squadron News Sheet 'Bang On' – Phenomena 1943 m/f  
 AVIA 7/1070 Unusual responses observed near Cherbourg, 1941  
 AVIA 7/1300 Abnormal echoes observed on South Coast, 1941-45

**Rocket Projectiles: 'Ghost Rocket' phenomena: 1946**

FO 371/56988 Alleged projectiles seen over Sweden  
 FO 188/537 Aerial projectiles  
 FO 371/56951 Rocket projectiles and flying missiles observed over Sweden  
 FO 188/572 Projectiles V1 and V2 bombs (2 parts)  
 DEFE 40/493 Directorate of Scientific Intelligence minutes, 1946-7  
 AIR 40/2843 2<sup>nd</sup> report on missile activity over Scandinavia 1946 (with map)

**Flying Saucers/Unidentified Flying Objects**

DEFE 41/117 Unorthodox aircraft 1949-50  
 DEFE 41/118 Unorthodox aircraft 1950-52

*Flying Saucer Working Party – minutes, memos and final report*

DEFE 19/9 Scientific Intelligence [retained file] 1948-60  
 [CSA/ALPH/51]

DEFE 41/152 DSI/JTIC Minutes [copy] 1950  
 DEFE 41/153 DSI/JTIC Minutes [copy] 1951-52  
 DEFE 41/74-76 DSI/JTIC Minutes (originals) 1950-54  
 DEFE 44/119 DSI/JTIC Report No 7: Unidentified Flying Objects 1951

DEFE 31/118	UFO policy: [DI/55/40/9/1 Pt 1]	1953-1963
DEFE 31/119	UFO policy: [DI/55/40/9/1 Pt 2]	1967
DEFE 31/163	UFO Reports: DI 55 [DI/DI55/108/15/1 Pt 21]	1979
DEFE 31/164	UFO Reports: DI 55 [DI/DI55/108/15/1 Pt 22]	1979
DEFE 31/165	UFO Reports: DI 55 [DI/DI55/108/15/1 Pt 23]	1979
DEFE 31/166	UFO Reports: DI 55 [DI/DI55/108/15/1 Pt 24]	1979
DEFE 31/167	UFO Reports: DI 55 [DI/DI55/108/15/1 Pt 25]	1979

**Air Ministry: S6 (Air) and D.D.I. (Tech): 1950-64**

AIR 20/7390	Unidentified Aircraft/Objects: prepared for Air Ministry 1950-53: includes reports by Wing Commander R. Cartmel, signal from RAF Topcliffe to Air Ministry, 1952, briefings on unidentified aircraft tracked by radar over English Channel, 7 October 1953. [II/127/3/48 DD OPS (AD) 58] m/f
AIR 16/1199	Flying Saucers: occurrence reports by service personnel and civilians at RAF Topcliffe, 1952 [IIHI/118/1/17/Top/CI6/Air] m/f
AIR 22/93	Air Ministry Secret Intelligence Summary, March 1955: "Flying Saucers...An Object was Reported." [Draft copy in DEFE 31/117] m/f
AIR 20/9320	PQ 17 April 1957 (Stan Awbery); Notes provided for Ministers use: UFO reports in 1956/57 including Lakenheath, West Freugh, Church Lawford, Bempton, Lakenheath. Newscuttings, 1957 [MR 008614/193] m/f
AIR 20/9321	PQs 15 May 1957 (Patrick Wall/Frank Beswick), briefings by S6 and D.D.I. (Tech), notes on radar trackings of UFO and scramble of aircraft from RAF Odiham, 29 April, 1957. [MR 008614/213] m/f
AIR 20/9322	PQs (Frank Beswick), object reported over Dover Straits leading to scramble of fighters from RAF Odiham; briefings by S6 to US of S, 29 April 1957 [MR 008614/220] m/f
AIR 20/9994	Reports on Aerial Phenomena: HQ Southern Sector, reports on aerial phenomena, reports and radar track tracing sheets from RAF Ventnor, 29 April and 29 July 1957. Miscellaneous RAF orders relating to reporting of aerial phenomena, 1953, 1954 and 1956. [II H/273/10/4] m/f

AIR 2/18564 RAF West Freugh: UFO report. Request to release information on UFO report, 1971; D.D.I. (Tech) and S6 minutes relating to 'flying saucers' 1957-60.  
[AF/CX 1295/72]

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FO 371/81093 Flying Saucers over Asmara airport, Ethiopia 1950

PREM 11/855 Winston Churchill: question to SOS for Air on flying saucers, reply from Lord Cherwell; correspondence between Sir Anthony Montague Browne and Duncan Sandys MP, Defence Minister, 1952 m/f

AVIA 65/33 Canadian Project Y: Vertical take-off aircraft (with photos)

CAB 157/27 & 31 Joint Intelligence Committee (JIC) Minutes, 'aerial phenomena,' 1957, 1959

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AIR 2/16918 UFOs: correspondence and news cuttings 1961-63  
[AF/X59/64 pt 5 (ID/47/272 pt 5)] m/f

AIR 2/17318 UFOs: correspondence and news cuttings 1963  
[AF/X59/64 pt 6] m/f

AIR 2/17526 UFOs: correspondence and news cuttings 1964  
[AF/X59/64 pt 7] m/f

AIR 2/17527 UFOs: correspondence and news cuttings 1964-65  
[AF/X59/64 pt 8] m/f

AIR 2/17982 UFOs: correspondence and news cuttings 1965-66  
[AF/X59/64 pt 9] m/f

AIR 2/17983 UFOs: correspondence and news cuttings 1966  
[AF/X59/64 pt 10] m/f

AIR 2/17984 UFOs: correspondence and news cuttings 1966-67  
[AF/X59/64 pt 11] m/f

AIR 2/18117 UFOs: memos & correspondence 1967  
[AF/CX38/67 Pt 3]

AIR 2/18183 UFOs: correspondence and news cuttings 1968-69  
[AF/7463/72 Pt 2] m/f

AIR 2/18565 UFOs: correspondence 1970-71  
[AF/7463/72 Pt 3]

AIR 2/18871 UFOs: correspondence 1972