

UNCLASSIFIED
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MOD Form 329D
(Revised 8/00)
PPQ = 100

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

Date opened (Date of first enclosure)

1-Sept 2005

Registered file number
D/DAS/64/3/11

Part No. **F**

- 1. Attention is drawn to the notes on the inside flap.
- 2. Enter notes of related files on page 2 of this jacket

DIVISION/ESTABLISHMENT/UNIT/BRANCH

[FULL ADDRESS & TELEPHONE NUMBER]

SUBJECT *UFOs - Persistent Correspondent*

- Dr David Clarke

[BLOCK CAPITALS]

RECORD OF KEYWORDS:

Referred to	Date	Min/Encl	Referred to	Date	Min/Encl	Referred to	Date	Min/Encl	Referred to	Date	Min/Encl
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CLOSED

FOR DRO USE ONLY

1st Review date

2nd Review date

PA ACTION

(MOD Form 262F must be completed at the time of file closure)

Produced by MOD
DSDA (PC) Ky. Tel: 0117 9376256

RESTRICTED/UNCLASSIFIED
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Registered File Disposal Form

MOD Form 262F
(Revised 9/01)

FILE TITLE: (Main Heading - Secondary Heading - Tertiary Heading etc) <i>Ufos - Resident Correspondence - Dr David Clarke</i>	Reference: (Prefix and Number): <i>DIDAS 1641311</i> Part: <i>F</i>
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PROTECTIVE MARKING (including caveats & descriptors): **UNCLASSIFIED**

Date of last enclosure: *23/07/08* Date closed: *23/07/09*

PART 1. DISPOSAL SCHEDULE RECOMMENDATION (To be completed when the file is closed)	FOR DEFENCE INFO(EXP)-R USE ONLY									
Destroy after _____ years <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Forward to INFO(EXP)-R after _____ years <input type="checkbox"/> No recommendation <input type="checkbox"/>	<table style="width:100%"> <tr> <td style="border: 1px solid black; height: 30px;"></td> <td style="border: 1px solid black; height: 30px;"></td> <td style="border: 1px solid black; height: 30px;"></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">Date of 1st review</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Date of 2nd review</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Forward Destruction Date</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Reviewer's</td> <td>Reviewer's</td> <td>Signature: _____</td> </tr> </table>				Date of 1st review	Date of 2nd review	Forward Destruction Date	Reviewer's	Reviewer's	Signature: _____
Date of 1st review	Date of 2nd review	Forward Destruction Date								
Reviewer's	Reviewer's	Signature: _____								

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

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

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

LEGAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CONTRACTUAL <input type="checkbox"/> FINANCE/AUDIT <input type="checkbox"/> DIRECTORATE POLICY <input type="checkbox"/>	DEFENCE POLICY + OPERATIONS <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL COMMITTEE PAPERS <input type="checkbox"/> MAJOR EQUIPMENT PROJECT <input type="checkbox"/> [_____] OTHER (Specify) <input type="checkbox"/>
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PPQ = 100

(Continued overleaf)

(ii) Key enclosures which support the recommendation are:

LIFO related documents

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

Destroyed

Considered by DR for permanent preservation

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

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

Section 40

Signature: _____

Name: _____
(Block Capitals)

Grade/Rank: C2 Date: 30/7/09

Branch Title and Full Address:

RAF BUSINESS SECRETARIAT
HQ AIR COMMAND
RAF HIGH WYCOMBE

Tel No: _____

PART 4 DESTRUCTION CERTIFICATE

It is certified that the specified file has been destroyed.

Signature: _____

Name: _____
(Block Capitals)

Grade/Rank: _____ Date: _____

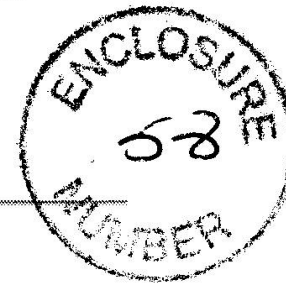
Witnessed by (TOP SECRET* and SECRET only)

Signature: _____

Name: _____
(Block Capitals)

Grade/Rank: _____ Date: _____

*(FOR DR USE ONLY)



Section 40

From: David Clarke Section 40

Sent: 23 July 2008 10:55

To: Section 40

Subject: Re: Cardiff UFO

Dear Section 40

Many thanks for your response dated 26 June.

My story on the current media UFO hype is published in the current edition of Fortean Times, but you can read a version on my web-page here:

<http://www.drdaavidclarke.co.uk/news2.htm>

I trust your inbox is a little less troubled now the Sun appear to have dropped the story.

Yours,

David Clarke

On Thu, Jun 26, 2008 at 9:20 AM, Section 40 wrote:

Dear Dr Clarke,

Thank you for your e-mail of 25 June 2008.

The MoD has not received a report of this incident and has therefore not investigated the matter.

Section 40

DAS-FOI

05-H-13

MoD Main Building

Whitehall

London

SW1A 2HB

23/07/2008

From: David Clarke [mailto:[Section 40](#)]
Sent: 25 June 2008 11:27
To: [Section 40](#)
Subject: Cardiff UFO



Dear [Section 40](#)

No doubt MoD will have had many inquiries regarding the alleged sighting of a UFO by the crew of a police helicopter in South Wales on 7/8 June.

You may be interested to read this item on the BBC Wales news page posted yesterday, which provides a satisfying explanation for this and the other sightings, as Chinese lanterns released from a wedding party near Cardiff airport:

Source: http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk_news/wales/7471724.stm

I understand from the media coverage that MoD has not (as of the weekend) received any formal report from South Wales police on the original incident.

Can you confirm this remains the case? I would have expected this report, if such exists, to have been filed with the CAA as an airprox or 'Mandatory Occurrence Report'. Have you received notification of such a report?

If you have received a report does MoD intend to make further inquiries, or are satisfied there is no defence interest in this incident?

This is more of a press inquiry than a formal FOI. I have been asked to write a short piece

23/07/2008

for the media and wish to ensure that I state the MoD's position on this matter clearly and directly.

I would be grateful for any assistance you can provide.

I look forward to hearing from you

Yours Sincerely,

Dr David Clarke

--
David Clarke

<http://www.drdavidclarke.co.uk/>

23/07/2008

David Clarke News

July 2008

WHY LET THE FACTS GET IN THE WAY OF A GOOD STORY?

Silly Season: 'the summer month of August is traditionally viewed as journalism's silly season, in which there is very little news, allowing senior editorial staff in particular to take holidays. Politicians are in the middle of their long break from Parliamentary duty and government offices are short-staffed, suggesting nothing of major importance is likely to happen and resulting in the media turning to the reporting of more trivial matters.' (The Guardian, 31 July 2002).

In July 2007 Britain's favourite tabloid tried to persuade us that a great white shark had visited the normally serene Cornish coast, complete with wobbly video clips showing sinister dark fins breaking the waves. The Sun's shark mania soon evaporated when it was revealed the footage was taken in Cape Town, not St Ives.

In 2008 the silly season arrived earlier than usual and for most of June Jaws mania was swapped for an invasion by 'the Alien Army'. For certain sections of the media UFOs have now become perennial silly season fodder. Tabloid newspapers in particular will print anything UFO-related without any iota of critical scrutiny. As Nick Davies points out in Flat Earth News, this type of story is cheap and easy to cover and gives the punters what they want.

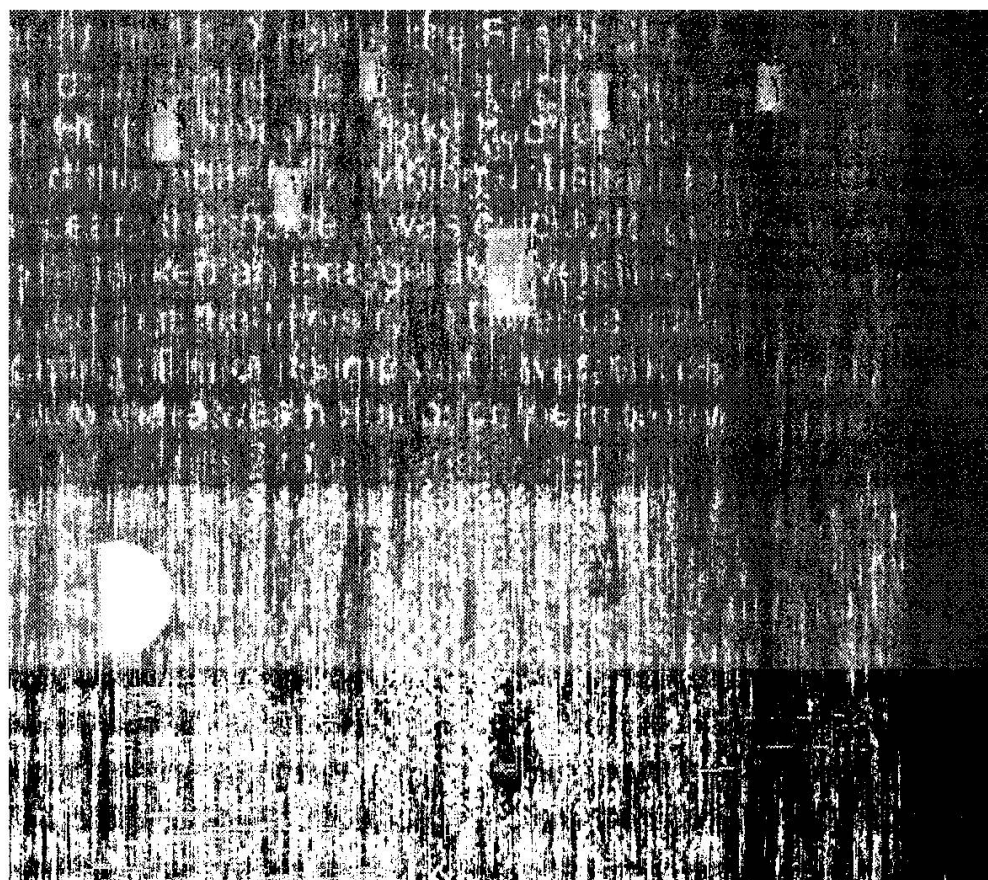
During the spring of 2008, with the MoD files story simmering away and the imminent release of a new X-file movie, it was inevitable that UFOs would soon be back in force. As one UFO witness caught up in the hype told me: "a journalist intuitively seemed to understand this when he said to me: 'it's about time we had another UFO story.' "

Add a flotilla of sky lanterns to the heady brew and – hey presto - a media-created UFO flap was upon us. For a full week in June The Sun filled its pages with exciting tales of UFOs bothering police helicopters and buzzing bemused squaddies. And when these tales dried up there was an army of eager readers on hand to stoke the embers by sending in their own grainy images of lights in the sky filmed on mobile phones and camcorders.

This summer's UFO mania kicked off on 20 June with a Sun exclusive. The crew of the South Wales police helicopter were confronted by a 'flying saucer shaped' object as they approached their landing pad at just 500 feet. According to 'an anonymous source' the pilot had to bank sharply to avoid a collision above St Athan, near Cardiff International Airport, shortly after midnight on 8 June. The pilot then set off across the Bristol Channel in hot pursuit of the intruder, but had to turn back when fuel ran low over the North Devon coast. Most police copters carry hi-tech equipment such as surveillance cameras but nothing was captured on film which suggests this was a fleeting observation. Even stranger, although the UFO – described as 'circled by flashing lights' – was clearly visible to the naked eye, nothing could be seen through the crew's night-vision goggles. They reported their encounter to senior officers who then passed it "to Britain's UFO investigators." Within hours of publication on the Sun's website the story was republished around the world.

The police, by now inundated with press inquiries, dismissed The Sun's story as factually

inaccurate. They said the incident did occur but the crew simply saw an "unusual aircraft" not a "flying saucer". The force refused to release any further details of the crew's report but were quick to pour cold water on the more sensational claims made by The Sun's source. The copter had not chased the UFO across the Bristol Channel, nor had to take evasive action to avoid it, they added. Further details were provided by a spokesman for air traffic control at Cardiff airport. He confirmed the pilot had reported his sighting to the controller who immediately checked the radar for anything unusual. But they could see nothing other than the helicopter. It appears the incident was quickly forgotten about until someone - The Sun's mysterious source - leaked an exaggerated version to the media. This was confirmed when it emerged that the Ministry of Defence and the Civil Aviation Authority had no knowledge of the sighting. To put it simply, if it was not reported to them directly, then as far as they were concerned there was nothing for them to investigate!



Meanwhile BBC Wales put the lid on the sightings with a story from newlyweds Lucy and Lyn Thomas. They believed that the sighting was of sky lanterns released by guests at their wedding party. The celebration was held at the old Cowbridge which is three miles southeast of St Athan, on the night of 11 June. The numerous paper lanterns, 2ft 6 in high (0.79m), behave exactly like the ones that were released that night have been the source of many UFO sightings in the area. The couple purchased 100 lanterns for the evening but had to get special aviation safety regulations before going ahead. Thirty were released from the base from 11 pm. The northwesterly winds that evening would have blown the lanterns towards the helicopter base. But The Sun - and the police - were having none of it. The crew were very experienced and "we do NOT believe it [the UFO] was one of these lanterns," an indignant force spokesman told us. But whatever the source, how can we be so sure that both a UFO and a fleet of sky lanterns happened to visit St Athan at the same time?

Alien fleet over Shrewsbury

On 25 June The Sun was put in a bit of a bind with a page one splash to follow its UFO exclusive. This was compounded with mobile phone footage of 13 UFOs "spinning in the skies" above a military base in the Midlands. Colonel Mark Proctor and three

squaddies from the first Battalion Parachute Regiment secured the objects whilst on night patrol from Tern Hill barracks near Market Drayton at 11pm on 7 June, shortly before the Welsh incident. Cpl Proctor described the objects as "flashing cubes with multiple colours" that zig-zagged as they moved across the sky. He was able to capture two on his mobile phone and the footage was later posted on the Sun's website. The paper had now found an expert, former MoD UFO desk-jockey Nick Pope, who was happy to help the paper keep the story running. Despite the lack of interest from his former employers, he demanded the MoD launch "an official inquiry" into the sightings, feeling back on that old chestnut, "the credible witness". Military observers, he claimed, "tend to make good witnesses", and in his expert opinion the Shropshire UFOs were clearly non-aircraft or meteors. This was indeed obvious, but why weren't the spinning cubes of the other sort off? No sooner had Pope put his neck on the block that Tern Hill Hotel manager Stuart White came up with the solution to the mystery. On three or four occasions in the past two months he had hosted weddings where lanterns had been released. The last was on 24 June. "We've had inquiries from residents before," he told BBC Shropshire. "But at that time it's been classed as a UFO."

Ever since former editor Kelvin MacKenzie created the Crying Boy legend The Sun's writers have had lots of fun entertaining their readers with ludicrous stories during the summer silly season. The journalistic cliché 'Why not be first with a good story?' was never more appropriate and publicity-hungry UFO 'experts' are far game as part of the tabloid circus. Like the Crying Boy, the alien invasion of 2008 has 'got legs' and as we write The Sun have set up a UFO camp at the foot of the Shropshire hills in North Wales, scene of a classic 1974 incident which some believe was a UFO of extraterrestrial origin. "If anything happens," reported Sun hack Nick Franchi, "we'll have binoculars, telescopes, infra-red cameras, torches and metal detectors." It's not clear how lanterns can cause this much fuss just imagine what a concerted effort could be made with a team of dedicated lantern launchers could do!

The Sun - June 25-28, 2008; BBC News Wales, 24 June & 25 June; BBC News Shropshire 25 June.

<http://www.thesun.co.uk/stories>

Additional media links

http://www.forteanimes.com/site/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=231/the-mod-files.html

<http://www.channel4.com/news/uk/uk-technology/technology/britain+sees+surge+in+sighting>

<http://tinyurl.com/4doss7>

<http://www.miller-miscund.com/war/70/74>

Section 40

From: Section 40
Sent: 26 June 2008 09:21
To: 'David Clarke'
Subject: Release-authorized: Cardiff UFO

Dear Dr Clarke,

Thank you for your e-mail of 25 June 2008.

The MoD has not received a report of this incident and has therefore not investigated the matter.

Section 40

DAS-FOI
05-H-13
MoD Main Building
Whitehall
London
SW1A 2HB

From: David Clarke [mailto:Section 40]
Sent: 25 June 2008 11:27
To: Section 40
Subject: Cardiff UFO

Dear Section 40

No doubt MoD will have had many inquiries regarding the alleged sighting of a UFO by the crew of a police helicopter in South Wales on 7/8 June.

You may be interested to read this item on the BBC Wales news page posted yesterday, which provides a satisfying explanation for this and the other sightings, as Chinese lanterns released from a wedding party near Cardiff airport:

Source: http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk_news/wales/7471724.stm

I understand from the media coverage that MoD has not (as of the weekend) received any formal report from South Wales police on the original incident.

Can you confirm this remains the case? I would have expected this report, if such exists, to have been filed with the CAA as an airprox or 'Mandatory Occurrence Report'. Have you received notification of such a report?

If you have received a report does MoD intend to make further inquiries, or are satisfied there is no defence interest in this incident?

This is more of a press inquiry than a formal FOI. I have been asked to write a short piece for the media and wish to ensure that I state the MoD's position on this matter clearly and directly.

I would be grateful for any assistance you can provide.

I look forward to hearing from you

26/06/2008

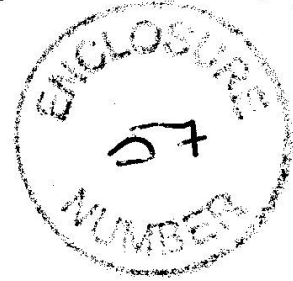


Yours Sincerely,

Dr David Clarke

26/06/2008

12-04-2007 -
103451-003
EXP 9 MAR - 7



Dr David Clarke

Section 40

Tel: Section 40

e-mail: Section 40

Section 40

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



Section 40

Answered
JGM.

11 April 2007

FOI Request

Dear Section 40

I wish to make a request under the Freedom of Information Act for information relating to MoD's internal discussions concerning public statements made by a former desk officer on the subject of UFOs.

As you will no doubt be aware one of your predecessors, Mr Nick Pope, who was Sec(AS)2a from 1991-94, publicly declared his conversion to "a believer" in UFOs in 1995 after he left the post (*Mail on Sunday*, 2 July 1995). In the following year a book he had written about UFOs, and his experience as a desk officer responsible for dealing with public inquiries about UFOs on behalf of MoD, *Open Skies Closed Minds*, was published. The book set out Mr Pope's belief that UFOs *did* pose a possible defence threat to the UK – in stark contrast to the publicly stated MoD policy (which remains in place today) that the phenomenon has been repeatedly judged, most recently by the DIS report on UAPs, to be "of no defence significance."

I am fully aware that Mr Pope's statements, during his employment with the MoD, were made in a private capacity and that he was not authorised to speak on behalf of the MoD. I also appreciate that the Data Protection Act 1998 protects information of a personal nature. Nevertheless during his employment, and specifically in 1995-96, Mr Pope was a serving MoD officer and the stance that MoD decided to adopt in response to his very public statements – that were clearly in contrast to the department's stated line – must fall within the category of information defined as "in the public interest."

The Information Commissioner's guidance on the DPA is clear: "Information which is about the home or family life of an individual, his or her personal finances, or consists of personal references, is likely to deserve protection. By contrast, information which is about someone acting in an official or work capacity should normally be provided on request unless there is some risk to the individual concerned." (FOIA Awareness Guidance No 1, pg 3, Information Commissioner). As Mr Pope is a self declared "TV personality and former head of the MoD's UFO Project" I submit that such risks are minimal or non-existent.

Furthermore, on pg 4 of the FOIA guidance note the Commissioner states: "It is often believed that the [DPA] prevents the disclosure of any personal data without the consent of the person concerned. This is not true. The purpose of the [DPA] is to protect the private lives of individuals. Where information requested is about the people acting in a work or official capacity then it will normally be right to disclose."

I submit that:

*Mr Pope was undoubtedly "acting in a work or official capacity" whilst in Sec (AS)2a 1991-94 and that responsibility did not end in 1994 by virtue of the fact that he remained as a serving MoD officer during the period, in 1995-96, when his book was first published.

*His personal views on UFOs and his conflict of opinion with his employers cannot be defined as "private" as his version of the events surrounding the publication of his book have been widely disseminated in interviews given and articles written by Mr Pope to the present day.

*It must be in the public interest for documents relating to the MoD's internal deliberations on both Mr Pope's statements and on the contents of his book to be released, not least to provide the public with balance and context. At the moment all the public have is Mr Pope's version of the sequence of events leading to his "conversion" to UFO believer and the publication of his book. Mr Pope frequently articulates his version of this story and until recently he was frequently presented by the media as "the MoD's expert" on the subject, without official contradiction. Therefore, without the benefit of the official documentation relating to this period the public are unable to reach a balanced judgement about the accuracy of his stated version of the events surrounding the publication of his book. Once again, I submit it is undoubtedly in the public interest to release this information.

Furthermore, it is my understanding that the manuscript of Mr Pope's first book was submitted to the MoD for vetting and was eventually approved by the Publication Clearance Branch (PCB) after changes had been made. I accept that the contents of the original MS and discussion relating to those changes rightly fall under Section 41 of the FOIA (Information provided in Confidence) and are rightly protected. However, that protection cannot be extended to cover specific matters which are already in the public domain by virtue of the fact that Mr Pope has discussed these matters publicly. For

example, in an interview published by the *International UFO Reporter* (fall 1996, pg 18) Mr Pope states:

“There was a faction [in the MoD] that certainly didn’t want the book to appear. I submitted the text to the [PCB]...to my utter amazement – and for the first time to my knowledge – the manuscript was returned with a short letter...It said a number of things, but the quote which stunned me most said that my manuscript was ‘completely unacceptable to MoD and quite beyond any suitable amendment.’”

At the moment all we have is Mr Pope’s version of this story. It must be in the public interest to release the relevant documents relating to the context of this statement.

I am conscious of the £600 limit for central Government for the processing of a complex request of this nature. Therefore I have carefully constructed my specific request as follows in order to assist you in locating relevant material for release.

My request, therefore, is for copies of MoD papers, records or other information relating to any or all internal discussion, policy and/or briefings in response to 1) public statements made to the media and 2) via the release of *Open Skies Closed Minds* by Mr Nicholas Pope during the period 1995-96. I wish you to include specific public interest material within the coverage of this request as follows:

- a) Any internal discussion relating to Mr Pope’s public statements in the *Mail on Sunday*, 2 July 1995, *The Independent* 3 June 1996 and other press articles during 1995-96
- b) Any specific discussion relating to Mr Pope’s published statements that contradicted the department’s officially stated policy on the subject of UFOs/UAPs, for example on the ET nature of UFOs and their supposed defence threat.
- c) Any papers, generated by MoD or its PCB branch, that relate to Mr Pope’s public allegation that “...there was a faction [in the MoD] that certainly didn’t want the book to appear.” Specifically I request a copy of “the short letter” referred to in Mr Pope’s interview with IUR which allegedly said his manuscript was
 X “completely unacceptable to MoD and quite beyond any suitable amendment.”
 and any related discussion which resolved this issue. As Mr Pope has spoken of this matter openly and in public it cannot be seriously argued that this material falls within the auspices of the DPA.

At three of these specific requests, within the umbrella of my main request, are – I submit – very much in the public interest and I believe the Information Commissioner would take the same viewpoint.

I look forward to receiving your response to this request and thank you for your attention to my letter.

Yours Faithfully,

Dr David Clarke

UNIDENTIFIED AERIAL PHENOMENA (UAP) IN THE UK AIR DEFENCE REGION – RESULT OF INTERNAL REVIEW

Following a request for an Internal Review to be conducted, which specifically asked for the decision to withhold information under exemptions s.26 and s.27 to be reviewed, some of the previously redacted sections from the UAP report have now been released. This has resulted in amendments to eleven of the previously released pages.

The pages affected are as follows:

1. Executive Summary:

Executive Summary, final page.

The distribution list of the UAP Report, found on the last page of the Executive Summary, has now been released.

(Please see Executive Summary, page 22 of the Report on the FOI Disclosure Log (<http://www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/FreedomOfInformation/PublicationScheme/SearchPublicationScheme/UapInTheUkAirDefenceRegionExecutiveSummary.htm>) for the previously released (redacted) version of this page).

2. Volume 1:

Volume 1, chapter 1, page 1, paragraph 2

The words '**the CIA**' have now been released.

(Please see Volume 1, Part A, page 9 of the Report on the FOI Disclosure Log (<http://www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/FreedomOfInformation/PublicationScheme/SearchPublicationScheme/UapInTheUkAirDefenceRegionVolume1.htm>) for the previously released (redacted) version of this page).

3. Volume 1:

Volume 1, chapter 5, page 4

In the paragraph starting "The reasons affecting", the words "**.....the possibility of**" and "**.....it is noted that the implications have already been briefed to the relevant MOD technology managers**" have now been released.

(Please see Volume 1, Part G, page 12 of the Report on the FOI Disclosure Log (<http://www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/FreedomOfInformation/PublicationScheme/SearchPublicationScheme/UapInTheUkAirDefenceRegionVolume1.htm>) for the previously released (redacted) version of this page).

4. **Volume 2:**

Volume 2, Introduction page 1

The '**Special Notice**' on this page has now been released.

(Please see Volume 2, Part A, page 3 of the Report on the FOI Disclosure Log (<http://www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/FreedomOfInformation/PublicationScheme/SearchPublicationScheme/UapInTheUkAirDefenceRegionVolume2.htm>) for the previously released (redacted) version of this page).

5. **Volume 2:**

Volume 2, Working Paper 5, page 5-1, paragraph 1.

The sentence "**The incidence of visual occurrences of UAP sightings, together with their coincidental detection on radar is extremely low**" has now been released.

(Please see Volume 2, Part D, page 11 of the Report on the FOI Disclosure Log (<http://www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/FreedomOfInformation/PublicationScheme/SearchPublicationScheme/UapInTheUkAirDefenceRegionVolume2.htm>) for the previously released (redacted) version of this page).

6. **Volume 2:**

Volume 2, Working Paper 5, page 5-1, paragraph 3h.

This paragraph has now been released, except for four minor redactions.

(Please see Volume 2, Part D, page 11 of the Report on the FOI Disclosure Log (<http://www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/FreedomOfInformation/PublicationScheme/SearchPublicationScheme/UapInTheUkAirDefenceRegionVolume2.htm>) for the previously released (redacted) version of this page).

7. **Volume 3:**

Volume 3, Executive Summary, Page 1, paragraph 4.

The following sentence from this paragraph has now been released: "**.....Charged plasmas are capable of being transported at enormous speeds under the influence and balance of electrical charges in the atmosphere and they have a relatively short life.....**".

(Please see Volume 3, Part A, page 8 of the Report on the FOI Disclosure Log (<http://www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/FreedomOfInformation/PublicationScheme/SearchPublicationScheme/UapInTheUkAirDefenceRegionVolume3.htm>) for the previously released (redacted) version of this page).

8. **Volume 3:**

Volume 3, Executive Summary, Page 2, paragraph 7.

The following sentence from this paragraph has now been released: **".....It is important to note that longer wavelength radars can detect those plasmas with lower electron densities which are, in fact, absorbers to microwave radars....."**

(Please see Volume 3, Part A, page 8 of the Report on the FOI Disclosure Log (<http://www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/FreedomOfInformation/PublicationScheme/SearchPublicationScheme/UapInTheUkAirDefenceRegionVolume3.htm>) for the previously released (redacted) version of this page).

9. **Volume 3:**

Volume 3, Chapter 1, page 3, paragraph 11.

The following sentence from this paragraph has now been released: **"In summary there are several viable reasons why there are a number of UAP reports daily, probably of plasma-type entities,....."**

(Please see Volume 3, Part B, page 3 of the Report on the FOI Disclosure Log (<http://www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/FreedomOfInformation/PublicationScheme/SearchPublicationScheme/UapInTheUkAirDefenceRegionVolume3.htm>) for the previously released (redacted) version of this page).

10. **Volume 3:**

Volume 3, Chapter 1, page 4, paragraph 13(d).

The following sentence from this paragraph has now been released: **"Unlike 'solid' targets, for the electron density selected, the reflectivity is low....."**

(Please see Volume 3, Part B, page 4 of the Report on the FOI Disclosure Log (<http://www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/FreedomOfInformation/PublicationScheme/SearchPublicationScheme/UapInTheUkAirDefenceRegionVolume3.htm>) for the previously released (redacted) version of this page).

11. **Volume 3:**

Volume 3, Chapter 1, page 5, paragraph 21.

The following sentence from this paragraph has now been released: **"In summary there are several viable reasons why there are a number of UAP reports daily, probably of plasma-type entities,....."**

(Please see Volume 3, Part B, page 5 of the Report on the FOI Disclosure Log (<http://www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/FreedomOfInformation/PublicationScheme/SearchPublicationScheme/UapInTheUkAirDefenceRegionVolume3.htm>) for the previously released (redacted) version of this page).

12. **Volume 3:**

Volume 3, Chapter 1, page 8, paragraph 27, first bullet.

The following sentences from this paragraph have now been released (the first two with minor redactions): **"Horizon Geometry - the inner rings around the sites at Figure 1-1 shows the horizon range rings for targets at XX altitude. Targets further away and those at less than XX altitude will not be seen"**.

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX **"[These areas may or may not be those where visual witnesses happen to be present at the time]"**.

(Please see Volume 3, Part B, page 8 of the Report on the FOI Disclosure Log (<http://www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/FreedomOfInformation/PublicationScheme/SearchPublicationScheme/UapInTheUkAirDefenceRegionVolume3.htm>) for the previously released (redacted) version of this page).

13. **Volume 3:**

Volume 3, Chapter 4, page 3, paragraph 12.

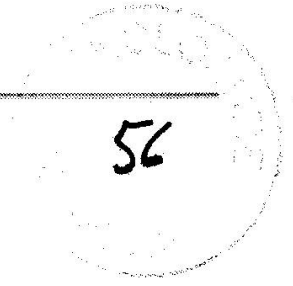
The following sentence from this paragraph has been partially released: **"The Society for Scientific Exploration XXXXXXXXXXXX have made a mid-1998 statement to the effect that the topic of UFOs should be studied – only in that it might expose some new scientific information"**.

(Please see Volume 3, Part E, page 3 of the Report on the FOI Disclosure Log (<http://www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/FreedomOfInformation/PublicationScheme/SearchPublicationScheme/UapInTheUkAirDefenceRegionVolume3.htm>) for the previously released (redacted) version of this page).

The revised pages are as follows:

Section 40

From: **Section 40**
Sent: 23 August 2006 09:56
To: 'david clarke'
Subject: Internet-authorised:Freedom of Information



Dear Dr Clarke,

Further to my letter of 21 August I am now in a position to respond to the three outstanding questions in your letter of 27th July 2006 relating to the 'UAP Report'. Following consultation with the subject matter experts in the Defence Intelligence Staff (DIS) and Counter Terrorism and UK Operations (CTandUKOps), I am able to provide you with the following information.

As you are aware, following your request on 22nd May 2006 for copies of any comments that were made by the Branches who received a copy of the Report, a thorough search of all the relevant files was undertaken and no comments from these Branches was found (my letter to you reference 23-05-2006-100609-001 of 16th June 2006 refers). In response to your latest question, DIS staff have again undertaken a search of the relevant files and no correspondence from the Branches has been found. Therefore, it can be confirmed that no comments on the UAP Report were received.

With regard to your question regarding any views expressed or action taken by DAO (now CTandUKOps) I can confirm that CTandUKOps have searched all their available records and have found no relevant information.

As a result of the findings in the UAP report, the DIS no longer monitors and receives copies of UFO sighting reports. It is not considered contradictory that the DIS has a file on UAP/UFO policy. As you say earlier in your letter, the topic of UFOs is of great interest to the public and they continue to write. It is our duty to respond to letters from the public and these letters and responses (such as this one) are filed along with any newspaper reports which may have prompted the letters.

I hope this is helpful.

Finally, I should inform you that I will be on two weeks leave from 31st August and shortly after my return in mid September I will be moving to a new post in the MOD. To insure that any future emails reach this office please use our office email address of das-ufo-office@mod.uk. Postal correspondence can be sent to this address and will be opened by my successor.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

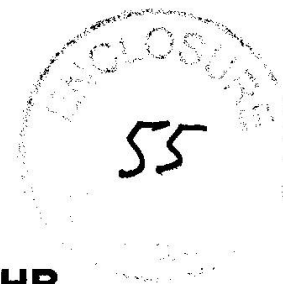
Ministry of Defence
Directorate of Air Staff - Freedom of Information
5th Floor, Zone H, Desk 13
Main Building
Whitehall
LONDON
SW1A 2HB

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

23/08/2006



From: **Section 40**
 Directorate of Air Staff - Freedom of Information
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
 5th 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
 03-08-2006-114552-004

Date
 21 August 2006

Dear Dr Clarke

Thank you for your letter of 27th July 2006 in which you raised a number of questions regarding the 'UAP Report' and also submitted a new request for the release of the MoD file 'DI55/108/15', part 4. Your request has been considered as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000 and I can confirm that the Ministry of Defence does hold the requested information.

As you correctly recall in your letter, your original request for this file was refused as to retrieve, extract and, where necessary, carry out redactions, would have been above the FOIA cost limit. This remains the case and, therefore, we are still unable to consider releasing the file in total. However, we have produced a summary of the subject areas which are covered in the file which is attached at annex. It is hoped that this will now enable you to be more specific about the information you are seeking and, if you wish, submit a further, more focused, request and specify exactly which subject area(s) you are interested in. We will then be pleased to look again at your request and, subject to it being within the FOIA cost limit, assess the releasability of the relevant enclosures.

You should also be aware that the FOIA regulations state that where two or more requests "relate, to any extent, to the same or similar information" and the requests are received within any period of sixty consecutive working days, the estimated cost of compliance is taken to be the total costs of complying with all of them. Therefore, should you submit a refined request for information based upon the attached summary and submit a further request for information from the file within the sixty working day period, your requests will be combined and work to process your requests will only be carried out up to the FOIA cost limit.

The three questions you raised regarding the 'UAP Report' are currently being addressed and a separate reply will be sent to you in due course.

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

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

Annex A to
03-08-2006-11452-004

SUMMARY OF CONTENTS OF FILE DI55/108/15 – Part 4 ‘UFO Policy’

The file covers the period December 1971 to December 1996. The subject areas covered by the contents of the file is as follows:

Copies of newspaper and magazine articles relating to UFOs.

Correspondence relating to the ‘UAP’ report/study (some or all of which is likely to have already been released through previous requests).

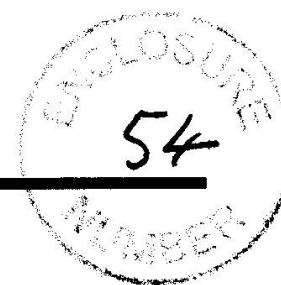
Letters from the public and correspondence relating to UFO programmes on the TV and radio, and articles in newspapers.

MoD correspondence concerning public access to UFO files.

Ministerial correspondence relating to the House of Lords debate on UFOs 1979 (some or all of which is likely to have been released through previous requests).

UFO sightings correspondence (some of which is likely to have been released through previous requests).

General MoD correspondence relating to UFO policy and procedures (all pre 1979).



Unwin, Linda Mrs

From: david clarke Section 40
Sent: 27 July 2006 09:47
To: Section 40
Subject: Re: FOIA request

Attachments: MoDFOIJuly06.doc



MoDFOIJuly06.doc
(29 KB)

27 July 2006

Dear Section 40

Please find attached a letter including a Freedom of Information request.

Yours,

David Clarke

Dr David Clarke

Section 40

Section 40

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

27 July 2006

FOI Request – UAP Report

Dear Section 40

1 Thank you for your letters of 16 June in response a) to my Freedom of Information Act request dated 22 May 2006 and b) my follow-up questions relating to the UAP report. This letter includes some further questions plus a fresh FOI request.

2 My questions relate to issues arising from the completion and circulation of the UAP report in the year 2000 which I feel remain a little ambiguous.

3 Firstly, I am puzzled by the seeming lack of reaction or interest from the various MoD branches copied in on sections of the report, under the cover letter 4 December 2000. Given the fact that the author spent three years producing a detailed report in an attempt to resolve a problem which had persisted since the '50s, I would have expected at least some brief comment on the findings and recommendations from the addressees who received a copy. Is it the case that none of the branches listed expressed any interest or views in respect of the findings?

4 Secondly, I note in your letter dated 16 June that you say the report's findings were sent to DAO/UKADGE who would have been responsible for passing on the specific recommendations concerning "Potential UAP Hazards to Aircraft" (Vol 3, Chapter 2 of the report) to the CAA (and presumably the RAF). Given that fact, do DAO hold any record in their files of action taken in response to these recommendations or views expressed with respect to the report's findings?

5 Thirdly, I note that the Key Recommendation of the UAP report was that "it should no longer be a requirement for DI55 to monitor UFO reports as they do not...provide information useful to Defence Intelligence." Given that finding, I draw your attention to your response to my request of 22 May for "a list of files or records held by DIS which have the acronym 'UAP' in the title." In your letter of 16 June you list four DI 55 files,

titled "UAP Policy", the third which was opened in December 2000 (the same month the findings were delivered) and closed in March 2004, and the fourth opened in March 2004 and which remains open.

6 Could you explain why, if the DIS interest in this subject ended in 2000, and reports were no longer sent to them, that department continues to maintain files on the subject to this day? It appears somewhat contradictory that a department which professes to have no interest in UFOs/UAPs after 2000 continues to maintain a policy file on the subject.

7 Finally, I wish to make a request under the Freedom of Information Act for a paper copy of part, or whole, of the DI 55 Policy file D/D/DI55/108.15 Pt 4, which covers the period 1971-96.

C3-C2-2006-114552-

CC4.

24 Aug 2006

8 You may recall that I originally made a request for this file as part of an earlier FOI request in 2005. In your response dated 23 August 2005 you explained the file contains more than two hundred pages, some of which are classified. My request was rejected by DIS because it was deemed that the costs of copying, examining and removing sensitive, irrelevant or personal information from every page of their file would exceed the limit.

9 I do appreciate how time consuming the processing of a document of this kind must be. However, Section 16 of the FOIA requires departments to provide an applicant with advice and assistance in cases such as this, especially where other options could be negotiated for the release of the information.

10 I would also point out that the UAP report itself, at more than 600 pages (double the length of the request I am currently making) also exceeded the £600 limit but nevertheless was processed because it was deemed to be in the public interest to make the contents available publicly.

11 I hardly need to point out the considerable amount of public interest in the subject of UFOs, particularly in the wake of the release by MoD of the UAP report (which remains ranked in the top 5 documents in your 'Disclosure Log'). I believe the contents of this UFO policy file are equally of interest both to the public and for purposes of academic research, as the contents frame the background against which the UAP report was commissioned and produced.

12 I also believe it is important for the MoD not to be seen to be with-holding information on a subject of public interest, such as UFOs, which is often forms the ground, in itself, for baseless allegations of cover-ups.

13 Therefore I would like MoD/DIS to reconsider the decision to reject my request and/or consider one or more of the following options as a compromise response:

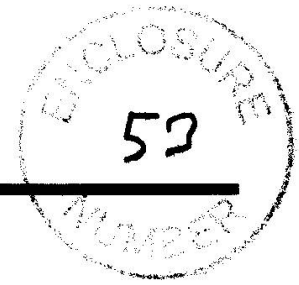
- a) release of part of the file within the £600 limit; for example, enclosures covering the period 1971 to 1990 (noting that the processing of the documents from the 1970s should not require much expense in redaction as they fall within the old 30

year rule and would have to be considered for TNA release if they were not associated with younger enclosures).

- b) I agree to pay costs incurred above the £600 limit for processing of the whole file (if MoD supply an estimate in advance).
- c) MoD supply a list of the titles/subject matter of enclosures which could form the basis for a subsequent request more tightly focussed upon specific area of interest identified.

I hope you will take the points above into due consideration in your response to my request. In the meantime, I look forward to hearing from you,

Yours sincerely,



Section 40

From: Section 40
 Sent: 03 August 2006 09:08
 To: Section 40
 Cc: Section 40
 Subject: RE: UFOs etc.

Section 40

Dr David Clarke has made several requests to the MOD on UFOs but I haven't seen this one. However, he sometimes submits requests direct to the area of the Department that leads on the subject. I am also sending this to Section 40 of Directorate Air Staff Section 40: Section 40 you let Section 40 from the Clearing House know if you have received this directly and not yet logged on the AIT? He is on Section 40

This seems typical of Dr Clarke - once he has a list of any files, he will follow up. He then looks at the copy addressees on correspondence that is released to him and submits requests asking them to trawl for files - that sort of thing. He is frustrated with MOD because it is known that some info is held in our "asbestosed" files and cannot be looked at so, if he has not asked FCO before, he may have gone to them because he has exhausted his trail with MOD. If they do have files on UFOs, you'd better warn them to be in for a long slog!

Regards

Section 40

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

From: Section 40 [mailto:Section 40]
 Sent: 03 August 2006 08:35
 To: Section 40
 Subject: UFOs etc.

Section 40

FCO have received a request for file titles re. UFOs (full text below) - have you had the same? Requestor name is Dr David Clarke. Grateful if you could let me know if you have - we're not treating as a RR formally, just co-ordinating responses.

Many thanks,

Section 40

'I wish to make a request under the Freedom of Information Act for a list of records held by the Foreign & Commonwealth Office that contain information relating to the subject of:

Unidentified Flying Objects (UFOs) - please note that information on the subject might also be held under the key- words "Flying Saucers" (popularly used during the period 1947-1970) and/or "Aerial Phenomena."

Please could you search for information held on this topic/theme under these three themes/key-words, relating to any foreign country

My period of interest is anytime from 1947 to present. I am aware that records prior to mid-1970s may have been transferred to The National Archives but I would be interested to know if the FCO retain any files in department relating to this subject area.

Please note this request is not for copies of material held. The request is for a list of files, records or material held on this topic so that I will be able to narrow my request for specific material in any future FOI request.'

This e-mail (and any attachment) is intended only for the attention of the

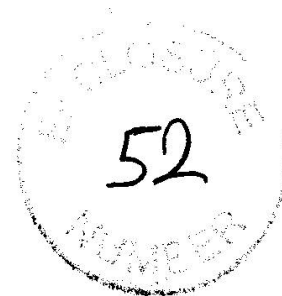
addressee(s). Its unauthorised use, disclosure, storage or copying is not permitted. If you are not the intended recipient, please destroy all copies and inform the sender by return e-mail.

Internet e-mail is not a secure medium. Any reply to this message could be intercepted and read by someone else. Please bear that in mind when deciding whether to send material in response to this message by e-mail.

This e-mail (whether you are the sender or the recipient) may be monitored, recorded and retained by the Department For Constitutional Affairs. E-mail monitoring / blocking software may be used, and e-mail content may be read at any time. You have a responsibility to ensure laws are not broken when composing or forwarding e-mails and their contents.

UNCLASSIFIED

RESTRICTED



LOOSE MINUTE

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

*** August 2006

Info Access Pol 2RELEASE OF DIS REPORT - UNIDENTIFIED AERIAL PHENOMENA (UAP) IN THE UK AIR DEFENCE REGION - INTERNAL APPEAL

1. Your email to DAS-FOI of 2nd August regarding the UAP report internal appeal asked for clarification on a number of issues. Following discussions with DIS FOI staff and the subject matter expert, our comments in response are as follows:

- **While the author can obviously be withheld under s.40 as we can not find him to ask his permission, can it also be withheld under s.24-National Security- as he may be targeted to obtain secret information that we have with held and he may inadvertently release?**

We do not consider that s.24 National Security is an appropriate exemption to use in this case. If it is considered that the author of the report maybe targeted, the use of exemption s.38 Health and Safety is considered a more appropriate exemption. ✓

- **The name of the company currently withheld under s.43- as DIS still use this company is it withheld so that this is not known? If so, this is not s.43 but s.24 and must be stated as such.**

The name of the company was withheld to prevent disclosure of its relationship with the DIS. Release of this information may prejudice the commercial interests of the company. In addition, disclosure of the company's name may inadvertently lead to the name of the author of the report being disclosed. It is considered that in this case s.43 remains the correct exemption to use. ✓

- **In Volume 2, working paper no. 5. Page 5-3, paragraph 9. This has been redacted under s.26 Defence, but is this really the case- or is it possibly commercial? This would therefore be s.43. It gives away the key reasoning which we have paid for and should it just be given out to others- it could be argued that others could produce the same information butt should we point them in the right direction?**

This paragraph was redacted following the advice of CT&UK Ops. Since it concerns the performance of UKADGE radars in reflecting plasmas it is considered that s.26 is the only appropriate exempt to use and can see no reason why s.43 should be cited. ✓

- **In Executive Summary, page 3, paragraph 11 has been redacted under s.27, but this should have been s. 26 or possibly s.23, as the information is an assessment and could be from intelligence sources.**

Presumably this refers to the Executive Summary in Volume 3 ? The source of the information in this paragraph could not be established. However, it is not s.23 ✓

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RESTRICTED

material or the classification would have been much higher. The use of s.27 for this paragraph is considered the correct and only one that should be used as disclosure of this paragraph could prejudice relations with the state concerned.

- **Volume 3-Miscellaneous Related studies, Chapter 1, page 5, paragraph 21- while this paragraph was previously redacted in whole, it has now been agreed to release some of paragraph 11, the opening phrase of paragraph 21 is the same as the opening phrase of paragraph 11 which will be released.**

As this was originally redacted following the advice of CT&UK Ops, if they are now content for the opening phrase in paragraphs 11 and 21 to be released, the DIS has no objection. ✓

- **Volume 3- Miscellaneous Related Studies, Chapter 1, Page 7, second bullet. Redacted under s.26, should it be s.43? Is this knowledge that we do not want known, as we paid for it- and we do not want to supply this to any competitors?**

This was redacted following the advice of CT&UK Ops and refers to the performance and characteristics of UK radar, disclosure of which could potentially prejudice the defence of the UK. It is considered that s.26 is the most appropriate exemption and that s.43 is not relevant in this case as radar manufacturers would be familiar with 'normal radar design'. ✓

- **Volume 3- Miscellaneous Related Studies. Chapter 4, page 1, paragraph 3- is this s.26? It reveals DIS organisation- security.**

We consider that s.26 remains the correct exemption to use in this case. The guidance for handling intelligence-related requests for information advises that s.26 can be used for issues relating to MoD security. As disclosure of DIS organisation details would fall under MoD security, s.26 is therefore considered the most appropriate exemption. ✓

Paragraph 4- this was s.27, but should it be s.25? How was the information gathered?

Presumably you mean s.23 and not s.25 ? The source of the information in this paragraph could not be established. However, it is not s.23 material or the classification would have been much higher. The use of s.27 for this paragraph is considered the correct and the only one that should be used as disclosure of this paragraph could prejudice relations with the state concerned. ✓

Paragraph 9- also s.27 but should it be s.25? How was it gathered?

Presumably you mean s.23 and not s.25 ? The source of the information in this paragraph could not be established. However, it is not s.23 material or the classification would have been much higher. The use of s.27 for this paragraph is considered the correct and the only one that should be used as disclosure of this paragraph could prejudice relations with the state concerned. ✓

In regard to the following two points- these are on my understanding- and if you wish to disagree please let me know- if correct can they be released?

- **Volume 3-Miscellaneous Related Studies, Chapter 4, page 3, paragraph 12, while information regarding DIS, the CIA desk officer and DI51 must remain**

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redacted- the information regarding the statement made in mid 1998 by the society of scientific exploration is already in the public domain:

<http://www.scientificexploration.org/jse/abstracts/v12n2a1.php> - "The panel nevertheless concluded that it would be valuable to carefully evaluate UFO reports since, whenever there are unexplained observations, there is the possibility that scientists will learn something new by studying these observations".

We are content for the last sentence in this paragraph to be released **except** for the wording in brackets which refers to the work of DI51. This should be redacted under s.26. ✓

- **Volume 3-Miscellaneous Related Studies, Chapter 4, Page 3, paragraph 14, the final sentence of which has been redacted under s.27, this also is in the public domain: the following report was carried out by the University of Colorado under contract from the US Air Force.**
<http://www.ncas.org/condon/text/s6chap07.htm> It states: *Basic plasma research is vital in many technological areas. In the field of communication, problems arise in connection with radio and radar transmission through plasma regions such as the ionosphere and the ionized sheath surrounding re-entering spacecraft. Laboratory efforts are under way to control the reactions of nuclear fusion for power generation. If successful, present experiments may lead to efficient sources of power which do not require fossil fuel or fissionable materials. In the field of space technology, engineers are developing low thrust ion rocket engines to propel the next generation of interplanetary spaceships.*

It is considered that the last sentence in paragraph 14 should remain redacted under s.27. The sentence in the UAP report specifies which country has initiated plasma related programmes. Unless the University of Colorado has specifically revealed the fact the USA has initiated these programmes, then it should remain withheld. Your extract above "*Basic plasma research is vital in many technological areas.....*" does not disclose this fact. ✓

- **Annex A- Introduction Paragraph- this was redacted under s.27, but should this have been either s.23 or s.26 as we do not know how the information was gathered.**

Presumably this refers to Volume 3, Annex A, page A-2, paragraph 2 ? The last sentence in this paragraph was redacted under s.26, not s.27. ✓

2. If you require any further information, or clarification on any of the above, please contact me.

Section 40

DI BCR CG3

WH306

Section 40

UNCLASSIFIED

Section 40

From: Section 40
Sent: 02 August 2006 14:24
To: Section 40
Subject: FW: Clarke-UFO
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Red

Section 40

Please see the message below from Section 40 Dr C appeal. I only have a redacted copy of the report so I don't know which bits she is referring to. Please can we discuss?

Regards

Section 40

From: Section 40
Sent: 02 August 2006 14:06
To: Section 40
Subject: Clarke-UFO

Hi Section 40

After much discussion at this end between David Wray and CTUKOps SO1 Air, there are several redactions that will now be released- but before this is possible there are several more things we need to clarify.

Dr Clarke has obviously asked for the name of the author and the company responsible for the report.

- While the author can obviously be withheld under s.40 as we can not find him to ask his permission, can it also be withheld under s.24-National Security- as he may be targeted to obtain secret information that we have withheld and he may inadvertently release?
- The name of the company currently withheld under s.43- as DIS still use this company is it withheld so that this is not known? If so, this is not s.43 but s.24 and must be stated as such.
- In Volume 2, working paper no. 5. Page 5-3, paragraph 9. This has been redacted under s.26 Defence, but is this really the case- or is it possibly commercial? This would therefore be s.43. It gives away the key reasoning which we have paid for and should it just be given out to others- it could be argued that others could produce the same information but should we point them in the right direction?
- In Executive Summary, page 3, paragraph 11 has been redacted under s.27, but this should have been s. 26 or possibly s.23, as the information is an assessment and could be from intelligence sources.
- Volume 3-Miscellaneous Related studies, Chapter 1, page 5, paragraph 21- while this paragraph was previously redacted in whole, it has now been agreed to release some of paragraph 11, the opening phrase of paragraph 21 is the same as the opening phrase of paragraph 11 which will be released.
- Volume 3- Miscellaneous Related Studies, Chapter 1, Page 7, second bullet. Redacted under s.26, should it be s.43? Is this knowledge that we do not want known, as we paid for it- and we do not want to supply this to any competitors?
- Volume 3- Miscellaneous Related Studies. Chapter 4, page 1, paragraph 3- is this s.26? It reveals DIS organisation-security.

information gathered?

Paragraph 4- this was s.27, but should it be s.25? How was the

Paragraph 9- also s.27 but should it be s.25? How was it gathered?

07/08/2006

In regard to the following two points- these are on my understanding- and if you wish to disagree please let me know- if correct can they be released?

- Volume 3-Miscellaneous Related Studies, Chapter 4, page 3, paragraph 12, while information regarding DIS, the CIA desk officer and DI51 must remain redacted- the information regarding the statement made in mid 1998 by the society of scientific exploration is already in the public domain:
<http://www.scientificexploration.org/jse/abstracts/v12n2a1.php> - "The panel nevertheless concluded that it would be valuable to carefully evaluate UFO reports since, whenever there are unexplained observations, there is the possibility that scientists will learn something new by studying these observations".
- Volume 3-Miscellaneous Related Studies, Chapter 4, Page 3, paragraph 14, the final sentence of which has been redacted under s.27, this also is in the public domain: the following report was carried out by the University of Colorado under contract from the US Air Force. <http://www.ncas.org/condon/text/s6chap07.htm> It states: *Basic plasma research is vital in many technological areas. In the field of communication, problems arise in connection with radio and radar transmission through plasma regions such as the ionosphere and the ionized sheath surrounding re-entering spacecraft. Laboratory efforts are under way to control the reactions of nuclear fusion for power generation. If successful, present experiments may lead to efficient sources of power which do not require fossil fuel or fissionable materials. In the field of space technology, engineers are developing low thrust ion rocket engines to propel the next generation of interplanetary spaceships.*

Finally:

- Annex A- Introduction Paragraph- this was redacted under s.27, but should this have been either s.23 or s.26 as we do not know how the information was gathered.

If this is ok, once we have checked all of these details, I will email you the full list of redactions that it has now been agreed to release.

I didn't want to email the full list at once and have it get too confusing. If you want the list earlier please let me know and I can send it in another email.

I hope this all makes sense, any problems please contact me.
Thanks for all your help.

Section 40

Info-AccessPol2

Main Building, Level 6, Zone E, Desk 09

Phone (Mil) Section 40

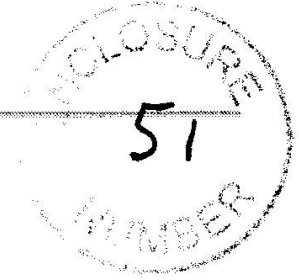
(Civ)

Email Section 40 @mod.uk

07/08/2006

Section 40

From: Section 40
 Sent: 02 August 2006 16:24
 To: Section 40
 Subject: FW: 20060802 R Info-Access advice re Clarke Section 40 and Section 40 requests
 Attachments: 19-01-2006-123339-012 Response.doc



Section 40

Please see Section 40 email below.....not quite what I was expecting re Section 40. We can discuss on Friday, unless you decide never to come back and to emigrate to Clacton, in which case can you please give me your forwarding address !!!

Section 40

From: Section 40
 Sent: 02 August 2006 16:13
 To: Section 40
 Subject: 20060802 R Info-Access advice re Clarke Section 40 and Section 40 requests

Section 40 – it was good to talk.

As I mentioned, I spoke with Section 40 and to report my initial advice wasn't too far off course. Just to recap, we recommend the following course of action for each of the two topics we discussed;

Dr Clarke Section 40 requests

We feel there is a need to assist the applicant, and in doing so consider what the ICO might reasonably consider to be helpful. We can't really ask the requesters to be more specific when we know they don't know what is in the files, and so I would propose that you review the contents of the file and provide a list or short summary of the broad contents. You are then quite within your rights to ask the applicant to be more specific. If he does not, then the case can be closed. I note in some of the paperwork you gave me that Section 40 stated she was trying to establish MOD policy on UFOs between 1970 and 2000 – is there a standard line we could use on this?

They are likely to come back, possibly appeal – that is their right and out of our hands. Section 40 concur with the need here to take a somewhat firmer line in such cases, and the way we would propose doing this here is to be quite specific about the what the fees include, you should be aggregating his requests (to you and to DAS), and that he will be restricted (by the Act) to submitting subsequent requests for the same/similar information at the minimum of 60 day intervals. These points should be reflected in the letter to him, in a firm manner. This approach should stand up to Internal Review and any further appeal. You should consult with DAS on this. I will be happy to review a draft if you would like. Please see attached response where the 60 days were referred to.

Section 40

I found the original request from Section 40: 07-06-2006-092522-003 : I request any and all files, paperwork, documents, photographs, etc, regarding the investigation, operational use of, and discussion of the process known as "remote viewing", and also note a second request from him (I presume it's the same person) on 12-07-2006-110222-005 : UFO's. What I'm not sure about is the latter the same as the question he posed in his email to Section 40 8 July where he acknowledged you had nothing on remote viewing and now wanted info of UFO's. Only significant if someone else is dealing with the 12-07 request and you respond separately to the 8-07 email. I presume it would be Section 40 anyway. The latter part of Section 40 email to Section 40 talks about physic warfare, and it is not clear to me if this is a third request or if it relates to the remote viewing request.

First point of clarification here is, is the term "remote viewing" the recognised term that we use, or are we inferring what he means from the phrase remote viewing?

In hindsight, I think it would more appropriate to conduct a fuller analysis of what you may have, its direct relevance to the original request, and consideration of any sensitivities BEFORE writing back to the applicant. We agree that we need to come clean with the applicant. *[There are a number of good reasons for this – it was a genuine mistake, we may hold relevant info, there may be a future similar request, not doing so would be criticised at appeal etc.]* Consultation with NSLG may indeed be wise once this has happened, but let's see. You may wish to conduct your own consultation to establish the wider view. An idea of how much was spent would be useful in this debate, and I would recommend you

18/08/2006

start some enquiries on this. Should it be assessed that there would be media interest in any release then obviously update the Press Office and Top of the Shop to alert them.

Hope this helps,

Section 40

Section 40

Info-Access-Pol 1
MB 06-E-11
MoD Main Building
Whitehall
London SW1A 2HB

tel : Section 40
fax

Section 40 @mod.uk

18/08/2006

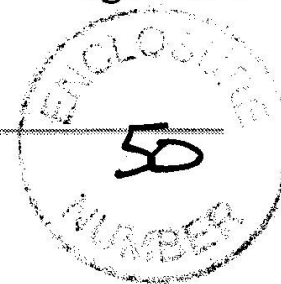
Section 40

From Section 40

Sent: 02 August 2006 14:06

To: Section 40

Subject: Clarke-UFO



Hi Section 40

After much discussion at this end between David Wray and CTUKOps SO1 Air, there are several redactions that will now be released- but before this is possible there are several more things we need to clarify.

Dr Clarke has obviously asked for the name of the author and the company responsible for the report.

- While the author can obviously be withheld under s.40 as we can not find him to ask his permission, can it also be withheld under s.24-National Security- as he may be targeted to obtain secret information that we have withheld and he may inadvertently release?
- The name of the company currently withheld under s.43- as DIS still use this company is it withheld so that this is not known? If so, this is not s.43 but s.24 and must be stated as such.
- In Volume 2, working paper no. 5. Page 5-3, paragraph 9. This has been redacted under s.26 Defence, but is this really the case- or is it possibly commercial? This would therefore be s.43. It gives away the key reasoning which we have paid for and should it just be given out to others- it could be argued that others could produce the same information but should we point them in the right direction?
- In Executive Summary, page 3, paragraph 11 has been redacted under s.27, but this should have been s. 26 or possibly s.23, as the information is an assessment and could be from intelligence sources.
- Volume 3-Miscellaneous Related studies, Chapter 1, page 5, paragraph 21- while this paragraph was previously redacted in whole, it has now been agreed to release some of paragraph 11, the opening phrase of paragraph 21 is the same as the opening phrase of paragraph 11 which will be released.
- Volume 3- Miscellaneous Related Studies, Chapter 1, Page 7, second bullet. Redacted under s.26, should it be s.43? Is this knowledge that we do not want known, as we paid for it- and we do not want to supply this to any competitors?
- Volume 3- Miscellaneous Related Studies. Chapter 4, page 1, paragraph 3- is this s.26? It reveals DIS organisation- security.

Paragraph 4- this was s.27, but should it be s.25? How was the

information gathered?

Paragraph 9- also s.27 but should it be s.25? How was it

gathered?

In regard to the following two points- these are on my understanding- and if you wish to disagree please let me know- if correct can they be released?

- Volume 3-Miscellaneous Related Studies, Chapter 4, page 3, paragraph 12, while information regarding DIS, the CIA desk officer and DI51 must remain redacted- the information regarding the statement made in mid 1998 by the society of scientific exploration is already in the public domain:
<http://www.scientificexploration.org/jse/abstracts/v12n2a1.php>- "The panel nevertheless concluded that it would be valuable to carefully evaluate UFO reports since, whenever there are unexplained observations, there is the possibility that scientists will learn something new by studying these observations".
- Volume 3-Miscellaneous Related Studies, Chapter 4, Page 3, paragraph 14, the final sentence of which has been redacted under s.27, this also is in the public domain: the following report was carried out by the University of Colorado under contract from the US Air Force. <http://www.ncas.org/condon/text/s6chap07.htm> It states: *Basic plasma research is vital in many technological areas. In the field of communication, problems arise in connection with radio and radar transmission through plasma regions such as the ionosphere and the ionized sheath surrounding re-entering spacecraft. Laboratory efforts are under way to control the reactions of nuclear fusion for power generation. If successful, present experiments may lead to efficient sources of power which do not require fossil fuel or fissionable materials. In the field of space technology, engineers are developing low thrust ion rocket engines to propel the next generation of interplanetary spaceships.*

18/08/2006

Finally:

- Annex A- Introduction Paragraph- this was redacted under s.27, but should this have been either s.23 or s.26 as we do not know how the information was gathered.

If this is ok, once we have checked all of these details, I will email you the full list of redactions that it has now been agreed to release.

I didn't want to email the full list at once and have it get too confusing. If you want the list earlier please let me know and I can send it in another email.

I hope this all makes sense, any problems please contact me.

Thanks for all your help.

Section 40

Info-AccessPol2

Main Building, Level 6, Zone E, Desk 09

Phone (Mil) **Section 40**

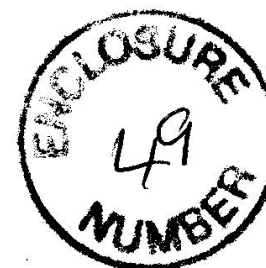
(Civ)

Email **Section 40** @mod.uk

18/08/2006



From: **Section 40**
 Directorate of Air Staff - Freedom of Information
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
 5th 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
 23-05-2006-100609-001

Date
 16th June 2006

Dear Dr Clarke,

I am writing to provide a response to your Freedom of Information request contained in your letter of 22nd May 2006. The rest of this letter has been addressed in my previous letter of 16th June 2006. You requested copies of correspondence from the MoD Branches that commented on the Unidentified Aerial Phenomena (UAP) report, copies of correspondence 'arising from subsidiary recommendations' and a list of files or records held by the Defence Intelligence Staff (DIS) which contain the acronym 'UAP' in the title. I can confirm that the Ministry of Defence does hold some information on this subject.

With regard to your request for "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 comment to AD/DI55". All accessible files for the period in question have been scrutinised, but no correspondence from the MoD Branches who were invited to comment on the report has been found.

Concerning your request for "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". The report was distributed to the addressees as outlined in the covering letter (D/DIST/11/10 dated 4 December 2000). No further correspondence regarding the 'subsidiary recommendations' has been found on the accessible files for the period in question. I can, however, confirm that the findings of the report were sent to DAO (Directorate of Air Operations) as UKADGE (UK Air Defence Ground Environment) was a post within DAO. DIS did not send the report directly to the CAA. Any further dissemination of the report would have been the decision of the addressees concerned and consultation with the DIS would not have been required.

You also requested a list of files or records which are held by the DIS which have the acronym 'UAP' in the title. The following files have been identified as relevant to this request:

DI51/272/15/1 Part 1 – New Techniques Non-Conventional Phenomena UAP – date opened – unknown, date closed April 1997. Location: Archives.

D/DIST/108/15 Part 6 – UAP Policy – dates covered June 2000 to December 2000. Location:
Old War Office Building.

D/DIST/108/15 Part 7 – UAP Policy – dates covered December 2000 to March 2004. Location:
Old War Office Building.

D/DIST/108/15 Part 8 – UAP Policy – dates covered March 2004 – still open. Location:
Old War Office Building.

No other files or records have been identified with the acronym 'UAP' in their title.

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

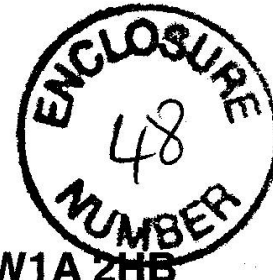
Yours sincerely,

Section 40





From: **Section 40**
 Directorate of Air Staff - Freedom of Information
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
 5th 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
 D/DAS/64/3/11
 Date
 16th June 2006

Dear Dr Clarke

Further to my email of 24th May, I am now in a position to provide you with an substantive response to your request for the three outstanding documents originally requested in your letter of 26th September 2005 and the results of our review of the decision to withhold paragraph 3 from DIST's letter of 4th December 2000. I will also address your questions in your email of 13th June. A response to your new FOI request (23-05-2006-100609-001) will be provided separately. Your request for an internal review of our decision to withhold information from the UAP report in accordance with Sections 26 and 27 of the FOIA has been passed to the Directorate of Information Exploitation and they will respond to you separately when the review is complete.

With regard to the three outstanding documents requested in your letter of 26th September 2005, I can advise you that DI55/108/15 dated 22nd January 1997 has already been sent to you with my letter of 23rd August 2005. This document was one of "three associated papers" detailed in paragraph (2) of that letter. You also asked for copies of two other documents from 1993 and 1996 which relate to the UAP study. Following a detailed search of the accessible files, it has been determined that the two documents which are referred to as references B and C in the letter DI55/108/15 dated 22nd January 1997, are actually incorrectly referenced. The documents referred to are in fact D/DI55/162/40 dated 11th December 1996 and D/Sec(AS)12/1 dated 16th November 1993. It is considered that this was an error by the author of the 22nd January 1997 letter and was made as the two documents referred to were found on file D/DI55/108/15 and the author referred to them without checking the references. Although you were informed in my letter of 23rd November 2005 that the first two documents had been found, the second document was in fact the DI55/162/40 letter of 11th December 1996. The third document had, at that time, not been found as it was not then known that the document of 16th November 1993 was incorrectly referenced.

A copy of D/Sec(AS)12/1 dated 16th November 1993 was also sent to you with my letter of 23 August 2005 and is referred to at paragraph (1) of that letter as enclosure 85 from file D/Sec(AS)12/1 Part A. The remaining document (DI55/162/40) has been examined and we have determined that this can now be released. Please find a copy enclosed with this letter. Some details have been withheld in accordance with FOIA Absolute exemption S.40 (Personal Information) and Qualified exemption S.43 (Commercial Interests). Under the terms of the FOIA, in the case of Qualified exemption S.43, we are required to conduct a Public Interest Test on the information that is being withheld. This is to determine whether there is a greater public interest in releasing the requested information or in withholding the information under the

relevant exemption. This test has been applied and it has been decided that the balance of public interest lies in maintaining the exemption and therefore withholding disclosure. Although we appreciate that disclosure of this information would have provided more background information on the UAP report, disclosure would reveal details of a particular company who has had contracts with the DIS which, if disclosed, would be likely to prejudice current and future commercial relations between the company concerned and the Ministry of Defence. You will also notice that some minor details have been removed, these consist of office addresses, telephone numbers and unique job titles. This information is not considered relevant to the contents of the report and we believe its removal does not prejudice the understanding of the report.

If you are unhappy with our decision to withhold 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).

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>.

As requested, we have also reviewed the letter D/DIST/11/10 dated 4th December 2000 to see whether previously withheld information can now be released. As you will be aware, this document was released in response to your earlier FOI request concerning the DIS decision to no longer receive UFO reports. Paragraph 3 and a few words in paragraph 4 were removed because they were not relevant to that request. Given your subsequent FOI request for a copy of the UAP report and its release, we have reviewed this decision and decided that this information can now be released. The classification previously removed at the top and bottom of the letter can also now be revealed, but have been over-stamped to reflect the fact that the document has been downgraded. Please find enclosed a fresh copy of this document with this information revealed. The details of the author of the letter are still covered by FOIA Absolute exemption S.40 and therefore remain redacted.

Finally, with regard to your email of 13 June 2006 in which you asked about UFO file releases at The National Archives, I should inform you that once files are transferred from the MOD it is for the TNA to manage their release. The last two collections TNA made of MOD records in March and May 2006 did not include any pieces which obviously contain UFO information, nor any for DEFE 24 where future such releases are anticipated. I understand that TNA will be holding a press event at the end of June when they will highlight some of the new releases. All newly released records should also appear in their catalogue around this time.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

UNCLASSIFIED
SECRET UK EYES B

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196/847
CP

S.40



From: XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE DI55X Room XXX
Old War Office Building Whitehall
LONDON SW1A 2EU



Telephone(Direct Dialling) 0171-218-XXXX
(Switchboard) 0171-218-9000
(Fax) 0171-218-XXXX

S.40 XXXXXXXXXXXX

Our reference D/DI55/162/40

Date 11 December 1996

S.40 Dear XXXXXXXX

CONTRACT NNR2/366



1. I have decided to use spare funds under this contract to begin to database our UFO (UAP) reports. As discussed please design a suitable ACCESS based system that should at least record:

- a. A discrete event number for each incident.
- b. Details of location(s), including any potential military or economic targets.
- c. Times and dates.
- d. Details of person(s) reporting the event and witnesses.
- e. Details of the event to include size, shape, colour, speed(s), noise, other effects such as effects on electronic equipment or ignition systems
- g. A categorisation of the event as follows:
 - 1 - Probable NATO/civilian aircraft.
 - 2. - Probable space-associated event such as meteor, re-entry vehicle or planet.

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- 3. - Probable hoax or publicity stunt.
- 4. - Unidentified.

f. Any possible explanation, such as military exercises etc.

2. Because of the sensitivity of this activity it must be conducted on a strict need-to-know basis at SECRET UK EYES B level. The activity will be known as PROJECT CONDINE.

CONDIGN

S.43 3. You have complete access to the UFO/UAP file series and may remove them on a temporary basis to ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~

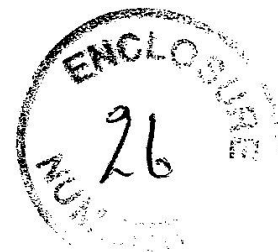
Regards

S.40

XXXXXXXXXX

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LOOSE MINUTE

D/DIST/11/10 196/473

4 December 2000

DCDI 

DG(R&T)

ADGE

IFS(RAF) (FS ATC)

HQ MATO (OPS (LF) 1)

AD/DI51

Copy to: AD/DI55

UNIDENTIFIED AERIAL PHENOMENA (UAP) – DI55 REPORT

1. The DIS has received copies of UAP sighting reports from Sec(AS) for about 30 years. Until recently these have been filed with only a cursory look at the contents by DI55 to discover whether anything of intelligence value could be determined. However, it was obvious that any value from the sighting data could only be derived by carrying out a Study of a significant sample of the reports. Consequently, over the past 2 years DI55, under low priority tasking, has compiled a database of information taken from reports received between 1987 and 1997, and has carried out an analysis based on data statistics. A report is now available. With the exception of DG(R&T), who receives the full report, other addressees are being provided with the Executive Summary only, which details the main findings of the Study. Should you require the full report, or parts of it, contact details are given on page 3 of the Summary.

2. The main conclusion of the Study is that the sighting reports provide nothing of value to the DIS in our assessment of threat weapon systems. Taken together with other evidence, we believe that many of the sightings can be explained as: mis-reporting of man-made vehicles; natural but not unusual phenomena, and natural but relatively rare and not completely understood phenomena. It is for these reasons that we have taken the decision to do no further work on the subject and will no longer receive copies of sighting reports.

3. In addition to this major conclusion, however, the study produced subsidiary findings which will be of interest to addressees. The potential explanations of UAP sightings, the characteristics of natural atmospheric phenomena and the consequences of sightings from aircraft will be of interest to those responsible for flight safety. Similarly the characteristics of some of the phenomena with respect to their detection on UKADR systems will be of interest to both the ADGE and flight safety staff. Finally, DG(R&T) will be interested in those phenomena associated with plasma formations, which have potential applications to novel weapon technology.

4. Although we intend to carry out no further work on the subject, we would value any comments you may wish to make on the report. Please direct such comments to AD/DI55. Finally, while most of the report is classified at only RESTRICTED UKEO, we hardly need remind addressees of the media interest in this subject and consequently the sensitivity of the report. Please protect this subject

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