

same kind of incidents that my SUFOG colleagues have been reporting! Plus the stinging proof of a whack on the bent over posterior of one of the staff when she was alone in the tearooms! Fortunately she is a lady who takes it all in her stride! There was also that lighted candle phenomom in the chapel top windows reported several times.

And....I. along with my driver..have again seen that huge reddish orange light over the Hamble area while driving, as before, down Hamble Lane to Netley..my third sighting and her first! Stunning! Around, also, about the post 11.00pm time. I'm still not convinced that it's an emission from a Fawley chimney stack in spite of the video I've seen taken by our group on a seperate occasion. No answers from the oil refinery spokeswoman I contacted who seems to have difficulty in tracking down someone who knows the details!

Why, too, has it suddenly appeared recently after I've been traversing the same route most Sundays and such for some ten years or more at the same time? Why have the Southampton UFO Group been able to film unidentified objects not less than four times in the last two months over the area? Oh, yes...thanks to the Netley gentleman who rang in following those first Echo articles claiming to have the answer to my sighting..it was, he was certain the `BBC Balloon`..the one they use to publicise their programmes...as he's seen it going over Netley at 10.30pm when out with his dog. I rang the BBC unit and they `never fly it at night` and `mostly it stays in a garage`.

Why brings me, us, to another question! What DID he see, then?

So..the mysteries continue..if only because those who are, one way or the other, responsible to us, yet hide those responsibilites.

Section 40

MYSTERIOUS UFOS SPOTTED IN HAMPSHIRE SKIES



STAR GAZERS: UFO experts Ernie Sears (left) and Andy Phillips.

The truth is over here . . .

Special report
by **Malcolm Prior**

IT'S A MYSTERY that would not be out of place on cult sci-fi series The X-Files.

But even television's top UFO investigators Mulder and Scully would have their work cut out for them in Hampshire.

If our very own alien spotters are to be believed, the county is a top destination for uncanny visitors from other worlds.

And they point to two recent near-identical sightings in the night skies around Southampton

for similar their claim




MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

From: **Section 40** Secretariat (Air Staff) 2a, Room 8245,
Main Building, Whitehall, London SW1A 2HB

Telephone (Direct Dialling) 0171 218 2140
(Switchboard) 0171 218 9000
(Fax)



Section 40

Your reference

Our reference

D/Sec(AS)/64/3

Date

29 February 1996

Hants

Section 40

Dear

Section 40

1. Thank you for your letter of 2 February 1996 concerning the subject of "unexplained" aerial sightings, or "UFOs" as they are sometimes characterized. Your letter has been passed to this office as Secretariat(Air Staff)2a is the Ministry of Defence focal point for correspondence on this subject.
2. As explained in my letter to you of 24 March 1995, the MOD does not have any direct interest, expertise or role in respect of "UFO/ flying saucer" matters, or those relating to the existence or otherwise of extraterrestrial lifeforms, about which we remain totally open-minded. To date the MOD knows of no evidence which substantiates the existence of these alleged phenomena, and no threat to the UK has been discerned which has been attributed to a "UFO".
3. However, in the context of MOD and HM Forces' responsibility for the effective defence of the United Kingdom, we remain vigilant for any potential threat, from whatever source. It is in this context alone that we look at reports of "unexplained" aerial sightings in order to establish whether what was seen has defence significance. If no threat is discerned, and in connection with "unexplained" aerial sightings this has been the case in all instances to date, we make no further attempt to investigate and establish exactly what may have been seen.
4. From the reports which we receive it is quite clear that there are many sights in the sky which are not immediately identifiable. However, we believe explanations could be found for most of them. Possibilities include aircraft lights or aircraft seen from unusual angles, helium balloons, searchlights or lasers reflecting off clouds, or even natural phenomena like fireballs and meteorites. However, we accept that there will always be some sightings that appear to defy explanation, and we are open-minded on these as essentially it is outside our remit to investigate further if there is no defence interest.

5. You may be interested in viewing the MOD's archived "UFO" files. As is the case with other government departments' files, all MOD files are subject to the provisions of the Public Records Act of 1958 and 1967. As you may be aware, this Act of Parliament states that official files generally remain closed from public viewing for 30 years after the last action has been taken. It was generally the case that before 1967 all "UFO" files were destroyed after five years, as there was insufficient public interest in the subject to merit their permanent retention. However since 1967, following an increase in public interest in this subject files are now preserved. A few files from the Fifties and Sixties have, however, survived and are available for examination by members of the public. They may be viewed at the Public Record Office, Ruskin Avenue, Kew, Richmond, Surrey, TW9 4DU. The references of these files are as follows:

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

If you wish to research a matter which occurred in 1960/61 (ie. more than 30 years ago), you may care to visit the PRO and look through these files, as events from that period are now a matter of public record.

6. I hope that this is helpful. I am returning your sae with thanks as we have our own postal arrangements.

Yours sincerely

Section 40



Section 40
7/2

Friday February 2nd 1996

Section 40

Hants Section 40
Tel Section 40

Dear Sir:

Having noticed, in one of the more "serious" daily newspapers in recent weeks, some mention of the Ministry of Defence releasing reports of "UFO'S" and their attempted interception by our Air Defence aircraft, as far back as the late fifties, etc, I am hoping you can throw some light on the following incident which I witnessed, details herewith;

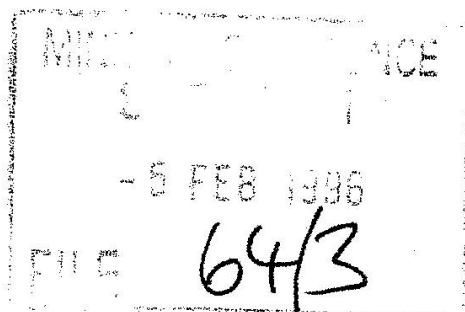
In either 1960 or 1961, I made no note of the actual year and date at the time since I felt it unnecessary, I was working as an insurance agent in the town of Gosport, Hampshire, and on this particularly bright, windy, and cold Monday morning in the month of March. I was traversing a footbridge over the railway, at about 9.30 to 10.30am, when my attention was caught by a very bright object, high in the sky to the north, and seemingly situated over what was then known as the "ASWE" complex on top of Portsdown Hill. I stopped and leaned on the parapet for a minute or so..the object appeared to be "cigar" shaped but due to the reflected sunlight no firm outline could be distinguished.

It did not appear to be moving, but I put this down to the very strong wind that was blowing. I stopped a young man walking over the bridge and asked him if he thought it was an aircraft..he looked at it, and said 'yes'. That was sufficient to assure me that it wasn't one of those "flying saucers" I had been reading about and I went on my way.

Some thirty minutes later I was in another part of Gosport when I heard the roar of jet aircraft engines. Running to where I had a clear view of the skies, I saw two Gloster Meteor jet fighters, climbing up low over the towns rooftops. Having spent some five years in the RAF during and just after WW11 I was quite good at aircraft recognition and procedures of such a take-off over built up areas and knew this was some kind of emergency.

I followed the climbing path of the jets, and saw, to my amazement, that same "cigar" still hovering in the same spot over the Air Surface Weapons Establishment on Portsdown Hill!

I watched with some excitement since I now realised this was no aircraft....the two jets roared up towards the object and as they approached it it just seemed to vanish! Like the proverbial light bulb being turned off!



②

I ran along the road to where there was a telephone box and found the control tower number of nearby Thorney Island airbase where I thought the Meteors had originated..as a second guess this might have been HMS Daedulus at Lee-on-Solent..however, I was amazed to hear, when the officer in the control tower at Thorney Island spoke to me, when I asked him what was the object those two Meteor jets were chasing, tell me that not only had I NOT seen any "object", neither had I seen two Meteor jets!

I repeated the same question, confirming my RAF service and assuring him I knew what Meteor jet aircraft looked and sounded like,,he firmly repeated his same answer! I hung up!Needless to say, after getting a non -committal answer from the Portsmouth Evening News office of 'nothing reported', my interest was aroused in the subject of "UFO's"!

Perhaps you would be so kind as to take a small amount of trouble to put to rest my concern over this incident?

I enclose a SAE for your reply.I am only sorry I cannot pin the year down more accurately,but trust this will not cause you undue difficulty.

I am,

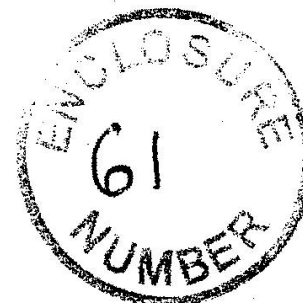
Yours Faithfully.

Section 40





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



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

Section 40

Southampton
 Hants

Section 40

Your reference

Our reference

D/Sec(AS)/64/3

Date

9 August 1996

Dear **Section 40**

1. Thank you for your letter to Mr Soames of 2 August 1996 on the subject of "UFO/flying saucers". Your letter has been passed to this office for reply as we are the Ministry of Defence focal point for correspondence of this nature.

2. I am unable to comment on the News of the World article to which you refer as I have not seen it. We have corresponded on the subject of the MOD's role in relation to "UFO" reports in the past, most recently my letter dated 29 February 1996. However, I should be happy to set out the position once more.

3. The MOD takes its responsibilities for ensuring the effective defence of this country very seriously indeed. We examine any reports of "UFO" sightings received solely to establish whether what was seen might have some defence significance; namely, is there any evidence that the UK Air Defence Region might have been compromised by a hostile foreign military aircraft? However, unless there are defence implications, and to date no "UFO" report has revealed such evidence, we do not attempt to identify the precise nature of each sighting reported to us. We could not justify expenditure of public funds on investigations which go beyond our specific defence remit.

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

5. The wider debate over possible extraterrestrial life is outside the remit of this Department. To date the MOD remains unaware of any evidence which proves that "UFO/flying saucers" or extraterrestrial lifeforms exist, and no threat to the UK has ever been discerned which has been attributed to either phenomena.

6. You make reference to the book recently published by Mr Pope, entitled "*Open Skies, Closed Minds*". The views expressed by Mr Pope represent his personal opinions, and do not represent nor reflect the views of the Ministry of Defence.

7. I hope this clarifies the position.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40



Section 40

D/MIN(AF)/NS/10/1/5

Date: 8/8/96

H/Sec CAS)

Copy to:

Minister(AF) has received the attached letter from

Section 40

of

Section 40

Southampton

This is forwarded for official reply.

The Department's performance in answering letters from members of the public is seen by the public as an indication as to how effective and efficient the Department is. You should therefore send a full reply within two weeks of the date of this covering note. If this is not possible an interim reply should be sent with a full reply following as soon as possible thereafter.

Drafts should be polite, but informal in tone. MOD and military jargon, including abbreviations, should be avoided and clear, uncomplicated language should be used. Where documents or other texts are referred to, an indication of where they can be obtained should be given.

Minister(AF) is concerned that there should be good co-ordination of the Department's activities. You should therefore consider carefully whether other Divisions (within or outside the MOD) have an interest in the issue(s) and consult accordingly (this may include Divisions other than those shown as copy addressees). In particular you should consider whether other TLB holders need to be consulted.

Section 40

APS/Minister(AF)

MB6113 Section 40

H/Sec CAS

64/3.

Section 40

Friday 2nd August 1996

SOUTHAMPTON, HANTS. Section 40
ENGLAND

Section 40

Dear Minister:

I have only just been handed a cutting from the News of The World newspaper, dated July 21st 1996, in which you are quoted as assuring the electorate that "flying saucers" (ie:UFOS) are 'no threat to Britain', and, further, that 'there is no evidence to indicate that UK air defence may have been compromised'.

I find these statements astounding!

Since I have recently had the pleasure of meeting, and subsequently striking up a correspondence with, the MOD's ex "UFO" expert, who held down the desk at the MOD for three years and who has just had published his potential "best seller" book, "Open Skies, Closed Minds", whose main thrust is that he now believes, after his original scepticism, that 'a number of extra terrestrial craft are penetrating our air defences' etc etc.

His belief supports the views and personal experience of many of us "out there"..I myself have seen a strange glowing daylight object vainly intercepted by two Meteor jet aircraft in the early 1960's..it just vanished, after hovering for some 30,minutes over an experimental air surface weapons establishment near Portsmouth. This event was absolutely denied within ten minutes when I telephoned the air base from whence the two jets had been "scrambled"..denied TWICE!As an ex RAF serviceman experienced in aircraft recognition I knew what Gloster Meteor jets looked and sounded like!

In the late seventies I watched a small white "blob" being pursued, at night, (followed, not pursued,) by a fighter aircraft at some height...various authorities knew nothing of it until I reached Middle Wallop Air Defence base by telephone when I was put through to a Major there by a female switchboard operator with the words 'we have a code red here, sir!'The Major denied, briskly, that they had 'anything up, old boy'

In November of 1977 I watched, in open mouthed amazement, as a huge triangular metallic looking object,hovered silently, over head at eight pm, then vanished in a clear sky as I turned my head to call my wife out. No one could account for this until the next morning when I discovered that a mutual friend along with four others had watched this same, or a simliar object,cavorting about the clear skies, in sheer bursts of incredible speed, with no noise, as they first drove., and then stopped their car to watch, some five miles from my own vantage point, at the same time, until they had to proceed to an appointment.

②

In America, I know, that they have a so-called "black economy", which uses public funds to pursue highly secret projects, the UFO enigma being just one such. Not even their Presidents are allowed access to this information. It may well be that your own Government, no, OUR Government, is also kept ignorant of such over here, of the same subject. It may also be that, bearing in mind the absurd and dangerous delayed information that the Government, notably the Tory Party, had, on the BSE etc etc crisis, that such greater secrets are kept firmly from their constituents for obvious reasons.

However, under the circumstances, ie: the mass of information, sightings etc by reliable professional pilots, military personnel, radar operators, etc etc, equivalent, or exceeding thereof, enough evidence that would convict in court, isn't it about time that your good self, along with other Ministers and such, "came clean" and told their electors just where we all stand?

Up until now, and with no sign of a discontinuence, we have come to distrust our "betters" who supposedly are concerned, and rightly so, with our welfare and wellbeing. Now could be the chance to reverse such a feeling..to lay your cards on the table..we are, you know, not daft out here, we would much prefer, the truth, in spite of the temporary chaos this would cause,..and it would be far better to do this soon, before the lid blows off and those such as yourself find themselves no longer in power. This would apply to all parties who failed to fulfil their elected obligations!

I will expect a reasoned and sensible reply, no waffle, please, my, our, many experiences in this real world out here, leave us in no doubt that real, solid, apparently crewed by strange creatures, craft, are, indeed, penetrating our defences with impunity, as they have been doing, for many many years.

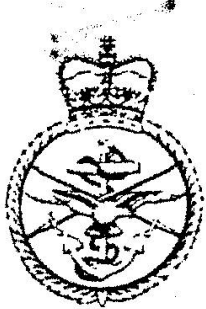
My own personal record of such stands at a total of fourteen such incidents! Since I have appeared on television and radio, as well as carrying out talks to the general public and interested parties, over 30 years, relating these and other "paranormal" incidents, I hope you understand, dear Minister, that I feel you owe ME, US, an honest answer! Please, no "standard" replies from the usual MOD department dealing with UFO'S!

I am,

Yours Sincerely, and maybe Hopefully,

Section 40





PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE
FOR DEFENCE

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
MAIN BUILDING WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2HB
Telephone **Section 40** (Direct Dialling)
Fax) (020) 7218 9000 (Switchboard)

2/6220000
Deadline 26
2000

D/US of S/LM 2033/00/Y

13th
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
15 JUN 2000
FILE

June 2000

Dear Geoff,

Thank you for your letter of 3 April on behalf of your constituent, **Section 40** of **Section 40** Sutton-in-Ashfield, who would like more information to be made available about 'Unidentified Flying Objects'. I apologise for not having replied earlier.

As Peter Kilfoyle said in his letter of 28 January, MOD files are subject to the provision of the Public Records Act of 1958 and 1967 and remain closed from public viewing for 30 years after the last action on the file has been taken. We have looked carefully to see whether early release of 'UFO' files is possible. However, the files contain personal details of all those contacting and corresponding with the Department and MOD has a duty to protect this third party confidentiality. Staff would need to be diverted from essential tasks to manually scrutinise and remove all personal details on the files and the knock-on effect would be a major disruption to MOD's overall programme for release of files to the Public Record Office. If, however, **Section 40** is interested in a specific date during the last 30 years, my officials would be happy to check to see what information might be held on file.

Best wishes

Section 40

DR LEWIS MOONIE MP

The Rt Hon Geoffrey Hoon MP

Private Office



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

SEC(AS)2A1

From: PARLIAMENTARY TYPIST2 on behalf of PARLIAMENTARY ENQUIRIES
To: SEC(AS)2A1
Sent: 02 June 2000 09:47
Subject: Read: PE US of S 2033/00

Your message

To: PARLIAMENTARY ENQUIRIES
Subject: PE US of S 2033/00
Sent: 02/06/00 09:38

was read on 02/06/00 09:47.

SEC(AS)2A1

To: PARLIAMENTARY ENQUIRIES**Subject:** PE US of S 2033/00

Please find attached our reply to the above mentioned PE. The attachment mentioned in para 1 of the covering letter will be walked down to the Parliamentary Branch by a member of Sec(AS) staff shortly.

Section 40

02/06/00

LOOSE MINUTE

D/Sec(AS)64/4

25 May 2000

PE UNIT

(through Sec(AS)2 -

Section 40

1/6

Copy to: Hd of DRI - Section 40

**PARLIAMENTARY ENQUIRY – US OF S 2033/00 – THE RT HON
GEOFFREY HOON MP**

1. Section 40 has been in correspondence with the Department about UFOs since 1996. His last approach was made through Secretary of State at the beginning of this year (D/US of S/PK0081/00, copy attached for ease of reference). We have explained to Section 40 on a number of occasions the Department's limited interest in this subject and Mr Kilfoyle's letter provided details about how information is released.
2. The Department receives some 200-300 alleged sighting reports each year and about a similar number of letters from members of the public about UFO issues. We have looked carefully to see whether files not yet 30 years old might be released to the Public Record Office. All of the sighting reports and correspondence contain personal details of those providing the information. Legal advice was sought: the Public Record Act gives an implied override of the Department's duty to protect the third party confidentiality by use of the 30 year rule. Release after that date would present no problems to MOD, but release in advance would lay the Department open to the risk of legal action for breach of confidence. To remove the personal details from the files would be a time consuming task. Staff in CS(RM), the MOD's Records Branch would need to be diverted from their essential tasks to manually scrutinise and sanitise thousands of pages on the files. The knock-on effect would be a major disruption to the Department's overall programme for the release of files to the PRO and cannot be justified.
3. Section 40 has already been advised that UFO files are released at the 30 year point. The draft attached explains why it is not possible to do so any earlier.

Section 40

Sec(AS)2a

MB8245 Section 40

CHOTS: SEC(AS)2A1

US 2033/00

May 2000

DRAFT REPLY TO THE RT HON GEOFFREY HOON MP

Thank you for your letter of 3 April on behalf of your constituent, **Section 40** of **Section 40** Sutton-in-Ashfield, who would like more information to be made available about 'Unidentified Flying Objects'.

As Peter Kilfoyle said in his letter of 28 January, MOD files are subject to the provision of the Public Records Act of 1958 and 1967 and remain closed from public viewing for 30 years after the last action on the file has been taken. We have looked carefully to see whether early release of 'UFO' files is possible. However, the files contain personal details of all those contacting and corresponding with the Department and MOD has a duty to protect this third party confidentiality. Staff would need to be diverted from essential tasks to manually scrutinise and remove all personal details on the files and the knock-on effect would be a major disruption to MOD's overall programme for release of files to the Public Record Office. I am afraid it simply cannot be justified. If however, **Section 40** is interested in a specific date during the last 30 years, my officials would be happy to check to see what information might be held on file.

The Rt Hon Geoffrey Hoon MP

Dr Lewis Moonie MP

PARLIAMENTARY ENQUIRY - FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION
IMPORTANT - YOU MUST READ THIS GUIDANCE

TO: Sec(AS)2PE REF NUMBER: US 2033/2000MINISTER REPLYING: US of SDRAFT REQUIRED BY: 216 /2000DATE: 24/5 /2000FROM: **Section 40**

PE Unit

TEL: **Section 40**

FAX:

Section 40

YOU WILL BE HELD TO ACCOUNT FOR THE DRAFT ANSWER AND ADVICE, WHICH MUST BE ACCURATE AND NOT MISLEADING IN ANY WAY.

ENSURE THE DEADLINE IS MET - IF YOU CANNOT, IT MAY BE NECESSARY TO PROVIDE AN INTERIM REPLY. IF IN DOUBT, SEEK ADVICE.

ALL DRAFTS MUST BE CLEARED BY A NAMED OFFICIAL AT GRADE 7 LEVEL OR ABOVE.

PLEASE E-MAIL DRAFTS TO 'PARLIAMENTARY ENQUIRIES'
NOT TO PE CLERKS OR PRIVATE OFFICES

Ministers place great importance on the content, style and speed of replies. Letters should be polite, informal, to the point and in clear, simple language. Avoid acronyms and MOD jargon. Always emphasise the positive aspects of Government policy. No background note is required unless essential to explain the line taken in the draft reply.

DEADLINES Ministers must send a written reply within **15 WORKING DAYS OF THIS ENQUIRY** as the Department's performance is reported each year to Parliament. It is therefore very important that your draft is with us by the date quoted at the top of this notice. If, exceptionally, you cannot meet the deadline, an interim reply should be provided giving as much information as possible. You should also inform me immediately.

IF THIS PE IS NOT FOR YOUR BRANCH, YOU MUST LET ME KNOW AT ONCE.

Action at official level on the same case should be held until the Minister has sent a full reply. Please discuss any questions about the substance of the drafts or other policy aspects direct with the relevant Private Office.

LAYOUT Draft replies should be double-spaced, Always include the full PE reference number at the top left of the draft. Put the MP's full title at the bottom left of the first page. Only add the address if the letter is from the Minister direct to a constituent.

OPENING AND CLOSING All Ministers prefer to start: "Thank you for your letter of ... (MP's ref if given) on behalf of/enclosing one from your constituent, Mr ... of ... about ..." If a Minister is replying on behalf of another Minister start "Thank you for your letter of ... to Geoffrey Hoon/ Elizabeth Symons/John Spellar/Lewis Moonie on behalf etc" For Mr Spellar add "I am replying in view of my responsibility for ..."

(EXCEPT FOR DR. MOONIE'S DRAFTS) choose an appropriate ending, such as:

"I hope this is helpful"

"I hope this explains the position/situation"

"I am sorry I cannot be more helpful"

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

OPEN GOVERNMENT Replies **MUST** be drafted in accordance with the Code of Practice on Access to Government Information. It is set out in DCI 223/99. If you are recommending to a Minister that some or all information is withheld, the answer must specify the law or exemption in the Code under which it is being withheld - eg "I am withholding the information requested under exemption 1 of Part II of the Code of Practice on Access to Government Information." It is **NOT** acceptable to rely on past practice.

INTERIM REPLIES If it is obvious on receipt of a PE that you cannot reply in full, an interim **MUST** be provided.

REMEMBER: An interim reply covering the majority of the issues raised could help our performance statistics.





5 APR 2000

SEC (A) 1
US
PK

8 Station Street
Kirkby-in-Ashfield
Nottinghamshire
NG17 7AR
Tel. 01623 720399
Fax. 01623 720399

000911

from Geoffrey Hoon
Member of Parliament
for Ashfield

Lewis Moonie MP
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State
Ministry of Defence
Whitehall
London SW1A 2HB

3.1 April 2000

Dear Lewis,

I have been contacted by my constituent a **Section 40** of **Section 40** Sutton-in-Ashfield, Nottinghamshire regarding UFO's.

I understand that **Section 40** investigates UFO's. **Section 40** would like the Ministry of Defence to move towards making more information available regarding UFO's.

I would be most grateful for your comments on this issue.

My thanks in anticipation of your assistance in this matter.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

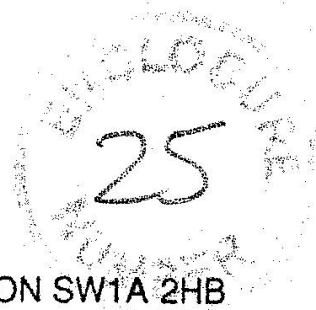


Geoffrey Hoon.



PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE
FOR DEFENCE

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



D/US of S/PK 0081/00/P

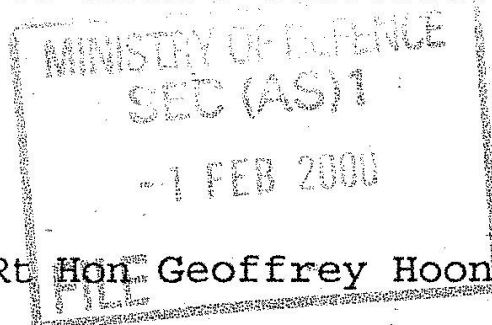
28th January 2000

Dear Geoff,

You wrote to me recently as the Minister with responsibility for the MOD's limited interest in 'Unidentified Flying Objects' and asked, on behalf of your constituent, **Section 40** of **Section 40** **Section 40** Sutton in Ashfield, if we would be releasing any information.

Section 40 has corresponded with the Department on several occasions in recent years and our officials have already explained to him the limited interest we have in these matters. We examine reports passed to us from members of the public of sightings that they cannot themselves identify only to establish whether what has been witnessed might have some defence significance. Our only concern is whether there is any evidence in what has been seen that the United Kingdom's airspace might have been compromised by hostile or unauthorised foreign military activity. I should add that the integrity of the UK's airspace in peacetime is maintained through continuous policing of the UK Air Defence region by the Royal Air Force and the Department remains vigilant for any potential military threat.

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



The Rt Hon Geoffrey Hoon MP





Section 40 has asked about the release of information. He will already know that MOD files are subject to the provisions of the Public Records Act of 1958 and 1967 and generally remain closed from public viewing for 30 years after the last action on the file has been taken. It was generally the case that before 1967 all MOD 'UFO' files were destroyed after five years as there was insufficient public interest in the subject to merit their permanent retention. However, as a result of growing public interest the files have been routinely preserved since 1967 and released to the Public Record Office. The PRO catalogue shows that our 1969 files were opened on 1 January this year; files from 1967 and 1968 and any from the 1950s and early 1960s that survived are already open. Files from 1970 onwards will be opened annually as they reach their 30-year maturity point. If **Section 40** would like any more information about these files he can contact the PRO at the following address:

Public Record Office
Ruskin Avenue
Kew
Richmond
Surrey TW9 4DU

I hope this explains the position.

Best wishes,

Section 40

PETER KILFOYLE MP



SEC(AS)2

From: PARLIAMENTARY TYPIST1 on behalf of PARLIAMENTARY ENQUIRIES
: SEC(AS)2
Sent: 18 January 2000 10:32
Subject: Read: PE US0081

Your message

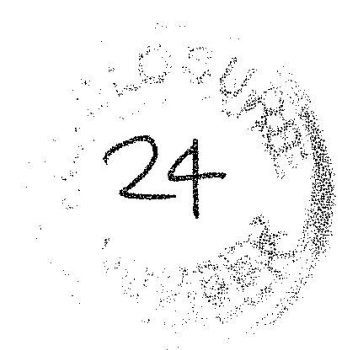
To: PARLIAMENTARY ENQUIRIES
Subject: PE US0081
Sent: 18/01/00 10:20

was read on 18/01/00 10:32.

Loose Minute

D/Sec(AS)/64/4 ↙

17 January 2000



Parliamentary Enquiries

PE US 0081/00

1. **Section 40** one of Secretary of State's constituents, is interested in UFOs and has asked if MOD will be releasing information about them. His question may have been prompted by media interest in the release of the next batch of archived files. MOD 'UFO' files are released each year in accordance with the 30-year rule and files for 1969 (thirteen in total) have been opened recently by the Public Record Office.

2. **Section 40** first contacted the Department by telephone in July 1996 to ask about 'UFOs'. A detailed reply was provided explaining the Department's limited interest in the phenomena. He has written on four occasions since then, most recently in September 1998. **Section 40** said in July 1996 that he was unable to visit the Public Record Office to research old MOD 'UFO' files and asked that we provide copies of any files containing sightings by members of the public. He was advised that this was not a service provided by the Department; contact details for the PRO were provided so that he might liaise with them on the range of services they offered. It may be that **Section 40** latest approach has a similar motive and it seems sensible to remind him of the details for contacting the PRO. Copies of the previous correspondence are attached for background information.

3. As requested by APS/SofS, I attach a draft reply for USofS to send to Secretary of State to pass on to **Section 40**.

Section 40

Sec(AS)2

MB8247 **Section 40**

CHOTS: SEC(AS)2

DRAFT FROM USofS TO SofS

You wrote to me recently as the Minister with responsibility for the MOD's limited interest in 'Unidentified Flying Objects' and asked, on behalf of your constituent, **Section 40** of **Section 40** Sutton in Ashfield, if we would be releasing any information.

Section 40 has corresponded with the Department on several occasions in recent years and our officials have already explained to him the limited interest we have in these matters. We examine reports passed to us from members of the public of sightings that they cannot themselves identify only to establish whether what has been witnessed might have some defence significance. Our only concern is whether there is any evidence in what has been seen that the United Kingdom's airspace might have been compromised by hostile or unauthorised foreign military activity. I should add that the integrity of the UK's airspace in peacetime is maintained through continuous policing of the UK Air Defence region by the Royal Air Force and the Department remains vigilant for any potential military threat.

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

Section 40 has asked about the release of information. He will already know that MOD files are subject to the provisions of the Public Records Act of 1958 and 1967 and generally remain closed from public viewing for 30 years after the last action on the file has been taken. It was generally the case that before 1967 all MOD 'UFO' files were destroyed after five years as there was insufficient public interest in the subject to merit their permanent retention. However, as a result of growing public interest the files have been routinely preserved since 1967 and released to the Public Record Office. The PRO catalogue shows that our 1969 files were opened on 1 January this year; files from 1967 and 1968 and any from the 1950s and early 1960s that survived are already open. Files from 1970 onwards will be opened annually as they reach their 30-year maturity point. If **Section 40** would like any more information about these files he can contact the PRO at the following address:

Public Record Office
Ruskin Avenue
Kew
Richmond
Surrey TW9 4DU.

I hope this explains the position.

PETER KILFOYLE MP

The Rt Hon Geoffrey Hoon MP

PARLIAMENTARY ENQUIRY - FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION**IMPORTANT - YOU MUST READ THIS GUIDANCE**TO: SEC (AS) 2PE REF NUMBER: US 0081 /00MINISTER REPLYING: USASDRAFT REQUIRED BY: 19 / 1 /00DATE: 7 / 1 /00FROM: **Section 40**

PE Unit

TEL: **Section 40**FAX: **Section 40**

YOU WILL BE HELD TO ACCOUNT FOR THE DRAFT ANSWER AND ADVICE. THEY MUST BE ACCURATE AND NOT MISLEADING IN ANY WAY

ENSURE THE DEADLINE IS MET - IF YOU CANNOT, IT MAY BE NECESSARY TO PROVIDE AN INTERIM REPLY. IF IN DOUBT, SEEK ADVICE.

ALL DRAFTS MUST BE CLEARED BY A NAMED OFFICIAL AT GRADE 7 LEVEL OR ABOVE.
**PLEASE E-MAIL DRAFTS TO PARLIAMENTARY ENQUIRIES,
NOT TO PE CLERKS OR PRIVATE OFFICES**

Ministers place great importance on the content, style and speed of replies. Letters should be polite, informal, to the point and in clear, simple language. Avoid acronyms and MOD jargon. Always emphasise the positive aspects of Government policy. No background note is required unless essential to explain the line taken in the draft reply.

DEADLINES A written reply must be sent within **15 WORKING DAYS OF THIS ENQUIRY** as our performance is reported each year to Parliament. It is therefore very important that your draft is with us by the date quoted at the top of this notice. If, exceptionally, you cannot meet the deadline, an interim reply should be provided giving as much information as possible. You should also inform me immediately.

IF THIS PE IS NOT FOR YOUR BRANCH YOU MUST LET ME KNOW AT ONCE.

Action at official level on the same case should be held until the Minister has sent a full reply. Please discuss any questions about the substance of the drafts or other policy aspects direct with the relevant Private Office.

LAYOUT. Draft replies should be double-spaced. Always include the full PE reference number at the top left of the draft. Put the MP's full title at the bottom left of the first page. Only add the address if the letter is from the Minister direct to a constituent.

OPENING AND CLOSING All Ministers prefer to start: "Thank you for your letter of ... (MP's ref if given) on behalf of/enclosing one from your constituent, Mr ... of ... about ..."

If a Minister is replying on behalf of another Minister start "Thank you for your letter of ... to Geoffrey Hoon/ Elizabeth Symons/John Spellar/Peter Kilfoyle on behalf etc"

For Mr Spellar add "I am replying in view of my responsibility for ..."

Choose an appropriate ending:

"I hope this is helpful"

"I hope this explains the position/situation"

"I am sorry I cannot be more helpful"

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

OPEN GOVERNMENT Replies **MUST** be drafted in accordance with the Code of Practice on Access to Government Information. It is set out in DCI 223/99. If you are recommending to a Minister that some or all information is withheld, the answer must specify the law or exemption in the Code under which it is being withheld- eg "I am withholding the information requested under exemption 1 of the Code of Practice on Access to Government Information." It is **NOT** acceptable to rely on past practice.

INTERIM REPLIES If it is obvious on receipt of a PE that you cannot reply in full, an interim **MUST** be provided.

REMEMBER: An interim reply covering most of the issues raised could help our performance statistics.

SURGERY SHEET

Handwritten notes:
Sergeant
Lowell
Ctce.

DATE 18/12/99

NAME [Section 40]

ADDRESS [Section 40] Sec A, [Section 40]

TELEPHONE NO.

SPECIFIC TYPE OF ENQUIRY

CASE DESCRIPTION

Interested in U.F.O.'s — will the M.D.P. be releasing information?

Poly Band

Please arrange a letter from Peter H to Gillian MP to pass to [Section 40] with the standard line on UFOs.

[Section 40] 1/12

check post code [Section 40] [Section 40] [Section 40] Notes

ACTION TO BE TAKEN

Write to Peter 12/1 Joyce about this? (ob mod)

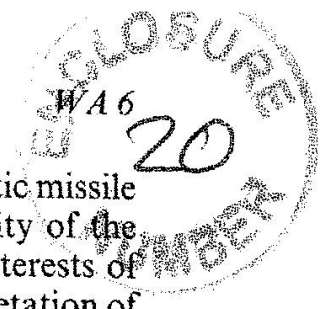
64/4

WA 5

Written Answers

[25 OCTOBER 1999]

Written Answers



Armed Forces: Redresses of Complaint

The Earl of Carlisle asked Her Majesty's Government:

How many times, since 1 May 1997, a redress of complaint, made by an officer or an other rank in the Armed Forces, has taken more than 12 months to process from submission to conclusion; and what was the reason for the delay in each case. [HL4144]

The Minister of State, Ministry of Defence (Baroness Symons of Vernham Dean): The number of redresses of complaint submitted since 1 May 1997 which took more than 12 months to be concluded was 57 for the Army and seven for the RAF. In addition, the Army has 102 cases and the RAF 12 cases which remain unresolved after 12 months. These figures cover complaints processed within the chain of command and by the Service Board. The Navy only collects information centrally on cases which fall to be determined by the board. On this basis, four cases took more than 12 months to resolve and seven cases are still outstanding.

The most common reasons for delay are the need to carry out special investigations, which may involve service police inquiries and the taking of witness statements; the need to take legal or other expert advice; and the extensive consultation required on complaints which challenge existing policy. Delays are also caused by complainants, or their legal representative, seeking information from the department to help them formulate their complaint, adding new complaints as the redress processes or delaying their response to the disclosure to them of all relevant papers before their case is submitted to the Service Board.

Although the services seeks to deal with all complaints expeditiously, the overriding importance of the thorough investigation and careful consideration of complex complaints often militates against this.

US National Security Agency: Menwith Hill

Lord Kennet asked Her Majesty's Government:

Whether currently planned developments by the United States National Security Agency at Menwith Hill are under the United Kingdom's operational control and are compatible both with the provisions of the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty and with the security and commercial interests of the United Kingdom and other members of the European Union. [HL4199]

Baroness Symons of Vernham Dean: Her Majesty's Government retain legal possession and control over sites made available for use by the United States visiting forces. Operational control of deployed forces rests with the United States. The facilities currently under construction at RAF Menwith Hill, which relate to the US Space-Based Infra-Red System, will be operated in accordance with these principles.

The systems will provide warning of ballistic missile launches, directly contributing to the security of the UK. This does not affect the commercial interests of either the UK or other EU members. Interpretation of the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty is a matter for the parties to that treaty.

WTO Negotiations: ACP Supplying States

Lord Moynihan asked Her Majesty's Government:

Whether, in the context of the forthcoming World Trade Organisation negotiations, they will support a balanced agenda accommodating the concerns and interests of African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) supplying states. [HL4213]

The Minister for Science, Department of Trade and Industry (Lord Sainsbury of Turville): Her Majesty's Government have made clear their commitment to ensuring that the agenda for new comprehensive negotiations in the WTO should take full account of the needs and priorities of all developing countries.

Sovereignty above National Airspace

Lord Kennet asked Her Majesty's Government:

Whether they consider national sovereign rights pertain to vehicles, whether civil or military, that operate above national airspace. [HL4195]

Lord Sainsbury of Turville: National sovereignty applies to airspace; no sovereignty applies in outer space. There is no established definition of the height at which airspace ends and outer space begins.

Regarding vehicles, a state on whose registry a space object appears retains jurisdiction and control over such object while in outer space (Article VIII, 1967, Outer Space Treaty).

Hospital Doctors: Suspension

Baroness Knight of Collingtree asked Her Majesty's Government:

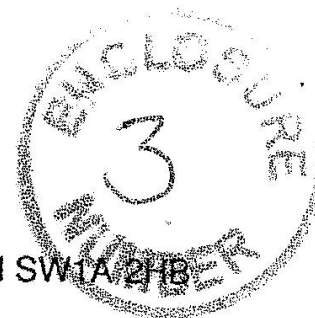
When Baroness Knight of Collingtree can expect an answer concerning the introduction of new rules governing the suspension of hospital doctors, requested by a committee of medical experts and submitted by her to the Government Minister in July. [HL4171]

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department of Health (Lord Hunt of Kings Heath): An internal management review of the procedures for the suspension of hospital doctors has been completed taking into account information received from a number of sources. The findings of this review will now be taken forward as part of work on the wider issues concerning the recognition and handling of poor clinical performance.



PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE
FOR DEFENCE

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



*US of S dist.
Sec (AS) 2a1*

Councillor Buchanan
Municipal Buildings
Falkirk
FK1 5RF

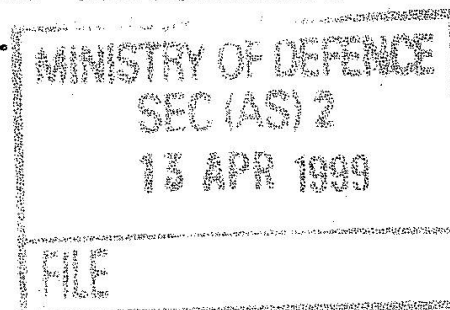
“ D/US of S/JS 28/1/0

12th April 1999

Dear Councillor Buchanan,

At a recent Ministry of Defence Press Conference you handed a member of the Ministry of Defence security staff a 'Demand Notice' for Mr Spellar, the Under Secretary of State for Defence, about sightings of 'unidentified flying objects' (UFOs) in the Bonnybridge area. Mr Spellar has seen the Notice and has asked me to reply.

As you will be aware, the Ministry of Defence has a very specific and limited interest in 'UFO' sighting reports. You will recall from correspondence with MOD officials that this interest is solely to establish whether what was seen might have some defence significance, namely, whether there is any evidence that the United Kingdom's airspace might have been compromised by hostile or unauthorized foreign military activity. Unless there is evidence of a potential threat to the United Kingdom from an external military source the Ministry of Defence does not attempt to identify the precise nature of each sighting reported. We believe that down to earth explanations could be found for these reports, such as aircraft lights or natural phenomena, if resources were diverted for this purpose. However, it is not a function of the MOD to provide this kind of aerial identification service and it would be an inappropriate use of defence resources to do so. Geographically, Falkirk is located between Glasgow and Edinburgh and it is possible that aircraft flying into and out of the airports located there or, perhaps, using the Cumbernauld aerodrome, might account for what has been seen.



Recycled Paper

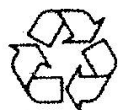
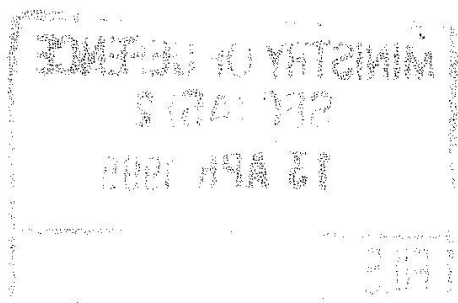


The Ministry of Defence has no plans to expand its interest in these matters. I can however assure you that the integrity of the UK's airspace in peacetime is maintained through continuous policing of the UK Air Defence Region by the Royal Air Force which remains vigilant for any potential external military threat. In the event that any video or photographic evidence is forwarded to the Ministry of Defence to substantiate public concerns, it will be examined by experts as necessary.

Finally, I should add that the views expressed by Mr Pope on the subject of 'UFOs' are entirely his own personal opinions and do not represent nor reflect the views of the Ministry of Defence.

Section 40

Assistant Private Secretary



Recycled Paper

LOOSE MINUTE

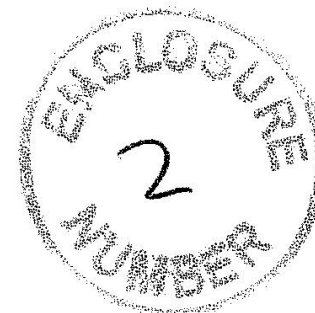
D/Sec(AS)64/4 ←

12 Apr 1999


 Section 40
 

APS/US OF S *
 (through SEC(AS)2 -

* [by CHOTS e-mail only]



LETTER FROM COUNCILLOR W BUCHANAN

Reference: D/US of S/JS 28/1/0 dated 29 March 1999

Issue

1. Councillor Buchanan's attempt to lobby Ministers during an Op Allied Force press briefing about 'UFO' sightings in the Bonnybridge area.

Recommendation

2. That a Private Secretary reply is sent to Councillor Buchanan using the attached draft.

Timing

3. Routine.

Background

4. Councillor Buchanan is an elected Member of Chacefield Ward, Falkirk Council. He sits as an independent Member.

5. Councillor Buchanan's interest in alleged 'UFO' sightings came to our attention in September 1994 when a letter to the Prime Minister saying that in the preceding two years over 600 people had come forward with reports of 'UFO' sightings in the Falkirk district was passed to MOD for official action reply. We advised Councillor Buchanan of the Department's limited interest in these matters and explained that only two or three reported sightings for the area during the period in question had been received by the Department, none of which were of defence significance.

6. In January 1995 Councillor Buchanan persuaded his local MP, Dennis Canavan, to write to Sec(AS)2 requesting a meeting between the Councillor, a local Falkirk ufologist and MOD officials to discuss the alleged 'UFO' sightings. The then US of S responded declining the meeting as there was no evidence to indicate a phenomena of defence significance.

7. Nothing more was heard until March 1997 when Dennis Canavan wrote to the then S of S enclosing a further letter from Councillor Buchanan. Again, US of S replied reiterating that MOD only examines 'UFO' reports to establish whether what was seen might have some defence significance, and that Falkirk and Bonnybridge were not experiencing any phenomena of defence concern.

8. Councillor Buchanan wrote again to the Prime Minister in October 1997 and December 1998 demanding answers to the "thousands of 'UFO' sightings" on behalf of the people of Bonnybridge. On both occasions, Sec(AS)2a replied reiterating the Departments limited role in these matters.

9. Geographically, Falkirk is located between Glasgow and Edinburgh airports, and Cumbernauld aerodrome is near by. It is likely that civil aircraft activity accounts for much of what Councillor Buchanan claims has been seen. The number of reported 'UFO' sightings received by Sec(AS)2a for the Falkirk and Bonnybridge area is not high: 2 in 1997; 2 in 1998; and 1 to date for 1999.

10. Given the background to this case we believe it appropriate to send a Private Secretary reply to Councillor Buchanan and the draft attached is couched in these terms. Copies of the previous correspondence are also enclosed for information.

[Signed]

Section 40

SEC(AS)2a1

MB8245 **Section 40**

DRAFT REPLY TO COUNCILLOR W BUCHANAN

At a recent Ministry of Defence Press Conference you handed a member of the Ministry of Defence security staff a 'Demand Notice' for Mr Spellar, the Under Secretary of State for Defence, about sightings of 'unidentified flying objects' (UFOs) in the Bonnybridge area. Mr Spellar has seen the Notice and has asked me to reply on his behalf.

The Ministry of Defence has a very specific and limited interest in 'UFO' sighting reports. You will recall from correspondence with MOD officials that this interest is solely to establish whether what was seen might have some defence significance, namely, whether there is any evidence that the United Kingdom's airspace might have been compromised by hostile or unauthorized foreign military activity. Unless there is evidence of a potential threat to the United Kingdom from an external military source the Ministry of Defence does not attempt to identify the precise nature of each sighting reported. We believe that down to earth explanations could be found for these reports, such as aircraft lights or natural phenomena, if resources were diverted for this purpose. However, it is not a function of the MOD to provide this kind of aerial identification service and it would be an inappropriate use of defence resources to do so. Geographically, Falkirk is located between Glasgow and Edinburgh and it is possible that aircraft flying into and out of the airports located there or, perhaps, using the Cumbernauld aerodrome, might account for what has been seen.

The Ministry of Defence has no plans for the foreseeable future to expand its interest in these matters. I can however assure you that the integrity of the UK's airspace in peacetime is maintained through continuous policing of the UK Air Defence Region by the Royal Air Force which remains vigilant for any potential external military threat. In the event that any video or photographic evidence is forwarded to the Ministry of Defence to substantiate public concerns, it will be examined by experts as necessary.

Finally, I should add that the views expressed by Mr Pope on the subject of 'UFOs' are entirely his own personal opinions and do not represent nor reflect the views of the Ministry of Defence.

I hope this explains the position.

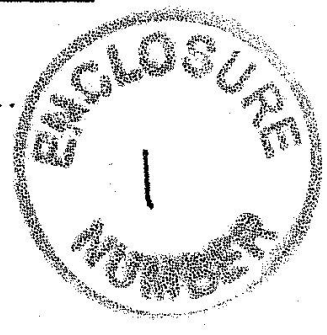
Councillor W Buchanan

032

→ 64/4

MINISTERIAL BUSINESS – TO BE GIVEN PRIORITY AT ALL TIMES

COVERING: Unclassified.
REFERENCE: D/US of S/JS 28/1/0 P2
TO Sec(AS)2 DATE 29/3/99
SUBJECT UFOs



I attach a letter / ~~minute~~ from Councillor W Buchanan
To US of S Dated 28th March '99

I am referring this correspondence to you for:

- ~~Information and any necessary action~~
- Advice, and a draft reply for US of S' ~~PS signature~~

Please submit your advice not later than 12th April 1999

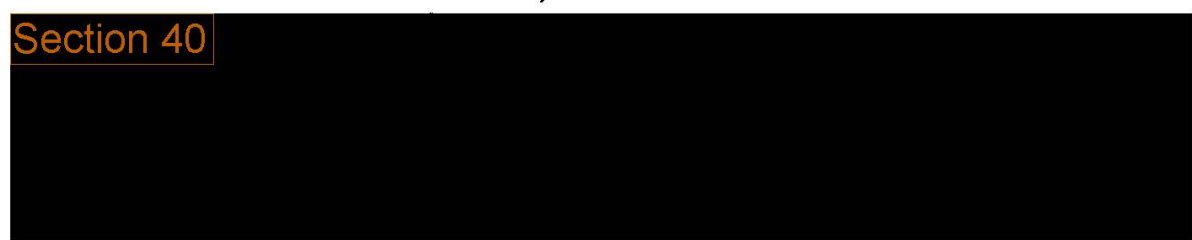
In preparing your advice you should consult other Departments, divisions and branches as necessary.

Minister would like to know which party the councillor belongs to.

The Open Government Code of Practice came into force on 4 April 1994. You should ensure that replies to members of the public are provided in accordance with its procedures.

I am sending copies of this to:

.....
.....
.....
.....



APS/US of S
MB6215 **Section 40**
FAX: **Section 40**
CHOTs: USofS/Mailbox

MINISTERIAL BUSINESS – TO BE GIVEN PRIORITY AT ALL TIMES

US of S / Clerk 2

MB6210

1. Mr Buchanan, accompanied by two cameramen, attempted to join today's press conference. He agreed to depart without making a fuss upon the guard undertaking to pass the attached 'Demand Notice' to Mr Spellar.

2. For information, Mr Nick Pope is a well-known writer on UFO matters and is also an **Section 40**

Section 40 He was advised that his name was mentioned in the Demand Notice and identified Mr Buchanan as a vociferous lobbyist on the subject of UFOs.

3. For action as wished.

26 Mar 99

Section 40

HQ S4 2 (Cc)

Section 40

DEMAND NOTICE

Mr John Spellar
Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Defence

Sir,

For over six years there has been a UFO phenomenon in my area that has not gone away. Thousands of individuals have come forward during this period, and despite public ridicule are still coming forward.

I have contacted the MOD and both the former and present Governments during this time to ask for an investigation into these sightings, without success. The reply is always the same - nothing happening in the Bonnybridge area that is a threat to national security - and an absence of evidence.

Well Sir, if thousands of individuals are watching something for which they cannot give a rational explanation, and there is video and photographic evidence to back this up, then why oh why does the MOD continue to be so negative in their attitude and also disrespectful to my constituents.

It is strange that your own spokesman who I contacted initially, Mr Nick Pope, tried to discredit the Bonnybridge phenomenon and now he is a TV celebrity telling anyone who wants to listen that he believes aliens are here, and yet he still works for the MOD - strange indeed!

Bonnybridge demands an answer and I won't go away.

Section 40



This is a duplicate of PE US 0807/99 which was answered on 2 Mar 99. Answer 3/3. Informed PE Unit of this

PARLIAMENTARY ENQUIRY - FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION

Section 40

THE GUIDANCE IS NEW : YOU MUST READ IT

TO: Sec(AS)2

PE REF NUMBER: US 916 /99

MINISTER REPLYING: USofs

DRAFT REQUIRED BY: 15/3/99

DATE: 3/3/99

FROM: **Section 40**

PE Unit

TEL: **Section 40**

YOU WILL BE HELD TO ACCOUNT FOR THE DRAFT ANSWER AND ADVICE. THEY MUST BE ACCURATE AND NOT MISLEADING IN ANY WAY

ENSURE THE DEADLINE IS MET. IF IN DOUBT, SEEK ADVICE.

ALL DRAFTS MUST BE CLEARED BY A NAMED OFFICIAL AT GRADE 7 LEVEL OR ABOVE.

***** **IMPORTANT UPDATES** *****

1. Ministerial responsibilities changed.
2. Opening and Closing All Ministers prefer to start:
 "Thank you for your letter of ... (MP's ref if given) on behalf of/enclosing one from your constituent, Mr ... of ... Toytown about..."
 If a Minister is replying on behalf of another Minister start:
 "Thank you for your letter of ... to George Robertson/Doug Henderson/John Gilbert/John Spellar on behalf etc"
 Mr Spellar add "I am replying in view of my responsibility for ..."
 Do not end "I hope this is helpful" when the reply is obviously disappointing. Alternatives are:
 "I hope this explains the position"
 "I am sorry I cannot be more helpful"
 "I am sorry to send what I know will be a disappointing reply."
3. Open Government A revised Code of Practice on Access to Government Information came into effect in 1997. It is set out in DCI GEN 54/1998.

Replies **MUST** be drafted in accordance with this policy. If you are recommending to Ministers that some or all information is withheld, the answer must specify the law or exception in the Code under which it is being withheld. eg "I am withholding the information requested under exemption 1 of the Code of Practice on Access to Government Information." It is **NOT** acceptable to rely on past practice.

Deadlines To concur with the Citizens Charter, we have agreed to send a written reply within 15 working days to this enquiry. It is very important that your draft is with us by the date quoted at the top of this notice. If, exceptionally, you cannot meet the deadline let me know at once, an interim reply might be needed.

Departmental action Action on the same case should be held until the Minister has sent a full reply. Please discuss any questions about the substance of the drafts or other policy aspects direct with the relevant private office.

Ministers place great importance on the content style and speed of the replies. Letters should be polite, informal, to the point and in clear, simple language. Avoid acronyms and MOD jargon. Always emphasise the positive aspects of Government policy. No background note is required unless essential to explain the line taken in the draft reply.

Layout Draft replies should be double spaced. Always include the full PE reference number at the top left of the draft.

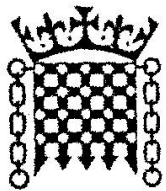
Put the MP's full title at the bottom left of the first page. Only add the address if the letter is from the Minister direct to a constituent.

Should this not be for your branch, please inform us **IMMEDIATELY** by telephone.

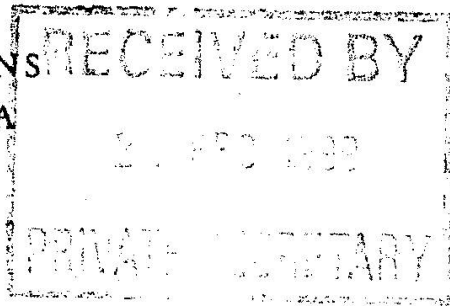
Wherever possible drafts should be sent on CHOTS E-Mail to: **PARLIAMENTARY ENQUIRIES, NOT TO PE CLERKS OR PRIVATE OFFICES**, otherwise send drafts by fax to **Section 40**
PLEASE USE ONLY ONE METHOD

ENCLOSURE
 17
 MEMBER
 Section 40
 EC (AS) 2
 3/3
 SEC (AS) 1
 3 MAR 1999
 FILE

9/10



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA



1101

19 February 1999

George Howarth Esq MP
The Under-Secretary
HOME OFFICE
Queen Anne's Gate
LONDON SW1

3018/99

Andrew Price

I'm not sure who takes responsibility for UFOs, but I should be grateful for the Government's thinking on this issue.

Section 40

Section 40



UFO Magazine
Sep/Oct 1998

Section 40

Regarding

Section 40

T. Oakes

Section 40

13 : 2 : 99

Dear

Section 40

Referring to the article in the above Magazine which you will probably have read by now.

I am writing to you in the hope that you can get this Government to fulfil its obligations to the British Nation, and stop treating us like backward children.

The Article by

Section 40

Speaks for itself

and as a person who has communicated & studied (with ^{these matters} despite ridicule) since 1956 (circa) - I feel entitled to know the answers to world wide manifestations such as these.

Millions of people have seen them, many parents acknowledge them - why can't ours publicly.

You may have my copy of the magazine or order your own phone

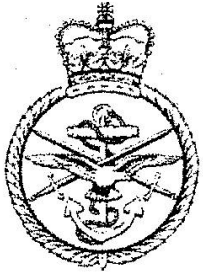
Section 40

My no:

Section 40

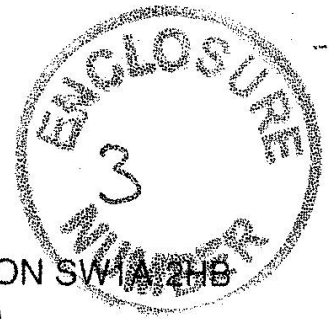
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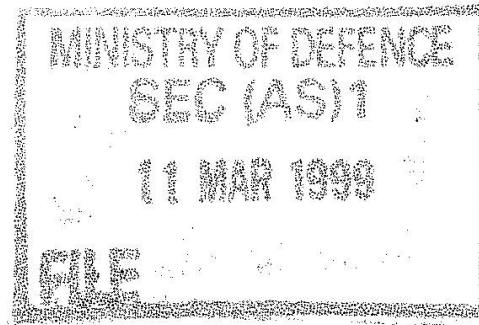
PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE
FOR DEFENCE

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



D/US of S/JS 0807/99/M

10 March 1999



Dear Anthony,

Thank you for your letter of 19 February to George Howarth enclosing one from your constituent, **Section 40** of **Section 40** **Section 40** Totnes, about reports of 'unidentified flying objects' (UFOs). Your letter has been passed to the Ministry of Defence and I am replying as this matter falls within my area of responsibility.

Given the points raised by your constituent it may be helpful if I explain the policy in relation to UFOs.

My Department examines any reports of UFOs it receives solely to establish whether what was seen might have some defence significance, namely, whether there is any evidence that the United Kingdom's airspace might have been compromised by hostile or unauthorized foreign military activity. Unless there is evidence of a potential threat to the United Kingdom from an external military source we do not attempt to identify the precise nature of each sighting reported to us. We believe that down to earth explanations could be found for these reports, such as aircraft lights or natural phenomena, if resources were diverted for this purpose. However, it is not a function of the MOD to provide this kind of aerial identification service and it would be an inappropriate use of defence resources to do so.

Anthony Steen Esq MP



Recycled Paper



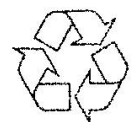
The MOD does not have any expertise or role in respect of 'UFO/flying saucer' matters or to the question of the existence or otherwise of extraterrestrial lifeforms, about which it remains totally open-minded. I should add that to date the MOD knows of no evidence which substantiates the existence of these alleged phenomena.

Finally, my Department has no plans for the foreseeable future to expand its interest in these matters. I can however assure your constituent that the integrity of the UK's airspace in peacetime is maintained through continuous policing of the UK Air Defence Region by the Royal Air Force which remains vigilant for any potential external military threat.

I hope this explains the position.

Section 40

JOHN SPELLAR MP

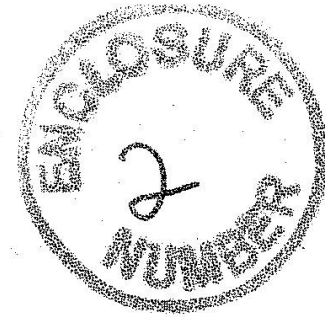


Recycled Paper

LOOSE MINUTE

D/Sec(AS)64/4 ←

2 Mar 1999



Section 40

PE UNIT *

(through SEC(AS)2

[Redacted]

2/3

* [by CHOTS e-mail only]

LETTER FROM ANTHONY STEEN MP – US 0807/99

1. I enclose a draft reply which US of S may wish to send to Anthony Steen MP who forwarded a letter he received from his constituent, Section 40 about unidentified flying objects (UFOs).

2. Section 40 constituent is asking the Government/MOD to investigate an article in 'UFO Magazine' as he would like to know the "answers" behind numerous sightings of UFOs Worldwide that are reported each year. However, the Department's interest in this subject is very limited and the draft reply sets out the position in full.

Section 40

[Redacted]

SEC(AS)2a1

MB8245

Section 40

US 0807/99

DRAFT REPLY TO ANTHONY STEEN MP

Thank you for your letter of 19 February to George Howarth enclosing one from your constituent, **Section 40** of **Section 40** about reports of 'unidentified flying objects' (UFOs). Your letter has been passed to the Ministry of Defence and I am replying as this matter falls within my area of responsibility .

My Department examines any reports of UFOs it receives solely to establish whether what was seen might have some defence significance, namely, whether there is any evidence that the United Kingdom's airspace might have been compromised by hostile or unauthorized foreign military activity. Unless there is evidence of a potential threat to the United Kingdom from an external military source we do not attempt to identify the precise nature of each sighting reported to us. We believe that down to earth explanations could be found for these reports, such as aircraft lights or natural phenomena, if resources were diverted for this purpose. However, it is not a function of the MOD to provide this kind of aerial identification service and it would be an inappropriate use of defence resources to do so.

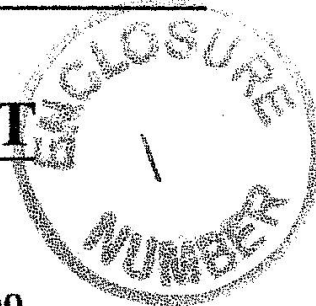
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I hope this explains the position.

JOHN SPELLAR MP

Anthony Steen Esq MP

PARLIAMENTARY ENQUIRY - FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION**THE GUIDANCE IS NEW: YOU MUST READ IT**TO: SEC(AS)2PE REF NUMBER: US 0807/99MINISTER REPLYING: USOASDRAFT REQUIRED BY: 9/3/99DATE: 25/2/99FROM: **Section 40**

PE Unit

TEL: **Section 40**

YOU WILL BE HELD TO ACCOUNT FOR THE DRAFT ANSWER AND ADVICE. THEY MUST BE ACCURATE AND NOT MISLEADING IN ANY WAY

ENSURE THE DEADLINE IS MET. IF IN DOUBT, SEEK ADVICE.

ALL DRAFTS MUST BE CLEARED BY A NAMED OFFICIAL AT GRADE 7 LEVEL OR ABOVE.

******* IMPORTANT UPDATES *******

1. Ministerial responsibilities changed.

2. Opening and Closing All Ministers prefer to start:

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

If a Minister is replying on behalf of another Minister start:

"Thank you for your letter of ... to George Robertson/Doug Henderson/John Gilbert/John Spellar on behalf etc"

Mr Spellar add "I am replying in view of my responsibility for ..."

Do not end "I hope this is helpful" when the reply is obviously disappointing. Alternatives are:

"I hope this explains the position"

"I am sorry I cannot be more helpful"

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

3. Open Government A revised Code of Practice on Access to Government Information came into effect in 1998. It is set out in DCI GEN 54/98.

Replies **MUST** be drafted in accordance with this policy. If you are recommending to Ministers that some or all information is withheld, the answer must specify the law or exception in the Code under which it is being withheld. eg "I am withholding the information requested under exemption 1 of the Code of Practice on Access to Government Information." It is **NOT** acceptable to rely on past practice.

Deadlines To concur with the Citizens Charter, we have agreed to send a written reply within **15 working days** to this enquiry. It is very important that your draft is with us by the date quoted at the top of this notice. If, exceptionally, you cannot meet the deadline let me know at once, an interim reply might be needed.

Departmental action Action on the same case should be held until the Minister has sent a full reply. Please discuss any questions about the substance of the drafts or other policy aspects direct with the relevant private office.

Ministers place great importance on the content style and speed of the replies. Letters should be polite, informal, to the point and in clear, simple language. Avoid acronyms and MOD jargon. Always emphasise the positive aspects of Government policy. No background note is required unless essential to explain the line taken in the draft reply.

Layout Draft replies should be double-spaced. Always include the full PE reference number at the top left of the draft.

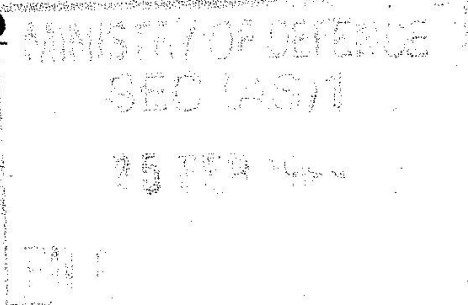
Put the MP's full title at the bottom left of the first page. Only add the address if the letter is from the Minister direct to a constituent.

Should this not be for your branch, please inform us **IMMEDIATELY** by telephone.

Wherever possible drafts should be sent on CHOTS E-Mail to: **PARLIAMENTARY ENQUIRIES, NOT TO PE CLERKS OR PRIVATE OFFICES**, otherwise send drafts by fax to

Section 40

PLEASE USE ONLY ONE METHOD



24/02/99

10:56

PRIVATE OFFICE → Section 40

NO. 305

002

From: Anthony Steen, M.P.



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

→ MOD?

19 February 1999

George Howarth Esq MP
The Under-Secretary
HOME OFFICE
Queen Anne's Gate
LONDON SW1

I'm not sure who takes responsibility for UFOs, but I should be grateful for the Government's thinking on this issue.

Section 40

Section 40

24/02/99

10:56

PRIVATE OFFICE → Section 40

NO. 305

D03

UFO Magazine
Sep/Oct 1998

Regarding

Section 40

Section 40

T. Oakes

Section 40

13 : 2 : 99

Dear Mr Green,

Referring to the article in the above Magazine which you will probably have read by now.

I am writing to you in the hope that you can get this Government to fulfil its obligations to the British Nation, and stop treating us like backward children.

The Article by

Section 40

speaks for itself

and as a person who has communicated & studied (with these matters) (despite medical) since 1956 (circa) - I feel entitled to know the answers to world wide manifestations such as these.

Millions of people have seen them, many parents acknowledge them - why can't ours publicly.

You may have my copy of the magazine or order your own phone

Section 40

my no

Section 40

24/02/99

10:56

PRIVATE OFFICE → Section 40

NO. 305

004

I hope as my representative in
Parliament you would kindly investigate
fully. That is if we have any Parliament
left!!

Yours with anticipation,

Section 40



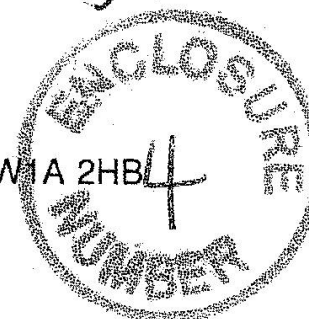
RESTRICTED/UNCLASSIFIED

RESTRICTED/UNCLASSIFIED



PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE
FOR DEFENCE

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



D/US of S/JS 0743/99

10 March 1999

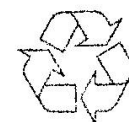
Dear John,

Thank you for your letter of 15 February to George Robertson enclosing one from your constituent **Section 40** of **Section 40** Leeds, about reports of 'unidentified flying objects' (UFOs). I am replying as this matter falls within my area of responsibility.

My Department examines any reports of UFOs it receives solely to establish whether what was seen might have some defence significance, namely, whether there is any evidence that the United Kingdom's airspace might have been compromised by hostile or unauthorized foreign military activity. Unless there is evidence of a potential threat to the United Kingdom from an external military source we do not attempt to identify the precise nature of each sighting reported to us. We believe that down to earth explanations could be found for these reports, such as aircraft lights or natural phenomena, if resources were diverted for this purpose. However, it is not a function of the MOD to provide this kind of aerial identification service and it would be an inappropriate use of defence resources to do so.

Section 40 asks about the alleged incident at Rendlesham Forest. When the Ministry of Defence was informed of the events which are alleged to have occurred at Rendlesham Forest/RAF Woodbridge in December 1980, all available evidence was assessed at the time by the staff in my Department responsible for air defence matters. Since the judgement was that there was nothing of defence significance, no further action was taken. Although a number of allegations have subsequently been made about these reported events, nothing has emerged over the last 19 years which has given my officials reason to believe that the original assessment made by this Department was incorrect.

John Battle Esq MP



Recycled Paper

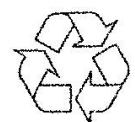


Finally, my Department has no plans for the foreseeable future to expand its interest in reports of 'unidentified flying objects'. I can however assure **Section 40** that the integrity of the UK's airspace in peacetime is maintained through continuous policing of the UK Air Defence Region by the Royal Air Force and remains vigilant for any potential external military threat.

I hope this explains the position.

Section 40

JOHN SPELLAR MP

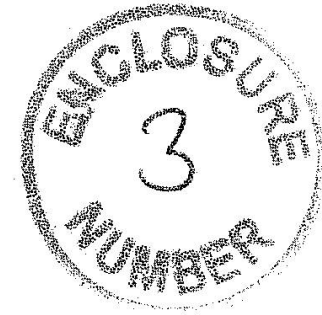


Recycled Paper

OOSE MINUTE

D/Sec(AS)64/4 ←

8 Mar 1999



PS/US of S * [Section 40] 5/3
(through SEC(AS)2 - [redacted])

*[by CHOTS e-mail only]

LETTER FROM JOHN BATTLE MP – US 0743/99

Reference. Telecon: [Section 40] of 4 Mar 99.

1. I enclose a revised draft including a paragraph about Rendlesham Forest as requested.

[Signed]

[Section 40]
SEC(AS)2a1
MB8245 [Section 40]

IS 0743/99

DRAFT REPLY TO JOHN BATTLE MP

Thank you for your letter of 15 February to George Robertson enclosing one from your constituent, **Section 40** of **Section 40** Leeds, about reports of 'unidentified flying objects' (UFOs). I am replying as this matter falls within my area of responsibility .

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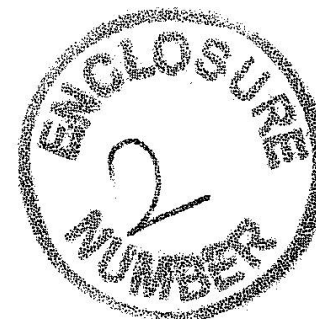
JOHN SPELLAR MP

John Battle Esq MP

LOOSE MINUTE

D/Sec(AS)64/4

24 Feb 1999



PE UNIT * [redacted] **Section 40**
(through SEC(AS)2 [redacted])

25/2

* [by CHOTS e-mail only]

LETTER FROM JOHN BATTLE MP – US 0743/99

1. I enclose a draft reply which US of S may wish to send to John Battle MP who forwarded a letter he received from his constituent [redacted] **Section 40** about unidentified flying objects (UFOs).

2. [redacted] **Section 40** is essentially asking the Government/MOD to have a greater involvement in the investigation into UFOs following two UFO documentaries he recently viewed on the television. However, the Department's interest in this subject is very limited and the draft reply sets out the position in full.

[redacted] **Section 40**

SEC(AS)2a1
MB8245 [redacted] **Section 40**

US 0743/99

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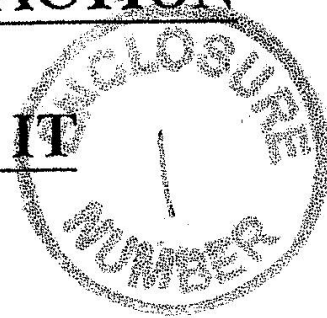
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JOHN SPELLAR MP

John Battle Esq MP

PARLIAMENTARY ENQUIRY - FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION**THE GUIDANCE IS NEW : YOU MUST READ IT**TO: SEC (AS) 2PE REF NUMBER USO743/99MINISTER REPLYING: USOFS DRAFT REQUIRED BY: 4/3/99DATE: 22/2/99 FROM: **Section 40** PE Unit TEL: **Section 40**

YOU WILL BE HELD TO ACCOUNT FOR THE DRAFT ANSWER AND ADVICE. THEY MUST BE ACCURATE AND NOT MISLEADING IN ANY WAY

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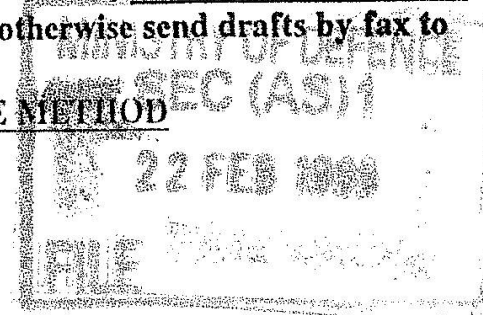
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PLEASE USE ONLY ONE METHOD





John Battle. M.P.
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA.

Telephone: 0171 219 4201
Fax: 0171 219 4286

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

Leeds Office:
Tel/Fax 0113 231 0258

Handwritten initials:
MS
JFC
OV

15 February 1999

Dear *George,*

RE **Section 40** [redacted] Leeds **Section 40**

Section 40 [redacted] has contacted me regarding U.F.O's.

I enclose a copy of **Section 40** [redacted] letter and would be most grateful if you could look into this matter and advise me of the outcome.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter and I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely

Section 40 [redacted]

JOHN BATTLE MP

ENC

Section 40

Section 40

Section 40

Leeds,

Tuesday 2nd February,

Dear Mr. Battle,

I feel compelled to write to you as my Member of Parliament.

I myself am a fifty year old married father of four children. I consider myself to be level-headed, fair and open minded. I am not subjected to bouts of fantasy. Generally I am an average man in the street.

Now to the reason for this letter. Last Friday I watched, and taped, the programme on B.B.C. 2, entitled, U.F.O., Northern Lights. Last night I watched, and taped the programme on Channel 4, entitled, Riddle of the Skies.

At this point let me state that I do not believe that the planet Earth is the only habitated planet in our Galaxy, or any other Galaxy. I also personally believe that U.F.O.'s are real extra terrestrial vehicles piloted by intelligent beings.

I would like to know exactly what the British government knows about U.F.O.'s. I certainly believe they know more than they have so far admitted to. There is a well documented incident which took place in Rendlesham Forest in the early

21.

hours of Friday 26th December 1980.
 R.A.F. Woodbridge and R.A.F. Bentwaters are respectfully in and adjacent to the forest. At the time both bases were leased to the U.S.A.F. and technically were under supervision from London. Personnel based at R.A.F. Bentwaters witnessed a U.F.O. which landed in Rendlesham Forest on 26th December 1980. At the same time R.A.F. Neatishead picked up the object on radar. The object returned no signal and was outperforming the R.A.F.'s finest aircraft before it disappeared off screen moving at phenomenal speed.

The radar tapes from R.A.F. Neatishead and nearby R.A.F. Watton were requisitioned three days later and examined by U.S.A.F., and presumably, R.A.F. intelligence officers.

The next evening the U.F.O. returned at 1.48 a.m. and was witnessed by several people for approximately one and a half hours.

A cover up and a series of dis-information followed. I still do not believe that all the facts have been released to the public.

I think the British public have a right to know all the facts pertaining to the U.F.O. question. What do you think would happen if, within the next five to ten years, U.F.O.'s openly visited Earth? I would hazard a guess that there would be such widespread panic and pandemonium that would be difficult to contain. For years now we have been served a catalogue of monsters, megalomaniac aliens and the

3/.

like by Hollywood and other filmmakers. Is this all part of a worldwide cover up by the American government and their allies so that the public at large did not look too closely or ask too many embarrassing questions?

I am sorry Mr. Battle but I earnestly believe that the British government comes clean and give out all the facts. We are after all making a contribution via our taxes to the S.E.T.I. programme being conducted by the Goddard Bank Radio Telescope. We deserve the right to know.

The present Labour government prides itself on its honesty and its answerability to the British public which voted for them thus allowing them to be in Office.

I leave this matter in your hands Mr. Battle and hope your conscience allows you to instigate a course of actions which will lay all the facts before the British public as requested by me in this letter.

Yours sincerely;

Section 40

RESTRICTED/UNCLASSIFIED

RESTRICTED/UNCLASSIFIED

