

AIR 2/18872	[AF/7463/72 Pt V] UFOs: correspondence	1972-73
AIR 2/18873	[AF/7464/72 Pt 1] UFOs: correspondence	1973-74
AIR 2/18874	[AF/7464/72 Pt II] UFOs: correspondence	1974-75
AIR 2/18920	[AF/7464/72 Pt III] UFOs: correspondence	1975
AIR 2/18921	[AF/7464/72 Pt IV] UFOs: correspondence	1976
AIR 20/11612	[AF/7464/72 Pt 5] UFOs: memos & correspondence	1967-68
AIR 2/19086	[MR073414] UFO policy:	1970-75
AIR 2/19117	[AF/3459/75] UFOs: BBC Radio Oxford programme	1972-73
AIR 2/19119	[AF/S4f(Air)422] UFOs: Man Alive programme: BBC 2 TV	1971-72
AIR 2/19125	[AF/419] Reported sightings of UFOs, RAF Patrington	1967-1973
AIR 2/19126	[PAT(Ops)/3/11/Air Part 1] Statistical Analysis of UFOs	1967-1973
AIR 2/19173	[S4f(Air)U/506] Aircraft Accident Report: Lightning F6 XS894 5 Squadron: Capt William Schaffner	1970-72

Ministry of Defence: S4 (Air) (UFO sighting reports) 1967-79

AIR 2/18115	UFO reports	January-May	1967
	[AF/CX38/68 Pt 1]		
AIR 2/18116	UFO reports	May-July	1967
	[AF/CX38/67 Pt 2]		
AIR 20/11887	UFO reports	August	1967
	[ID/48/44/AF/S4f(Air)507]		
AIR 20/11888	UFO reports	September	1967
	[ID/48/44/AF/S4f(Air)508]		
AIR 20/11889	UFO reports	October	1967
	[ID/48/46/Pt 1AF/S4f(Air)509]		
AIR 20/11890	UFO reports	October	1967
	[ID/48/67/Pt 2AF/S4f(Air)509]		
AIR 20/11891	UFO reports	November	1967
	[ID/48/67/Pt 2AF/S4f(Air)510]		
AIR 20/11892	UFO reports	December	1967
	[ID/48/67/Pt 2AF/S4f(Air)510]		
AIR 20/11694	UFO reports	January	1968
	[ID/48/69 AF/S4f(Air)512]		
AIR 20/11695	UFO reports	February	1968
	[ID/48/70 AF/S4f(Air)513]		
AIR 20/11894	UFO reports	March	1968
	[ID/48/71 AF/S4f(Air)514]		

AIR 20/11895	UFO reports [ID/48/72 AF/S4f(Air)515]	April	1968
AIR 20/11896	UFO reports [ID/48/73 AF/S4f(Air)516]	May	1968
AIR 20/11897	UFO reports [ID/48/74 AF/S4f(Air)517]	June	1968
AIR 20/11898	UFO reports [ID/48/75 AF/S4f(Air)518]	July	1968
AIR 20/11899	UFO reports [ID/48/76 AF/S4f(Air)519]	August	1968
AIR 20/11900	UFO reports [ID/48/77 AF/S4f(Air)520]	September	1968
AIR 20/11901	UFO reports [ID/48/78 AF/S4f(Air)521]	October	1968
AIR 20/11902	UFO reports [ID/48/79 AF/S4f(Air)522]	November	1968
AIR 20/11696	UFO reports [ID/48/80 AF/S4f(Air)523]	December	1968
AIR 20/12055	UFO reports [AF/S4f(Air)524 ID/48/81]	January	1969
AIR 20/12056	UFO reports [AF/S4f(Air)525 ID/48/82]	February	1969
AIR 20/12057	UFO reports [AF/S4f(Air)526 ID/48/83]	March	1969
AIR 20/12058	UFO reports [AF/S4f(Air)527 ID/48/84]	April	1969
AIR 20/12059	UFO reports [AF/S4f(Air)528 ID/48/85]	May	1969
AIR 20/12060	UFO reports [AF/S4f(Air)529 ID/48/86]	June	1969
AIR 20/12061	UFO reports [AF/S4f(Air)530 ID/48/87]	July	1969
AIR 20/12062	UFO reports [AF/S4f(Air)531 ID/48/88]	August	1969
AIR 20/12063	UFO reports [AF/S4f(Air)532 ID/48/89]	September	1969
AIR 20/12064	UFO reports [AF/S4f(Air)533 ID/48/90]	October	1969
AIR 20/12065	UFO reports [AF/S4f(Air)534 ID/48/91]	November	1969
AIR 20/12066	UFO reports [AF/S4f(Air)535 ID/48/92]	December	1969
AIR 20/12067	UFO reports [AF/S4f(Air)536 ID/48/93]	January	1970
AIR 20/12297	UFO reports [AF/S4f(Air)537 ID/48/94]	February	1970
AIR 20/12298	UFO reports [AF/S4f(Air)538 ID/48/94]	March	1970

AIR 20/12299	UFO reports [AF/S4f(Air)539ID/48/95]	April	1970
AIR 20/12300	UFO reports [AF/S4f(Air)540 ID/48/96]	May	1970
AIR 20/12301	UFO reports [AF/S4f(Air)541 ID/48/97]	June	1970
AIR 20/12302	UFO reports [AF/S4f(Air)542 ID/48/98]	July	1970
AIR 20/12303	UFO reports [AF/S4f(Air)543 ID/48/99]	August	1970
AIR 20/12304	UFO reports [AF/S4f(Air)544 ID/48/100]	September	1970
AIR 20/12305	UFO reports [AF/S4f(Air)545 ID/48/101]	October	1970
AIR 20/12306	UFO reports [AF/S4f(Air)546 ID/48/102]	November	1970
AIR 20/12376	UFO reports [AF/5206/10 Pt 2 MR 116171]	December	1970
AIR 20/12377	UFO reports [ID/48/105]	January	1971
AIR 20/12378	UFO reports [ID/48/106]	February	1971
AIR 20/12379	UFO reports [ID/48/107]	March	1971
AIR 20/12380	UFO reports [ID/48/108]	April	1971
AIR 20/12381	UFO reports [ID/48/109]	May	1971
AIR 20/12382	UFO reports [ID/48/110]	June	1971
AIR 20/12383	UFO reports [ID/48/111]	July	1971
AIR 20/12384	UFO reports [ID/48/112]	August	1971
AIR 20/12385	UFO reports [ID/48/113]	September	1971
AIR 20/12386	UFO reports [ID/48/114]	October	1971
AIR 20/12387	UFO reports [ID/48/115]	November	1971
AIR 20/12388	UFO reports [ID/48/116]	December	1971
AIR 20/12399	UFO reports [ID/47/274 Pt 4]		1971-72
AIR 20/12400	UFO reports [ID/48/117]	January	1972
AIR 20/12401	UFO reports [ID/48/118]	February	1972
AIR 20/12402	UFO reports [ID/48/119]	March	1972

AIR 20/12403	UFO reports [ID/48/120]	April	1972
AIR 20/12404	UFO reports [ID/48/121]	May	1972
AIR 20/12405	UFO reports [ID/48/122]	June	1972
AIR 20/12406	UFO reports [ID/48/123]	July	1972
AIR 20/12407	UFO reports [ID/48/124]	August	1972
AIR 20/12408	UFO reports [ID/48/125]	September	1972
AIR 20/12409	UFO reports [ID/48/126]	October	1972
AIR 20/12410	UFO reports [ID/48/127]	November	1972
AIR 20/12411	UFO reports [ID/48/128]	December	1972
AIR 20/12544	UFO reports [ID/48/129]	January	1973
AIR 20/12545	UFO reports [ID/48/130]	February	1973
AIR 20/12546	UFO reports [ID/48/131]	March	1973
AIR 20/12547	UFO reports [ID/48/132]	April	1973
AIR 20/12548	UFO reports [ID/48/133]	May	1973
AIR 20/12549	UFO reports [ID/48/134]	June	1973
AIR 20/12550	UFO reports [ID/48/135]	July	1973
AIR 20/12551	UFO reports [ID/48/136]	August	1973
AIR 20/12552	UFO reports [ID/48/137]	September	1973
AIR 20/12553	UFO reports [ID/48/138]	October	1973
AIR 20/12554	UFO reports [ID/48/139]	November	1973
AIR 20/12555	UFO reports [ID/48/140]	December	1973
AIR 2/19083	UFO reports [AF/584]	January	1974
AIR 2/18950	UFO reports [AF/585]	February	1974
AIR 2/18951	UFO reports	March	1974

AIR 2/18952	[AF/586] UFO reports	April	1974
AIR 2/18953	[AF/587] UFO reports	May	1974
AIR 2/18954	[AF/588] UFO reports	June	1974
AIR 2/18955	[AF/589] UFO reports	July	1974
AIR 2/18956	[AF/590] UFO reports	August	1974
AIR 2/18957	[AF/591] UFO reports	September	1974
AIR 2/18958	[AF/592] UFO reports	October	1974
AIR 2/18959	[AF/593] UFO reports	November	1974
AIR 2/18960	[AF/594] UFO reports	December	1974
AIR 2/18961	[AF/595] UFO reports	January	1975
AIR 2/18962	[AF/596] UFO reports	February	1975
AIR 2/18963	[AF/597] UFO reports	March	1975
AIR 2/18964	[AF/598] UFO reports	April	1975
AIR 2/18965	[AF/599] UFO reports	May	1975
AIR 2/18966	[AF/600] UFO reports	June	1975
AIR 2/18967	[AF/601] UFO reports	July	1975
AIR 2/18968	[AF/602] UFO reports	December	1975
AIR 2/18969	[AF/607] UFO reports	January	1976
AIR 2/18970	[AF/608] UFO reports	February	1976
AIR 2/18971	[AF/609] UFO reports	March	1976
AIR 2/18972	[AF/610] UFO reports	April	1976
AIR 2/18973	[AF/611] UFO reports	May	1976
AIR 2/18974	[AF/612] UFO reports	June	1976
AIR 2/18975	[AF/613] UFO reports	September	1976
AIR 2/18976	[AF/616] UFO reports	October	1976

AIR 2/18977	[AF/617] UFO reports	November 1976
AIR 2/18978	[AF/618] UFO reports	December 1976
DEFE 24/1206	[AF/619] UFOs: Reports and correspondence	1977
DEFE 71/34	[D/DS8/75/2/1 Pt B] UFO reports	January-May 1977
DEFE 71/35	[D/S4(Air)8/2/3 Pt A] UFO reports	June-September 1977
DEFE 24/1205	[D/S4(Air)8/2/3 Pt B] UFO reports	October-December 1977
DEFE 24/1207	[D/DS8/2/3 Pt C] UFO reports and correspondence	October 1977-March 1978
DEFE 24/1290	[D/DS8/2/3 Pt D] UFO Reports	January-March 1978
DEFE 24/1209	[D/DS8/75/2/2 Pt D] UFO Reports	April-May 1978
DEFE 24/1210	[D/DS8/75/2/3 Pt E] UFO reports	June-August 1978
DEFE 24/1291	[D/DS8/75/2/3 Pt F] UFO reports	September-October 1978
DEFE 24/1211	[D/DS8/75/2/2 Pt G] UFO reports	November 1978
DEFE 24/1212	[D/DS8/75/2/3 Pt H] UFO reports	December 1978
AIR 20/12966	[D/DS8/75/2/3 Pt J] UFOs: Parliamentary interest	Sept 1978-January 1979
	[HdS4(Air)/BF82]	

[sequence of files containing 'edited copies' of UFO reports begins 1975, ends 1980]

AIR 2/18949	UFO reports: edited copies	August 1975-June 1976
	[AF/447]	
DEFE 24/977	UFO reports: edited copies	July 1976-April 1977
	[D/DS 8/75/2/2A]	
DEFE 24/978	UFO reports: edited copies	April-September 1977
	[D/DS 8/75/2/2B]	
DEFE 24/979	UFO reports: edited copies	September-December 1977
	[D/DS 8/75/2/2C]	
DEFE 24/1208	UFO Reports: edited copies	January-March 1978
	[D/DS8/75/2/2 Pt D]	
DEFE 24/1288	UFO Reports: edited copies	March-August 1978
	[D/DS8/75/2/2 Pt E]	
DEFE 24/1289	UFO Reports: edited copies	August-October 1978
	[D/DS8/75/2/2 Pt F]	

Air Defence DD Ops (RAF)

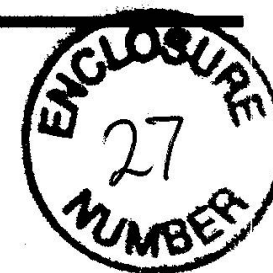
DEFE 71/3	UFOs: Reports	1975-77
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DEFE 71/4 [AF/CX1528/72 Pt 2] UFOs: Reports 1977
DEFE 71/33 [AF/CX1528/72 Pt 3] Flying and Operations: Air Traffic Control and UFOs 1977-78
[D/IPS(RAF)/42/10/3]

Database copyright Dr David Clarke 2006

Section 40

From: Section 40
 Sent: 31 May 2006 15:18
 To: Section 40
 Subject: FW: FOI Request



Importance: High



Attachment A.doc (25 KB) Attachment B.doc (25 KB)

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

From: Section 40
 Sent: 24 February 2006 08:48
 To: Section 40
 Subject: FW: FOI Request

Section 40

As discussed, here is Dr Clarke's e-mail following my conversation with him yesterday. I can not answer his questions, but maybe Section 40. With regard to questions he has suggested that might be asked by the press, I have already started to draft some press lines, so I will continue to draft these incorporating those he has suggested.

During my conversation with Dr Clarke he mentioned the likely media interest when the report is released and I said that we anticipated that one of the questions might be "why are you releasing the report now". I said that we would say that it was in response to an FOI request but not give his name. He said he was happy for us to give his name and say it was part of his ongoing academic research. This morning I have also received an e-mail from Section 40 who is the other person waiting for these documents (and in touch with Dr Clarke) and he also has no objection to us giving his name.

Please give me a call if you want to talk about any of this.

Regards

Section 40

DAS-FOI

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

From: david clarke [mailto:Section 40]
 Sent: 23 February 2006 20:07
 To: Section 40
 Subject: Re: FOI Request

Dear Section 40

Further to our telecon earlier today regarding the release of the UAP report, here is a short list of questions for the attention of the DIS people at your forthcoming meeting. I mentioned some of these during our conversation.

I've also attached a list of questions (attachment B) that may be helpful both for yourself and DPO when drawing up a Press briefing for future use when the report becomes public knowledge. I have had some experience dealing with the media on the subject of UFOs and these are just some of the questions I believe they will ask.

Questions for DIS on behalf of Dr David Clarke:

1. Would it be possible to correspond with and/or interview the author of the report? The report is an important and historically important document and from

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

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

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

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

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

That's all and thanks for fielding these questions on my behalf. I hope the meeting goes well and there are no major obstacles remaining in the process of release. I look forward to hearing from you in due course.

Yours sincerely,

Dr David Clarke

Attachment A:DI55 UFO files

DI/DI55/108/15/1 Pt 9	UFO Incident Reports	period not known
DI/DI55/108/15/1 Pt 32	UFO Incident Reports	Feb 1978-Jan 1983
DI/DI55/108/15/1 Pt 34	UFO Incident Reports	June 1983-Mar 1985
DI/DI55/108/15/1 Pt 35	UFO Incident Reports	April 1985-Dec 1986
DI/DI55/108/15/1 Pt 36A	UFO Incident Reports	Dec 1986-Nov 1987
DI/DI55/108/15/1 Pt 36B	UFO Incident Reports	Nov 1987-July 1988
DI/DI55/108/15/1 Pt 37	UFO Incident Reports	Aug 1988-July 1989
DI/DI55/108/15/1 Pt 38	UFO Incident Reports	July-Dec 1989
DI/DI55/108/15/1 Pt 39	UFO Incident Reports	Jan 1990-June 1991
DI/DI55/108/15/1 Pt 40	UFO Incident Reports	June 1991-Jan 1992
DI/DI55/108/15/1 Pt 41	UFO Incident Reports	Feb 1992-April 1993
DI/DI55/108/15/1 Pt 42	UFO Incident Reports	April-Oct 1993
DI/DI55/108/15/1 Pt 43	UFO Incident Reports	Oct 1993-Jan 1994
DI/DI55/108/15/1 Pt 44	UFO Incident Reports	Jan-May 1994
DI/DI55/108/15/1 Pt 45	UFO Incident Reports	June-Nov 1994
DI/DI55/108/15/1 Pt 46	UFO Incident Reports	Nov 1994-May 1995
DI/DI55/108/15/1 Pt 47	UFO Incident Reports	June 1995-Jan 1996
DI/DI55/108/15/1 Pt 48	UFO Incident Reports	Feb-July 1996
DI/DI55/108/15/1 Pt 49	UFO Incident Reports	Aug-Oct 1996
DI/DI55/108/15/1 Pt 50	UFO Incident Reports	Nov 1996-Dec 1997
DI/DI55/108/15/1 Pt 51	UFO Incident Reports	Jan 1997-2002

Attachment B

UAP Report: Possible questions from the media

- 1) How much did it cost the taxpayer?
- 2) What are the conclusions/does it say we are being visited by ET and if not how can you be sure?
- 3) Why was this report written - was it to investigate if aliens were visiting us?
- 4) When was this study done and why was it kept secret?
- 5) Why are the MoD secretly studying UFOs when you have said on many occasions you are not interested in the subject/it is not taken seriously, etc
- 6) Why is the MoD releasing this report now – what's led to the decision?
- 7) Who wrote this report and what is his/her background? Can we interview him/her?
- 8) Is the person who wrote this report the MoD's "UFO expert"? Why was he/her chosen to write it?
- 9) Does this mean the MoD is no longer interested in UFOs? Who do people ring now if they want to report seeing something in the sky? (this requires an explanation of differing responsibilities of DIS and DAS)
- 10) What does this tell us about the Rendlesham incident?
- 11) Does the report contain information about (famous UFO incident)?
- 12) What about 9/11? Shouldn't the MoD be taking all reports of unidentified objects seriously given the ongoing terrorist threat? Isn't this the wrong time to take your eye off the ball?
- 13) Which high ranking MoD or Government ministers have read this report, and/or to whom was the report circulated?
- 14) Was it sent to any foreign Governments (i.e. the Americans) for advice? Have you discussed the conclusions with the Americans?
- 15) Is Section 40 aware of this report, and if so did he have any input into it?

Section 40

From: Section 40
Sent: 21 February 2006 16:38
To: Section 40
Subject: FW: FOI Request



Section 40

As discussed.

Section 40

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

From: david clarke [mailto:Section 40]
Sent: 21 February 2006 16:10
To: Section 40
Subject: Re: FOI Request

Dear Section 40

Thanks for your email dated 20 February and for providing an update on progress with my Freedom of Information request. I'm pleased to hear substantial progress is now expected and I hope it will be possible to obtain a copy of the full report by the middle of March as you predict.

I have a number of questions related to the release which you might usefully be able to answer seeing as you are due to meet representatives from the DIS next Tuesday. For instance, I wondered if it is possible for DIS to confirm that the UFO files used to draw the database are indeed among those contaminated by asbestos. If it's convenient to speak on the phone before then could you suggest a time I could call you.

In the meantime, thanks again for all the work you have put into processing this substantial response to my request.

Yours,

David Clarke

Section 40

From: Section 40
 Sent: 31 May 2006 15:24
 To: Section 40
 Subject: FW: UAP Report



From: Section 40
 Sent: 20 February 2006 14:42
 To: Section 40
 Subject: UAP Report

Section 40

As discussed Wg Cdr Section 40 (DCT&UKOps-Airspace Integrity) has asked for the following to be redacted from Volume 3 of the UAP report.

- Page 2 Para 5 Remove the first line.
- Para 6 Remove the whole paragraph.
- Para 7 Remove the whole paragraph
- Para 8 Remove the whole paragraph
- Page 3 Para 7 Remove the last sentence
- Page 6 Para 24 Remove the whole paragraph
- Page 8 Para 27 *Horizon Geometry* Remove the whole paragraph
- Page 9 Para 28 Remove paragraph to line nine *special tasks*.
- Pages 10 - 11 Remove the whole page.
- Pages 13 - 17 Remove the whole page
- Page 14 Remove the whole page.

With regard to Volume 2 - Working Paper 9 (low flying charts) my colleagues in Low Flying have confirmed that these are ok to release, all this information is already in the public domain.

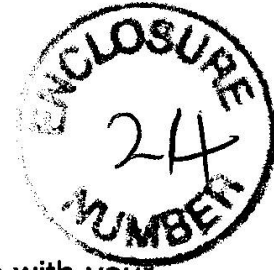
With regard to Volume 2 - Page F-4 the reference to the Rendlesham Forest incident, I think that ufologists might get a bit excited because it has been alleged that there were above average levels of radiation in the Forest, but I see no good reason to redact this.

I hope this helps.

Section 40
 DAS-FOI
 5-H-13

Section 40

31/05/2006



Dear Dr Clarke

Further to my message of 27 January, I am writing to provide an update on progress with your Freedom of Information request. Most of the sensitivity issues have now been resolved and I have a meeting scheduled with DIS staff for the 28th February to finalise the records for release. The records will then be redacted to remove any withheld information, photocopied and sent to you. Given the number of individual documents to be processed we estimate that you should have this information by mid March. Should there be any problems or further delays I will let you know. In the meantime, your patience is greatly appreciated.

With regard to the question you raised in your e-mail of 26 January regarding the cost of producing this report, I can inform you that DIS have searched all their available records and have been unable to locate any such details.

I hope this is helpful.

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

20th February 2006

Section 40

From: Section 40
 Sent: 27 January 2006 15:31
 To: Section 40
 Subject: Internet-authorized: FOI Request



Importance: High

Dear Dr Clarke

Consideration of the UAP Report papers is currently ongoing and it appears that our initial estimate of the end of January release might have been a little optimistic. However, we are keen to release as much of the report as possible and there are now just a few issues concerning the sensitivity of certain sections of the Report still to be determined. Once this is complete and any withheld information is removed, copies will be made and sent to yourself and Section 40. I am unable to be certain as to exactly when this will be, but as soon as I have any firm news, I will let you know.

With regard to your request for information about the costs involved in the production of the Report, this information is not held on DAS files, so I have passed your enquiry to the DIS staff. I will write to you again regarding this matter.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40
 Ministry of Defence
 Directorate of Air Staff - Freedom of Information

27 January 2006

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

From: david clarke [mailto:Section 40]
 Sent: 26 January 2006 12:59
 To: Section 40
 Subject: Re: FOI Request
 Importance: High

Dear Section 40

A belated happy New Year to you.

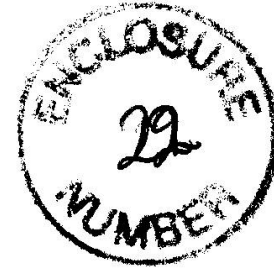
I am writing to follow up our pre-holiday conversation with regards to my FOI request for the UAP Report. In your last email dated 20 December you mentioned that "we should be in a position to release the information by the end of January."

I wonder if that remains the position and if you could provide an update on progress.

Also, would it be possible for you to provide me with an estimate of cost involved in the production of this report during the period 1998-2000 as it clearly involved a considerable amount of work. I gather from the documents already released that it was paid for via an ongoing, unrelated contract within DIS. However, I'm sure one of the questions that will inevitably be asked is "how much did it cost?" Is it possible to provide an estimate?

Yours sincerely,

David Clarke



Dear Dr Clarke

Thank you for the Christmas card.

As promised I am writing before the Christmas break to provide you with an update on progress with your FOI request for the UAP Report.

DIS staff have now examined Volumes 1, 2 and 3, and the Executive Summary, from a Security / technical perspective and the DIS FOI focal point is now checking the information from an FOI perspective. We hope this task will be completed in early to mid January 2006 and we should be in a position to release the information by the end of January. Although it was first thought that it may be possible to release the Executive Summary ahead of the full report, it has now been decided to look at all the papers together and have just one release. Early indications are that most of these documents are likely to be released.

I apologise for the length of time this is taking, but we are keen to release as much of the report as possible and great care needs to be taken to consider each document. I will, of course, contact you as soon as I know anything more definite about when and how this information will be released. In the meantime, if you have any questions, please e-mail me or give me a call.

With best wishes for a happy Christmas.

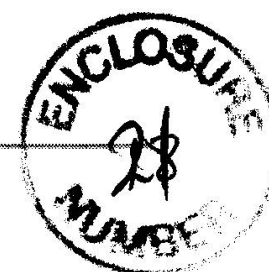
Section 40

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

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

20 December 2005

Section 40



From: Section 40
Sent: 16 December 2005 11:50
To: Section 40
Cc:
Subject: RE: FOI Request - Dr David Clarke

Dear Section 40

Thank you for your email. I believe Section 40 has been in touch with you about the first point.

I am very happy for you to continue to correspond with Dr Clarke as DAS are the policy lead and you have established a relationship already. It's best that he has one POC in MOD!

On the redaction points, Section 40 has already checked the first two volumes from a security/technical perspective, and has agreed to redact Vol 3 which does need some technical data redacted. Section 40 will be checking them from an FOI perspective. For example, we have seen some references to other nations, which might need redacting. We hope to have completed this task by early January.

As it will be a one-off publication, creating a new class under the publication scheme may be unnecessary. Instead of placing the reports on the MOD's publication scheme, we could place them in the MOD's FOI Reading Room which is available at the www.mod.uk website. Info-Access views would be welcome.

I am happy to host a meeting here in early January once we have done the work. Section 40 welcome to come of course. Please ring me if you have any other points.

Have a good (UFO-free) Christmas!

Section 40

Section 40

DI BCR CG AD

Section 40

From: Section 40
Sent: 15 December 2005 12:09
To: Section 40
Cc:
Subject: RE: FOI Request - Dr David Clarke

Dear Section 40

Thank you for this. I thought Section 40 was your FOI focal point and have copied my e-mails to her, so I apologise for sending them to the wrong place. I will deal with Section 40.

All of the information Dr Clarke has asked for in this request is DIS material and not held by DAS. However, Dr Clarke has been corresponding with me about UFOs almost continuously for over 5 years and we have released a lot of information to him. In order to stop him starting a similar long chain of correspondence with yourselves and so I can keep track of what information he has been given I thought it best that your response comes through me rather than directly to him. If you would prefer to correspond directly with him, please let me know. Otherwise I believe that you are best placed to decide on what can be released from these documents (with the input of any other parties as you see fit) and the use of any exemptions. You would then need to redact any information which is to be withheld. As the FOIA is an entitlement to information not documents it would be acceptable to provide a digest of releasable information but given the number of documents involved it may be more practical to provide copies (redacted where necessary). I would then be

20/12/2005

Happy to draft a response to Dr Clarke (and the other applicant who is interested in these papers) which of course I will clear with you. I will give some thought to press lines, although until we know exactly what will be released (or withheld) I will not know what to cover. Maybe we can discuss this immediately prior to the release of the information. I think at the very least we should inform both our heads of branch and DG Info-Access/AD about the release. We do not get many PQs on UFOs these days, but it may be worth informing US of S just in case. I will discuss this with my AD, **Section 40**. In the meantime, I will send the two applicants a holding letter.

Section 40 over to me the Executive Summary (the original) to the UAP report, plus a copy about two weeks ago. I will arrange to get the original back to **Section 40**. I see you plan for **Section 40** to redact the report and decide on any use of exemptions. I spoke to **Section 40** yesterday (before I got your e-mail) and he said it had all been handed over to you and **Section 40** for action as he did not have time to deal with it. I got the impression he did not think this was anything to do with him now, but maybe I misunderstood this.

With regard to publishing this information after release, the best place for this is the MOD FOI Publication Scheme. As you probably know, all new classes of information require the permission of the Information Commissioner so we will have to speak to Info-Access about this. When I released the Rendlesham Forest papers into the PS there were a few technical problems because of its size (175 pages). I understand your report is over 300 pages so depending on how much is released there could be some difficulties. Scanned information also has to be in a certain form (PDF I believe). I have a contact in Info-Access who deals with the Publication Scheme so I will have a chat with them.

I think a meeting in the new year when you have a clearer idea of what is (and is not) to be released, would be a good idea. I am back in office on 3 January and could book a meeting room in MB if that suits you.

Please give me a call if you need to chat about any of this.

Regards

Section 40
DAS-FOI

From: **Section 40**
Sent: 14 December 2005 16:21
To: **Section 40**
Cc: **Section 40**
Subject: FW: FOI Request - Dr David Clarke

Dear **Section 40**

Section 40 and I have now had an opportunity to discuss this request. May I suggest that future requests for information under the FOI Act would probably be best directed through the DIS FOI Focal Point which at the moment is **Section 40** DI BCR CG3, rather than directly to **Section 40**.

I think we will probably be able to release most of the material in the reports to the respondent. However, redacting them and preparing them for publication will take time and will not be possible within 20 working days or within the £600 limit. We therefore plan to do this over the Christmas period and hope to have something ready by the end of January.

In addition, as you acknowledge in your minute, this report is likely to receive substantial press coverage, and we need to plan more carefully how it will be handled. We (all) need to be thinking of press lines. Should we consider advising Ministers and senior staff?

The plan at the moment is for **Section 40** to redact the reports and let me have his views on exemptions. The redacted versions will then need to be scanned in so that they are readily available in soft copy if we are to put them on the MOD website.

I would be grateful for your views on the division of labour as DAS lead on UFOs but we are the experts with the information. Perhaps a meeting in the New Year to discuss the way ahead would be useful.

Section 40
DI BCR CG AD
Section 40

20/12/2005



Dear Dr Clarke

Further to my e-mail yesterday, I have now received advice from **Section 40** regarding the transfer of UFO related files to The National Archives.

AIR 20/12966 was transferred to TNA in October and this was the only UFO file transferred. At present there are no further scheduled collections, and the MOD is not expecting any further transfers before Christmas.

With regard to the traditional big new year releases at TNA, I understand that following the implementation of the FOI Act records are now released throughout the year, following transfer from Government departments and TNA preparation. There may, however, be some new year releases because some government departments such as the Cabinet Office and No.10, normally only transfer their records to TNA during the last few months of the year.

I hope this is helpful.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

Directorate of Air Staff - Freedom of Information

24th November 2005

Section 40

From: Section 40
Sent: 24 November 2005 08:58
To: Section 40
Subject: RE: Freedom of Information requests



AIR20/12966 was the only UFO file transferred in Oct (that I can identify).

It is my understanding that there are no big new releases - although I suspect that some Cabinet Office and No 10 files which are normally only transferred during the last few months of the preceding year might received a splash.

Section 40

-----Original Message-----
From: Section 40
Sent: 24 November 2005 08:25
To: Section 40
Subject: RE: Freedom of Information requests

Section 40

Thanks. Was this the only UFO file collected in October?

Does this mean that pieces are now opened throughout the year following transfer and TNA preparation and there is no big new year releases anymore?.

Section 40

-----Original Message-----
From: Section 40
Sent: 24 November 2005 07:41
To: Section 40
Subject: RE: Freedom of Information requests

Section 40

AIR 20/12966 was transferred in October.

I'm not anticipating another pick-up before Christmas, therefore no further "UFO" transfers.

In any case with FOI the "new year" release arrangement has effectively lapsed!

Section 40

-----Original Message-----
From: Section 40
Sent: 23 Novemb 2005 15:43
To: Section 40
Subject: FW: Freedom of Information requests
Importance: High

Section 40

Please see the final two paragraphs of Dr Clarke's latest e-mail. I would be grateful for your advice.

Section 40

DAS-FOI

-----Original Message-----
From: david clarke [mailto:Section 40]

Sent: 23 November 2005 15:08

To: Section 40
Subject: Re: Freedom of Information requests
Importance: High

23 November 2005

Dear Section 40

Thank you for your informative email received today and attached letter. I do indeed appreciate your efforts to take this matter forward since my communication of 29 October.

I understand that it might be awhile before it is possible to release the full 317 pages/3 volumes of the DIS report, but I'm pleased that a decision has been taken to release it in as full as form as possible.

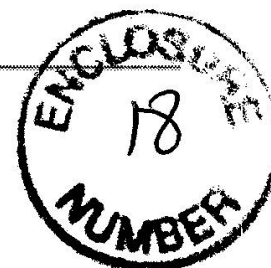
In the meantime I would hope and expect, as you suggest, that the 20-page Executive Summary could be released ahead of the full report. Is it possible to provide some estimate as to when this summary might be available? I would like to discuss this in further detail and wonder if you have a direct line where you could be reached later this week.

Finally, I noticed that a file under the newly-raised ref number AIR 20/12966 has appeared on the TNA catalogue during the last week. On checking the full details it appears this file is the former MoD reference Hd S4(Air)BF82 - UFOs: Parliamentary interest 1978-79 relating to the House of Lords debate that was the subject of one of my requests to you earlier this year.

Are you aware of any other UFO-related files from this period which have been collected by TNA since I last inquired about this matter during the summer? I understand that a period of 50 days elapses before files collected are opened at Kew, but I wondered if you are aware of any groups of UFO-related files that are likely to be opened by TNA to coincide with the traditional 1 January date next year.

Thanks once again,

Dr David Clarke



From: Section 40 [redacted]
Sent: 24 November 2005 12:52
To: Section 40 [redacted]
Subject: FW: FOI Request - Dr David Clarke
Importance: High

Section 40 [redacted]
Can we have a chat about this.

Section 40 [redacted]

From: Section 40 [redacted]
Sent: 22 November 2005 15:29
To: Section 40 [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: FOI Request - Dr David Clarke
Importance: High

Section 40 [redacted]

Please see attached.

Section 40 [redacted]
DAS-FOI
5-H-13

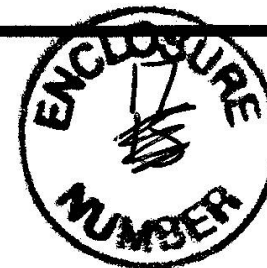
Section 40 [redacted]

20/12/2005

Section 40

From: Section 40
 Sent: 23 November 2005 16:53
 To: 'david clarke'
 Subject: Internet-authorised: Freedom of Information requests

Importance: High



Dear Dr Clarke

Thank you for your e-mail.

I hope we will be in a position to release some (if not all) of the Executive Summary within the next two weeks. I am sorry I can not be more precise but this is a DIS document and only they can decide on release. Unlike the Flying Saucer Working Party report which was over 50 years old when released, this document is less than 5 years old and some of the information is still potentially sensitive. It must, therefore, be given very careful consideration before release. I will keep you informed of any progress.

My direct telephone number is Section 40. This is not the UFO line for the public, so I would be grateful if you keep this for your use only. I have a meeting tomorrow between 14.30 -15.30, otherwise I am here between 0800-1630.

Finally, I have forwarded your message concerning files transferred to TNA to Section 40 for advice. I will contact you again regarding these when I have a response.

Regards

Section 40
 Directorate of Air Staff - Freedom of Information
 23 November 2005

23 November 2005

Dear Section 40

Thank you for your informative email received today and attached letter. I do indeed appreciate your efforts to take this matter forward since my communication of 29 October.

I understand that it might be awhile before it is possible to release the full 317 pages/3 volumes of the DIS report, but I'm pleased that a decision has been taken to release it in as full as form as possible.

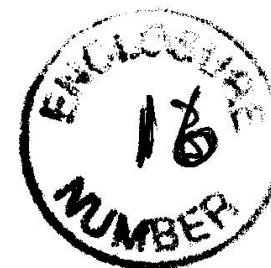
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Are you aware of any other UFO-related files from this period which have been collected by TNA since I last inquired about this matter during the summer? I understand that a period of 50 days elapses before files collected are opened at Kew, but I wondered if you are aware of any groups of UFO-related files that are likely to be opened by TNA to coincide with the traditional 1 January date next year.

Thanks once again,

Dr David Clarke



LOOSE MINUTE

D/DAS/64/3/11

22 November 2005



DIST-GM OMS AD

Copy to: DI BCR CG2
DAS- Sec AD

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST – DR DAVID CLARKE

1) I am writing concerning Dr Clarke's Freedom of Information request for a copy of the report produced by DIS in December 2000 entitled "Unidentified Aerial Phenomena in the UK Air Defence Region", Volumes 1, 2 and 3 and the Executive Summary. I have now read the Executive Summary which you proposed to release ahead of the Volumes and while I do not profess to understand the technical or scientific information, I have the following comments for your consideration.

2) The summary contains references to what can and can not be seen on UK Air Defence Radar and discusses the possibility that our airspace could have been penetrated by potentially hostile objects. I think we should therefore show the Summary (and relevant parts of the report) to Wing Commander **Section 40** CT and UK Ops - Airspace Integrity for an opinion on how sensitive this is now. I note UKADGE 1 (predecessor to CT&UK Ops) was on the original distribution of these documents, so it is possible that they also have a copy on their files.

3) There are references to flight safety aspects and a suggestion that past unexplained RAF aircraft fatal accidents could have been caused by the pilot being startled by the sudden appearance of an unidentified object immediately ahead of the aircraft. This could be interpreted as the MOD questioning the judgement of Boards of Inquiry convened to investigate these accidents and suggesting there may have been factors not taken into account. The fatal Mull of Kintyre Chinook accident in 1994 in which the pilots were found grossly negligent is still topical and DAS continue to receive FOI requests and correspondence from those campaigning to clear the pilots names. I believe at one time the possibility of a UFO in the area was suggested by some of the campaigners as a possible cause.

4) The summary also contains reference to plasma formations / technologies and "exotic technologies". You may recall when releasing the DIS letter dated 4 December 2000 (D/DIST/11/10) in response to Dr Clarke's earlier request we removed paragraph 3 as not relevant to the request. The main concern was that it mentioned that plasma formations have potential applications to novel weapons technology which you thought might still be sensitive and as it did not directly relate to Dr Clarke's request at the time, it was removed. Dr Clarke has asked us to reconsider the withholding of this paragraph and it seems pointless to continue to withhold it if we are going to release this information in the Executive Summary.

5) If you intend to release the Executive Summary in advance of the full (or partial) release of the Volumes of the report, care must be taken not to release information in the

Executive Summary which may be withheld on release of the Volumes. This might be difficult to determine before you have read through all of the Volumes, but I suggest if there is a possibility that something might be withheld from the Volumes it should be withheld from the Executive Summary even if only temporarily. This could be made clear to the applicant and the information can always be released later with the Volumes if necessary.

6) The Executive Summary is currently classified SECRET UK EYES ONLY. Can you confirm that there is nothing in the Summary or the Volumes (where referred to in the Summary) which warrants this classification and caveat. If there is, these sections should be withheld for the same reason that the classification was applied.

7) I note that this report was originally distributed to a number of other interested branches. As the originator it is of course your decision whether it is released, but do you think the copy addressees should be consulted about the release of information concerning their areas?.

8) The release of the final report of the DGSTI Flying Saucer Working Report No.7 from 1951 generated a lot of interest with UFO enthusiasts when it was released and I expect that they are likely to get even more excited about this report which is far more detailed and less than 5 years old. Prior to release I think we should have some lines to take / defensive press lines ready.

9) I hope this is helpful. Dr Clarke and the other FOI applicant awaiting these papers, have been waiting for these documents for some time, so if possible I would like to get some news to them by the end of this week. Please give me a call if you need to discuss further.

Section 40

DAS-FOI
5-H-13

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



Your Reference

Our Reference
 D/DAS/64/3/11

Date
 23 November 2005

Dear Dr Clarke

Thank you for your e-mail dated 29th October. Please accept my apologies for the delay in replying and sending you the information you are seeking. Most of this information is not held by this branch and I am therefore having to consult others about release, which is taking rather longer than I would wish. While I am not yet in a position to give you a full response, I can provide you with an update.

First with regard to your request for copies of the UAP Report, Volumes 1, 2 and 3, and the Summary, I have been advised that the study is entitled "Unidentified Aerial Phenomena in the UK Air Defence Region" and comprises 4 volumes (including the Executive Summary). These consist of the following approximate number of pages (some single sided, some double sided); Volume 1 (117 pages), Volume 2 (150 pages), Volume 3 (47 pages) and the Executive Summary (20 pages). The report examined UFO sighting reports from 1987 to 1997. The report was written in December 2000 and the database was destroyed on completion of the report. It is likely that the sighting reports which formed the basis of the report are amongst the DIS files which are now subject to asbestos contamination. Defence Intelligence Staff are currently considering the release of the Report and Executive Summary and have indicated that ~~it is~~ they believe they will be able to release most of these papers. However, as the report is currently classified SECRET, is less than five years old, and taking into account the number of individual papers for consideration this may take a while to complete. It might be possible to release the Executive Summary ahead of the Volumes and if this is the case, I will write to you again.

You also requested a copy of DI55/108/15/22 dated January 1997, D/DI55/108/15 dated 11 December 1996 and D/DI55/108/15 dated 16 November 1993. DIS staff have located copies of the first two documents and are currently considering release. They have been unable to locate a copy of the third document on their files.

In your letter of 1 September you asked us to reconsider our decision to delete a) previous security classifications and b) paragraph 3 from the DIST's letter of 4 December 2000. I should inform you that when we receive requests for information or copies of documents which were given security classifications when they were created, we first have to consider why the particular classification was applied and if it is still appropriate. If the information remains sensitive it is likely to be withheld under an exemption of the FOI Act. If not, the document can be downgraded to unclassified and the original classification is removed because it is no longer applicable. In this instance I can understand why you would be interested in the original security classification and I

am able to confirm that it was given the classification of SECRET. With regard to the paragraph from DIST's letter of 4 December 2000 this was removed because it contains potentially sensitive information that is not relevant to your request. I have however, asked DIS to revisit this paragraph in light of the possible release of the report and I will write to you again regarding this matter.

With regard to your comments concerning how DAS was informed of the DIS decision, I have searched our UFO Policy file for the period and there is no document specifically concerning this issue. I can therefore only assume that we were informed by telephone.

You also asked if the DI55 Policy file D/DI55/105/15 Pt 4 contained any documents dated between 1981 and 1984 relating to the report received from the USAF at RAF Woodbridge concerning the Rendlesham Forest incident. The file runs from 1971 to December 1995 and the only relevant document it contains is a poor quality copy of Lt Col Halt's memo which has already been released into the public domain.

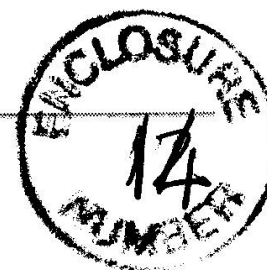
With regard to your question concerning the exchange of correspondence between Section 40 and Section 40 in August 1983 and Section 40 comment that she had checked to see whether a file had been retained. I can confirm that I have checked D/DS8/10/209 Part F again, but it contains no further notes or correspondence about this matter. I should add that it is quite possible that Section 40 did not formally write to Defence Records but simply telephoned them to check whether the file had been retained. Indeed today, I often speak to Section 40 to check the status of UFO files and these conversations are not always documented.

Finally, as requested in your e-mail message of 29 October, we asked the former office of Air Chief Marshall Sir Anthony Bagnall to forward your letter to him at his home address. We have recently received a message that the Air Chief Marshall is grateful for your letter but he has nothing further to add to the debate. I do not know whether he will choose to reply to you separately.

I hope this is helpful. I will write to you again as soon as I have anything further to add.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40



Section 40

From: Section 40
Sent: 17 November 2005 13:44
To: Section 40
Subject: RE: FOI Policy - Security Classifications

Section 40

Thanks. The only problem is this was Secret UK Eyes Only. The document was originated and held by DIS (DAS were not on the original distribution) who downgraded it and authorised its release to Dr Clarke. I have sent your e-mail to DIS for advice.

Section 40

DAS-FOI

From: Section 40
Sent: 17 November 2005 11:32
To: Section 40
Subject: RE: FOI Policy - Security Classifications

Section 40

We see no problem with telling the applicant unless there were sensitivities with the original classification (i.e. it is UK Eyes only or something similar) If this is not the case then I don't see that being a problem.

Regards,

Section 40

Section 40

Info-AccessPol1

Section 40

MB 6/E/11

Section 40

From: Section 40
Sent: 17 November 2005 11:26
To: Section 40
Subject: FOI Policy - Security Classifications
Importance: High

Section 40

Do you know if there is any particular policy regarding the removal of security classifications from released documents?. We have released some documents which were originally classified SECRET but following a FOI request were downgraded by the originating branch to unclassified. On release the original security classification was redacted because it no longer applied and was not therefore relevant. The applicant is a social historian and has asked if he can be told what the original classification was.

Section 40

DAS-FOI

5-H-13

Section 40

17/11/2005

Section 40

From: Section 40
Sent: 17 November 2005 13:39
To: Section 40
Subject: FW: FOI Policy - Security Classifications

Section 40

Re para 4 of my draft reply to Dr Clarke, please see my e-mail below and Info-Access advice about telling him what the original security classification was on the DI letter dated 4 December 2000. The only problem seems to be that it was UK Eyes Only. Is the UAP Report and Executive Summary also UK Eyes Only?

Section 40

From: Section 40
Sent: 17 November 2005 11:32
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Subject: RE: FOI Policy - Security Classifications

Section 40

We see no problem with telling the applicant unless there were sensitivities with the original classification (i.e. it is UK Eyes only or something similar) If this is not the case then I don't see that being a problem.

Regards,

Section 40

Section 40
Info-AccessPol1

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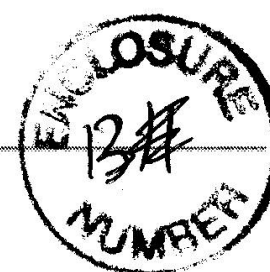
Section 40

DAS-FOI
5-H-13

Section 40

17/11/2005

Section 40



From: Section 40
Sent: 14 November 2005 15:01
To: Section 40
Subject: FW: FOI & UFOs

Section 40

Oops! It must of scrambled my brains typing this. Here it is.

Section 40

From: Section 40
Sent: 14 November 2005 14:58
To: Section 40
Subject: RE: FOI & UFOs

Section 40

Nothing attached unless the aliens ate it.

Section 40

From: Section 40
Sent: 14 November 2005 14:50
To: Section 40
Subject: FOI & UFOs

Section 40

Please see attached an interim reply to Dr Clarke's FOI requests. I would be grateful for any comments you may have before I send it to him.

Regards

Section 40

DAS-FOI
5-H-13

Section 40

14/11/2005

DRAFT

Dear Dr Clarke

Thank you for your e-mail dated 29th October. Please accept my apologies for the delay in sending you the information you are seeking. Most of this information is not held by this branch and I am therefore having to consult others about release, which is taking rather longer than I would wish. While I am not yet in a position to give you a full response, I can provide you with an update.

First with regard to your request for copies of the UAP Report, Volumes 1, 2 and 3, and the Summary. I have been advised that the study comprises 4 volumes (including the Executive Summary). These consist of the following approximate number of pages (some single sided, some double sided); Volume 1 (117 pages), Volume 2 (150 pages), Volume 3 (47 pages) and the Executive Summary (20 pages). The report examined UFO sighting reports from 1987 to 1997. The database was destroyed after the report was written, so it is not possible to say what fields it contained for UAP entries. It is likely that the sighting reports which formed the basis of the report are amongst the DIS files which are now subject to asbestos contamination. Defence Intelligence Staff are currently considering the release of the Report and Executive Summary and have indicated that it is likely that they will be able to release most of these papers. Given the number of individual papers for consideration this may take a while to complete, but we are hopeful that it might be possible to release the Executive Summary ahead of the Volumes, maybe as early as this week. I will, of course, keep you informed of any progress.

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asked DIS to revisit this paragraph and will write to you again regarding this matter.

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I hope this is helpful. I will write to you again as soon as I have anything further to add.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

From: Section 40
Sent: 08 November 2005 11:27
To: Section 40
Subject: RE: FOI & Dr Clarke

Section 40
 Page Count

The 4 volume report has the following approx page count (numbers refer to physical sheets of paper some are double sided some are single sided)

Exec Summary 20 pages

Vol 1 117

Vol 2 150

Vol 47

Total 334

These were written with release in mind are restricted. apart from Vol 3 which is secret because it contains performance values of UK ADR radars. It is my intention to put this report into the release scheme, so I think we can promise release of most it. The report examined sighting reports from 1987 to 1997; these were input into a relational database. Before you ask the database was destroyed after the report was written and the sighting reports which formed the basis have probably been released via the PRO, but you need to check.

The result from the examination of the sighting reports was that there was no longer a requirement for DI55 to monitor UAP reports as they do not demonstrably provide information useful to defence Intelligence. I understand Hd Sec (AS) was advised and we stopped getting the reports.

Section 40

From: Section 40
Sent: 03 November 2005 12:09
To: Section 40
Subject: FOI & Dr Clarke
Importance: High

Section 40

Sorry, its time to tackle Dr Clarke's FOI request (I now have a further hastening e-mail from him).

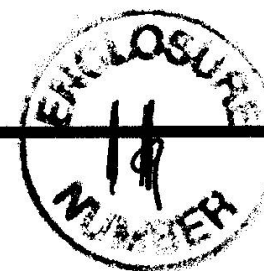
I have got a bit lost as to where we are with his requests / questions so to recap I have written the attached notes. I would be grateful if you could address asap the areas where I have indicated something for your action.

If you wish to discuss any issues regarding the potential release of any of this information, please give me a call. I am happy to arrange a meeting room if you would rather come over and go through anything with me.

Regards

Section 40
 DAS-FOI
 5-H-13
Section 40

08/11/2005



Section 40

From: Section 40
Sent: 07 November 2005 10:34
To: Section 40
Subject: FW: Freedom of Information request

Section 40

We'll need to say in response to Clarke that we have passed the letter ACM Bagnall. He is grateful for the letter but he has nothing further to say on the subject ...or something along those lines.

Section 40

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

From: Section 40 Sqn Ldr
Sent: 07 November 2005 10:19
To: Section 40
Subject: FW: Freedom of Information request

Section 40

To close the loop on this one

Many thanks

Section 40

Squadron Leader
DCRS PA4
MB F12 Z K D 37

Section 40

tel: Section 40
fax: Section 40

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

From: ajc b [mailto:Section 40]
Sent: 07 November 2005 09:48
To: Section 40 Sqn Ldr
Subject: RE: Freedom of Information request

Section 40

Thanks. I do not intend to get involved in the Clarke correspondence. The line should be that I am aware that he has written but I have nothing to add to the debate. Thanks again ajcb

>From: Section 40 Sqn Ldr "Section 40"
>To: "ajc b" Section 40
>Subject: Freedom of Information request Date: Mon, 7 Nov 2005 09:32:16
>-0000

>Sir,

>I believe the email below gives the definitive wrt David Clarke's request, it is up to you whether you wish to respond with a personal perspective, you are under no obligation to do so. Please let me know if there is anything else you wish me to do for you on this.

>Dates as requested: Chile: 4-9 Apr, Turkey 19-22 Apr

>Hope this helps

Section 40

>Squadron Leader

>DCRS PA4
>MB F12 Z K D 37

>tel: Section 40
>fax: Section 40

>From: Section 40
>Sent: 07 November 2005 09:13
>To: Section 40 Sqn Ldr
>Cc: Section 40
>Subject: RE: Freedom of Information request

>Section 40

>I spoke to Section 40 on 1 Nov about this. I do not believe this should be
>treated as an FOI request, and I see no need to involve the current
>ACAS. David Clarke has had all the papers from the MoD that relate to
>the matter, and he is now seeking to get a personal perspective from
>the then ACAS. David Clarke often uses this technique as part of his
>research. Given that ACM Bagnall has retired, I left it with Section 40
>that all we were obliged to do was pass the letter on to Sir Anthony.
>It is entirely for him if he chooses to reply. If he wants to we would
>be happy to assist in preparing some background material for him. All
>I want to be able to do is advise David Clarke that we have passed the
>letter on.

>I hope this clarifies our approach.

>Regards,

Section 40

>DAS - AD(Secretariat)

>From: Section 40 Sqn Ldr
>Sent: 07 November 2005 08:51
>To: Section 40 Sqn Ldr
>Subject: FW: Freedom of Information request

Section 40

>I would be grateful for some advice on the attached email trail wrt
>this FOI, as stated below I believe from my understanding of the rules
>that this should be answered by the present incumbent of the post?

>I have spoken to Sir Anthony who has not previously seen anything on
>this matter

>Many thanks for your help

Section 40

>Squadron Leader
>DCRS PA4
>MB F12 Z K D 37

>tel: Section 40
>fax: Section 40

>From: Section 40
>Sent: 01 November 2005 14:24
>To: Section 40

>Cc: Section 40 Sqn Ldr
>Subject: FW: Freedom of Information request

>Section 40

>I have passed your request and advice to Sqn Ldr Section 40 who was MA2 to
>the former and VCDS and holds his current contact details. Please
>could you provide advice on the question which she has posed below?

>Many thanks

>Section 40

>APS2 VCDS/2nd PUS
>MB05-F-21 Section 40
>Assistant Private Secretary
>Vice Chief of Defence Staff &
>2nd Permanent under Secretary

>Ministry of Defence

>Tel: Section 40

>From: Section 40 Sqn Ldr
>Sent: 01 November 2005 14:11
>To: Section 40
>Subject: RE: Freedom of Information request

>Section 40

>Thank you for sight of the information below. Sir Anthony is currently
>in the US and I have left an email message and also a message for him
>to contact me on his return.

>I have looked at the attached letter and spoken to our FOI rep, I
>thought that it was the current incumbent of a post who should answer
>any request not someone who was in post a considerable number of years
>ago, but this may well be my ignorance of the rules. I cannot gauge
>Sir Anthony's response but I wonder whether it is normal practice to
>pass on such requests to our senior men when they have departed? Can I
>ask if you have sought a response from ACAS' office as I know that is
>something he will ask.

>I will let you know as soon as I have managed to speak to Sir Anthony

>Section 40

>Squadron Leader
>DCRS PA4
>MB F12 Z K D 37

>Section 40
>tel: Section 40
>fax: Section 40

>From: Section 40
>Sent: 31 October 2005 16:20
>To: Section 40 Sqn Ldr
>Subject: FW: Freedom of Information request
>Importance: High

>Section 40

>This is the letter which I mentioned to you earlier - you were going to
>check whether Sir Anthony had received the original note. I don't have
>forwarding details, so could I ask you to pass it on?

>Sir Anthony is under no obligation to answer the request and many of

>the factual questions raised will have been answered through Dr
 >Clarke's other numerous requests of the Department. The relevant team
 >he can provide any background on the issue if this is required.
 >
 >Thanks

Section 40

>
 >APS2 VCDS/2nd PUS
 >MB05-F-21 **Section 40**
 >
 >Assistant Private Secretary
 >Vice Chief of Defence Staff &
 >2nd Permanent under Secretary
 >
 >Ministry of Defence
 >Tel: **Section 40**
 >
 >
 >
 >From: **Section 40**
 >Sent: 31 October 2005 12:39
 >To: CDS-Registry
 >Subject: FW: Freedom of Information request
 >Importance: High
 >
 >FOR MA/VCDS

>
 >A member of my team has received an e-mail from a regular
 >correspondent, Dr Clarke - an academic who has taken an interest in the UFO
 >phenomenon.
 >Much of the e-mail concerns an FOI request that we are dealing with,
 >but within the e-mail (highlighted), Dr Clarke asks if we can forward
 >the enclosed letter from him to the former VCDS, ACM Bagnall. There is
 >a suggestion that he wrote earlier but did not receive a reply. I
 >forward the letter to you to decide if you wish to forward on to ACM Bagnall.
 >
 >Happy to discuss if you wish.
 >
 >
 >Regards,

Section 40

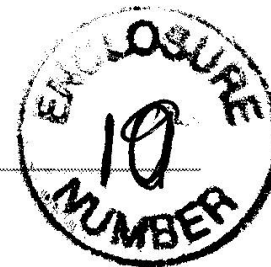
>
 >DAS-AD(Secretariat)
 >MB 05-H-15 87065MB
 >
 > -----Original Message-----
 >From: david clarke [mailto:**Section 40**]
 >Sent: 29 October 2005 11:47
 >To: **Section 40**
 >Subject: Re: Freedom of Information request
 >Importance: High
 >
 >29 October 2005
 >
 >Dear **Section 40**

>
 >This is a belated reply following up your email of 26 September. Since
 >our last communication I have moved to a new academic post at Sheffield
 >Hallam University which will allow me to specialise and teach in the
 >areas of Open Government and FOI that interest me but have only just
 >begun to catch up on correspondence.

>
 >I wondered if it would be possible to provide me with an update on
 >progress with a) the outstanding requests from my 2nd FOI request and
 >also progress with b) the new request I made for the DIS report on UAPs
 >made on 26 September; I understand I was due a response on this
 >specific request on 25 October.
 >

>In addition I wondered if you could assist me by forwarding the
>attached
>
>letter to Air Chief Marshal Sir Anthony Bagnall who I understand
>retired recently from the MoD. As you can see the letter is dated 10
>August and this was the dated I posted it to him c/o the MoD Main
>Building. I have not heard anything since and wondered if it had indeed
>reached him.
>
>I would be grateful if your department were able to pass this on to ACM
>Bagnall on my behalf. You will be aware that he was ACAS at the time of
>the "Cosford incident" and other related UFO incidents in 1993-4 that
>have been the subject of my recent FOI's and I would like to obtain his
>considered opinion on this subject in hindsight.
>
>I hope you are well and look forward to hearing from you,
>
>Yours sincerely
>
>Dr David Clarke
>
>
>
> << File: Bagnall.doc >>

MSN Messenger 7.5 is now out. Download it for FREE here.
<http://messenger.msn.co.uk>



Section 40

From: Section 40
Sent: 07 November 2005 16:27
To: Section 40 
Subject: RE: FOI & Dr Clarke

Section 40

I've made start on your questions

Q1

- a) **Do you hold the Executive Summary? YES**
- b) **Is this a large document? 20 pages**
- c) **Is it classified? YES secret but could declassified.**

Q2

All could be declassified for release except part of Vol 3 which gives the performance of UK radars

Q3

DI55/108/15/22 January 1997 Got and can be declassified
D/DI55/108/15 dated 11 December 1996 Got and can be declassified
D/DI55/108/15 dated 16 November 1993 No copy on my files

And Q5

The database was destroyed once the project ended, only the report remains.

Had to stop to do some real work.

Section 40

From: Section 40
Sent: 03 November 2005 12:09
To: Section 40
Subject: FOI & Dr Clarke
Importance: High

Section 40

Sorry, its time to tackle Dr Clarke's FOI request (I now have a further hastening e-mail from him).

I have got a bit lost as to where we are with his requests / questions so to recap I have written the attached notes. I would be grateful if you could address asap the areas where I have indicated something for your action.

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Regards

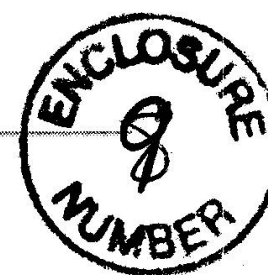
Section 40

DAS-FOI
 5-H-13

Section 40

08/11/2005

Section 40



From: Section 40
Sent: 03 November 2005 12:09
To: Section 40
Subject: FOI & Dr Clarke
Importance: High

Section 40

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Regards

Section 40
DAS-FOI
5-H-13

Section 40

04/11/2005

Dr Clarke's outstanding requests and questions

FOI request letter dated 26 September 2005



1. A copy of the Executive Summary, Unidentified Aerial Phenomena (UAP) – DI55 Report, referred to in DIST letter, D/DIST/11/10 dated 4 December 2000.

Section 40 Do you hold the Executive Summary? Is this a large document? Is it classified?

Whether this is released may depend on whether you are willing to release Volumes 1-3 of the report.

2. A copy of Volumes 1, 2 and 3 of the UAP Report referenced in the above letter.

Section 40 Have you looked at these to see if they can be released? Have you any initial thoughts on release?

3. A copy of the terms of reference for the UAP Report, referenced in DI55/108/15/22 January 1997 as follows: D/DI55/108/15 dated 11 December 1996 and D/DI55/108/15 dated 16 November 1993.

Section 40 Do you hold these documents? If so, have you looked at them to see if they can be released?

4. With reference to request (2) please could you provide an advance summary of the title and table of contents of the three individual volumes. This will enable me to narrow my request should it exceed the £600 limit allowed under the FOIA.

Section 40 I note from your e-mail of 29 September that you do have the contents pages and could provide this in advance as Dr Clarke requested. However, I think these should not be released until you know whether you are going to release the three volumes of the Report. It would not be wise to tell him what is in the volumes if there is a chance the information will be withheld. If you choose to withhold only certain sections, reference to these should also be removed from the contents pages (something which would be impossible if he had these in advance).

5. Please could you provide a list of all data fields possible for a UAP entry in the project database?

Section 40 Again this may depend on whether the report, volumes etc are going to be released.

Letter dated 1 September 2005

6. I wish to request that MOD conduct an internal review of the decision to delete a) previous security classifications and b) paragraph 3 from the DIST's letter of 4 December 2000.

Section 40

a) Before release this document was downgraded so the security classification was removed as it was no longer applicable, but I can see why Dr Clarke may be interested in what it originally was. Again whether there is any harm in releasing this may depend on (1) whether the Report is going to be released and (2) Do you see any problems with the fact that the letter (and maybe the Report) was classified SECRET UK EYES ONLY. Interestingly I have found on my UFO policy file a draft PQ answer which was sent to us by DIS on 17 January 2001 it reads:

POSSIBLE ANSWER TO PQ03511

The DIS has applied the classification of SECRET UK EYES ONLY to a recent report on Unidentified Aerial Phenomena (UAP). The DIS has received copies of UAP sightings for about 30 years. These were filed without analysis. Recently, a low priority study was conducted to database the reports and carry out an analysis. The main conclusion was that the sightings provided nothing of value to DIS in the assessment of weapon systems and that sightings can be explained as misreporting of man-made vehicles, natural but not unusual phenomena and natural but relatively rare and not completely understood phenomena. A decision has been made not to carry out any further work on the subject. The overall classification of the report was dictated by the analysis material included on the UK Air Defence Ground Environment otherwise it is UK RESTRICTED.

I have been unable to find this particular PQ on the Parliamentary website and there is no further reference to it on our files. I therefore do not know whether this was given as the final answer, but if so it seems the existence of the Report and its classification is already in the public domain.

b) Paragraph 3 was removed after a discussion between ourselves as it did not seem relevant to the request and contained potentially sensitive information about weapons systems. Could you have another look at this and if you still wish this to be withheld we may have to look for an appropriate FOI exemption.

7. I noticed that DAS or its predecessor Sec(AS)2 were not included in the distribution of the DIST letter of 4 December 2000. Presumably, DAS will have been notified of the decision in a separate document? If that is the case, please may I have a copy of that document?

Section 40

I do not have any letters on my Policy file that show DIS wrote to us to inform us of this decision (we were DAS 4A(SEC) at the time). The only reference we have to it is a LM to DAO ADGE1 dated 12 January 2001 that states "Recently we have been informed by DI55 that they no longer wish to see

the very small selection of reports from credible witnesses that we have been sending them". Do you have anything on your policy file that shows we were told in writing? If not, I can only assume we were told over the telephone.

8. File D/DI55/108/15 Pt 4 – I wish to modify my request to encompass a search of the file enclosures between the years 1980 to 1996 for documents relating to the Rendlesham Forest UFO incident. I would be particularly interested to see any documents dated between 1981 and 1984 relating to the report received from the USAF at Woodbridge. This may contain the description "Unexplained Lights" or UFO report from RAF Woodbridge" as the case is described in the Sec(AS) file released in 2002.

Section 40 I note from your e-mail of 29 September that you hold three documents which mention the Rendlesham Forest incident. The Lt Col Halt memo has already been released. The other two papers may not be relevant to the request. Between 1980 and the release of our file in 2002 there has been lots of public, press and ministerial interest in this case and there is therefore bound to be papers dotted throughout our files which mention Rendlesham (I think your two papers could fall into this category). I do not think this is what Dr Clarke is looking for. I think he is seeking contemporary documents (or those produced soon after) which shed further light on the events and might have been missed when our file was released.

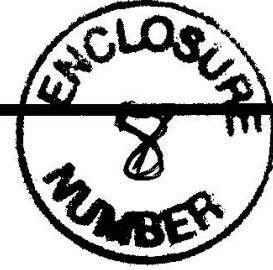
9. Could DIS confirm a) that the chronological dates of enclosures in the DI55 file cover the years 1971-1996 (these appear on the description of the file you supplied in a list attached to a letter dated 2004) and b) the file was not among those searched by DAS staff in 2001-2 when MOD assembled the contents of the Rendlesham file now available on the Publication Scheme.

Section 40 a) I note from your e-mail of 29 September that this file covers 1971 to December 1995. I will inform Dr Clarke of this. b) I do not think that this file was amongst those searched for papers on Rendlesham, but as there appears to be hardly any additional papers, I do not think this matters.

10. With regard to your letter of 21 July 2005 in response to my requests you enclosed two copies of letters copied from the file D/DS8/10/209 Pt F..... Presumably, prior to 26 August 1983 **Section 40 exchanged memos with Defence Records and received a reply which allowed her to frame her response to **Section 40**. This would presumably be filed between enclosures E40 and E58. Could you please provide a copy of the relevant papers.**

I have checked the file and there is no such correspondence. **Section 40** may well have just telephoned Defence Records. I will inform Dr Clarke.

Section 40



From: david clarke Section 40
 Sent: 29 October 2005 11:47
 To: Section 40
 Subject: Re: Freedom of Information request

Importance: High



Bagnall.doc (32 KB)

29 October 2005

Dear Section 40

This is a belated reply following up your email of 26 September. Since our last communication I have moved to a new academic post at Sheffield Hallam University which will allow me to specialise and teach in the areas of Open Government and FOI that interest me but have only just begun to catch up on correspondence.

I wondered if it would be possible to provide me with an update on progress with a) the outstanding requests from my 2nd FOI request and also progress with b) the new request I made for the DIS report on UAPs made on 26 September; I understand I was due a response on this specific request on 25 October.

In addition I wondered if you could assist me by forwarding the attached letter to Air Chief Marshal Sir Anthony Bagnall who I understand retired recently from the MoD. As you can see the letter is dated 10 August and this was the dated I posted it to him c/o the MoD Main Building. I have not heard anything since and wondered if it had indeed reached him.

I would be grateful if your department were able to pass this on to ACM Bagnall on my behalf. You will be aware that he was ACAS at the time of the "Cosford incident" and other related UFO incidents in 1993-4 that have been the subject of my recent FOI's and I would like to obtain his considered opinion on this subject in hindsight.

I hope you are well and look forward to hearing from you,

Yours sincerely

Dr David Clarke

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

From: Section 40
 To: Section 40
 Sent: Monday, September 26, 2005 9:00 AM
 Subject: Freedom of Information request

Dear Dr Clarke

Thank you for your two emails, the first concerning information already sent to you and the second a new FOI request. I have just returned from leave, so apologise for not replying to your earlier email when it arrived.

I will write to you shortly regarding the points raised in your first letter. I have sent the details of your FOI request to the DIS staff as the branch responsible for this information and I will let you have an update on progress as soon as possible.

Your sincerely,

Section 40

Section 40

Ministry of Defence

Directorate of Air Staff - Freedom of Information

5th Floor, Zone H, Desk 13

Main Building

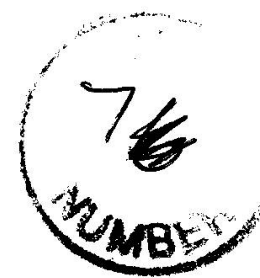
Whitehall

LONDON

SW1A 2HB

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

26 September 2005



Dr David Clarke

Section 40

Tel: Section 40

e-mail: Section 40

10 August 2005

Dear Air Chief Marshal Sir Anthony Bagnall

I have asked the Ministry of Defence to forward this letter to you as I understand that you recently retired as Vice Chief of the Defence Staff.

I am working on a post-doctoral project at the University of Sheffield which is examining the evolution of Ministry of Defence policy towards the subject of unidentified flying objects. In particular, I am researching the relationship between media and public interest in UFOs and how this was reflected in MoD policy.

I should point out am not concerned with the existence, or otherwise, of a "real" phenomenon (as opposed to misidentifications of known objects) and I am fully aware that MoD's interest was restricted to establishing if UFO reports had defence implications, i.e. as intruder aircraft.

The specific question I wish to ask relates to the period in which you served as Assistant Chief of Air Staff at MoD, which according to your biography was late 1992 – July 1994. This happens to coincide with a time when a number of accounts were published by the media, and questions asked by MPs, concerning stealthy triangular-shaped flying objects that were said to have been seen, both visually and on radar – and on one occasion photographed – near RAF Machrihanish in Scotland. On an earlier occasion a similar object, accompanied by a KC-135 and F-111s, was reportedly sighted from an oil rig in the North Sea by a trained ROC observer and reported widely in the media.

Papers I have obtained under the Freedom of Information Act (FoIA) show these stories were also circulating within the MoD secretariat responsible for UFOs and among the Air Staff late in 1992 and early 1993. They suggest that ACAS and his opposite number in the USA were also concerned by reports in *Janes' Defence Weekly* and *The Scotsman* newspaper which claimed the sightings might relate to the alleged US "black project" aircraft Aurora which some media reports claimed had been operating in UK airspace. On several occasions this matter was raised in the House of Commons and the answer given was that no permission had been given and no aircraft of this type had visited.

However, briefing papers prepared for ministers who answered the PQs, suggest the Air Staff and DIS were equally "in the dark" concerning the existence, or otherwise, of Aurora. One notes that "there is no knowledge in MOD of a black programme of this nature, although it would not surprise the relevant desk officers in the Air Staff and DIS if it did exist."

The FoIA papers suggest that enquiries were made by the MoD at a high level in the US and the answer came back that no such aircraft existed. One memo from the British Air Attache in Washington dated 22 December 1992 addressed to ACAS, London, states "the whole affair is causing considerable irritation with HQ USAF and any helpful comments we can make to defuse the situation would be appreciated."

In addition I gather these rumours led the US authorities to seek advice from our own Air Attache on whether "the earlier alleged sightings in Scotland could be attributed to the [RAF] Vulcan display aircraft" or indeed to a black project of British origin!

I gather that your answer to both questions was "no."

The papers released under FoIA indicate this matter came to your attention once again in April 1993 when a cluster of reports describing a "triangular-shaped" UFO were made to the Air Staff secretariat from a number of places in England and Wales. On this occasion it seems that in hindsight the "UFO" which caused so much concern to the desk officer at the Air Staff Secretariat was actually a piece of space debris re-entering the earth's atmosphere.

There does not appear to be any definitive resolution to this matter that is clear and apparent from the papers that have emerged as the result of my inquiries. Were the sightings made around RAF Machrihanish ever accounted for as aircraft or natural phenomena, to your knowledge? I would also be interested to know what view you take on the subject of Aurora/black projects of US origin being the origin of UFO reports in the British Isles during your tour of duty. Is this theory likely in hindsight?

In addition, I would also be interested to know what your personal viewpoint is on the subject of UFO reports received by the MoD during this period. Were you aware of the policy on this subject or of the quality and quantity of reports received by the Air Staff secretariat? Do you feel the subject should be treated seriously or do you feel this is a subject that is of no interest to the defence authorities?

I look forward to hearing from you and wish you a long and productive retirement.

Yours Faithfully,

DR CLARKE

Section 40



I apologise for not getting back to you on this.

From: Section 40
Sent: 29 September 2005 11:44
To: Section 40
Subject: RE: FOI Request

Section 40

This is quite a big job, but here is some data,

- File DI55/108/15 Pt 4 runs from 1971 to Dec 1995
- Rendlesham Forest incident

We have brief Sec(AS) 2 to PS/Min(DS) 14 May 1986 we have

- o Poor quality photocopy of 13 Jan 81 Report form Lt Col Halt Deputy Base commander 'Unexplained Lights'.
- o Briefing Note for Ministerial interview Central TV - This is one of yours D/Sec(AS)/12/3 2 June 1986
- o D/Sec(AS)/12/3 26 Sep 85 which is a brief for Lord Trefgarne's meeting with Lord Hill-Norton - with mentions the incident.

D/Sec(AS)12/3-UFO Correspondence

*- Already released in ps
- Not yet released
- Not yet released
we have it to Sec(AS) from PS/Min(DS) 14 Oct 85*

The 3 vol study into our sighting records comprises 35 mm of paper (it's thick). I can get the contents pages to you but not electronically.

Section 40

From: Section 40
Sent: 27 September 2005 14:55
To: Section 40
Subject: RE: FOI Request

Section 40

Thanks.

The public have always been more interested in UFO/UAP issues than we in the MOD are. I guess it is human nature to be curious about things that are not explained and many like to believe in government cover ups and conspiracies.

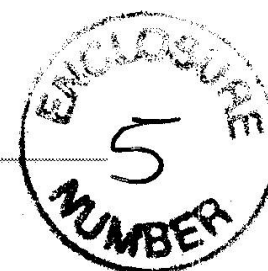
Dr Clarke is a social historian who has a degree in Culture and Tradition and is interested in the beliefs people have and what influences them to believe the things they do (ie media). UFOs is his pet subject and he has been studying the history of the subject and MOD's involvement for about five years now. I think he is fascinated with this database because we have always maintained that we only examine sighting reports to see if they show any evidence of anything of defence significance and beyond this we do not try positively identify what was seen, yet here we were compiling a database and attempting to do just that.

I look forward to seeing what you have in due course.


Regards

Section 40
DAS-FOI

From: Section 40
Sent: 27 September 2005 13:56



Section 40

From: Section 40 
Sent: 29 September 2005 11:44
To: Section 40
Subject: RE: FOI Request
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Red

Section 40

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Thanks.

The public have always been more interested in UFO/UAP issues than we in the MOD are. I guess it is human nature to be curious about things that are not explained and many like to believe in government cover ups and conspiracies.

Dr Clarke is a social historian who has a degree in Culture and Tradition and is interested in the beliefs people have and what influences them to believe the things they do (ie media). UFOs is his pet subject and he has been studying the history of the subject and MOD's involvement for about five years now. I think he is fascinated with this database because we have always maintained that we only examine sighting reports to see if they show any evidence of anything of defence significance and beyond this we do not try positively identify what was seen, yet here we were compiling a database and attempting to do just that.

I look forward to seeing what you have in due course.

Regards

Section 40

DAS-FOI

From: Section 40
Sent: 27 September 2005 13:56
To: Section 40
Subject: RE: FOI Request

Section 40

Read the enclosures and I'll see what I can get you this week, but I'm only in one day. He is a most

03/11/2005

quisitive; I wonder why a topic such as UAP with so little substance merits the effort.

Section 40

From: Section 40
Sent: 26 September 2005 11:41
To: Section 40
Subject: FOI Request
Importance: High

Section 40

Please see attached a new Freedom of Information request from Dr David Clarke which I received this morning. As we predicted he is now interested in documents about the UAP database set up by DIST. As all of the documents listed in this request are DIS generated / held, I would be grateful if you would see if DIS still hold these documents and if so, can they be released?. For the sake of consistency and to make sure I keep an eye on what is being released on this subject, if you do hold this information please could I ask that it is released (or refused) through this office rather than direct to Dr Clarke.

While I was on leave, Dr Clarke also sent me another letter concerning information already sent to him (copy attached). Some of this covers information now requested in the above FOI request. However, as you will see from paragraph 4 he is also asking us to reconsider our decision to remove original security classifications and paragraph 3 from the DIST letter dated 4 December 2000. I propose we say that paragraph 3 is about an unrelated DIS issue and not relevant to his request, we will not therefore be releasing it. You may however, wish to consider the sensitivities of that paragraph and what FOI exemption might be used to withhold it, in case he challenges this. I would be grateful for any comments you may have about this. With regard to the original security classifications, these were removed, as they are no longer relevant because the documents have been downgraded. Please let me know if you see any difficulty with informing Dr Clarke what the original security classifications were.

In paragraphs 8 and 9 of Dr Clarke's letter he has also clarified what information he wishes to request from the DI55 Policy File, D/DI55/108/15 Part 4. You will recall that he originally asked for a copy of the whole file. Please could you also let me have your response to this request.

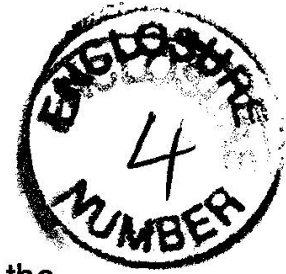
The 20 day response time under the FOIA will expire on 24 October 2005. Dr Clarke has asked for an estimate of the length of time it is likely to take to respond to his requests. I would be grateful if you could let me know when you think we should be able to send a reply, particularly if we are likely to exceed the 20 day limit.

Any questions please give me a call on **Section 40**

Regards

Section 40
DAS-FOI
5-H-13
MB

03/11/2005



Dear Dr Clarke

Thank you for your two emails, the first concerning information already sent to you and the second a new FOI request. I have just returned from leave, so apologise for not replying to your earlier email when it arrived.

I will write to you shortly regarding the points raised in your first letter. I have sent the details of your FOI request to the DIS staff as the branch responsible for this information and I will let you have an update on progress as soon as possible.

Your sincerely,

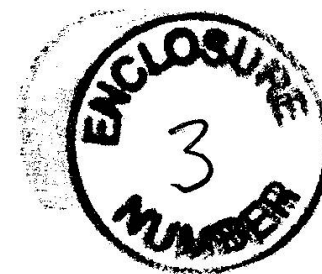
Section 40

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

26 September 2005



Dr David Clarke

Section 40

Tel: Section 40

Section 40

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

26 September 2005

FOI Request - UFOs

Dear Section 40



I wish to make a request under the Freedom of Information Act as follows. Please provide me with paper copies of the following material:

1. A copy of the Executive Summary, Unidentified Aerial Phenomena (UAP) – DI55 Report, referred to in DIST letter, D/DIST/11/10 dated 4 December 2000
2. A copy of Volumes 1, 2 and 3 of the UAP Report, referenced in the DIST letter (1).
3. A copy of the terms of reference for the UAP Report, referenced in DI55/108/15 22 January 1997 as follows: D/DI55/108/15 dated 11 December 1996 and D/DI55/108/15 dated 16 November 1993.
4. With reference to request (2) please could you provide an advance summary of the title and table of contents of the three individual volumes. This will enable me to narrow my request should it exceed the £600 limit allowed under the FOIA.
5. Please could you also provide a list of all data fields possible for a UAP entry in the project database?

I understand these documents may be classified and will need to be downgraded before they can be released to me. I would be grateful therefore if you could provide me with an estimate of the likely timescale involved in this process. I look forward to hearing from you,

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

Section 40

From: david clarke Section 40
Sent: 26 September 2005 08:26
To: Section 40
Subject: Freedom of Information request

Importance: High



MoDFOISep05.doc
(32 KB)

26 September 2005

Dear Section 40

Please find attached a fresh FOI request, as referred to in my letter of 1 September.
I look forward to hearing from you in due course.

I have also sent a hard copy version of this request under today's date.

Yours sincerely

David Clarke

26-09-2005-091240-001
Expiry: 24 October 2005.

Dr David Clarke

Section 40
[Redacted]
Tel: Section 40

Section 40



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

26 September 2005

FOI Request - UFOs

Dear Section 40

I wish to make a request under the Freedom of Information Act as follows. Please provide me with paper copies of the following material:

1. A copy of the Executive Summary, Unidentified Aerial Phenomena (UAP) – DI55 Report, referred to in DIST letter, D/DIST/11/10 dated 4 December 2000
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With reference to request (2) please could you provide an advance summary of the title and table of contents of the three individual volumes. This will enable me to narrow my request should it exceed the £600 limit allowed under the FOIA.

Please could you also provide a list of all data fields possible for a UAP entry in the project database?

I understand these documents may be classified and will need to be downgraded before they can be released to me. I would be grateful therefore if you could provide me with an estimate of the likely timescale involved in this process. I look forward to hearing from you,

Yours sincerely,

Section 40



From: david clarke Section 40
Sent: 01 September 2005 09:50
To: Section 40
Subject: Re: Freedom of Information request

Importance: High



MoDletterSept05.doc (34 KB)

Dear Section 40

I attach my response to your letter of 23 August 2005 enclosing the outstanding papers from my FOI requests.

Yours sincerely

Dr David Clarke

26-09-2005-125442-007
Expiry: 24 October 2005



Dr David Clarke

Section 40

Tel: Section 40

Section 40

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

1 September 2005
Your ref: D/DAS/64/3/11

Dear Section 40

Thank you for letter of 23 August 2005 enclosing the outstanding papers from the Freedom of Information request I made on 19 January this year. I found these of great interest and I wish to thank you for your patience and detailed attention to all my questions and requests for information.

As I am sure your department are aware, these documents reveal that DIS, between 1998-2000, sponsored the production of a database of UFO/UAP material drawn from their archive of 22 files dating back to the 70s (presumably being those now subject to asbestos contamination). It also produced a detailed report (consisting of three volumes with an executive summary), the conclusion of which led to the decision in October 2000 to bring DI55 interest in reports of "aerial phenomena" to an end.

The summary and contents of this report are of interest both for the purposes of academic study and to the public in general. I intend to write to you again towards the end of September and make the DIS report the subject of my next application under the Freedom of Information Act. It would be helpful in the construction of my request if you could provide advice and guidance as to the page length of the report and summary. Specifically, I would be grateful if you could advise whether a request for a copy of the full report and summary could be met within the £600 limit imposed by the Act.

6. In the meantime, I wish to request that MoD conduct an internal review of the decision to delete a) "previous security classifications" and b) paragraph 3 from the DIST's letter of 4 December 2000. I believe there is a clear public interest in the disclosure of the security classification of this document as a prerequisite to the release of the full report. You will be aware that MoD has stated consistently that the topic of UFOs was not in

*Partly answered
23/11/2005*

itself classified. If that is the case, I can see no valid reason to conceal the security classification of this document.

7. I noticed that DAS or its predecessor Sec(AS)2 were not included in the distribution of the DIST letter of 4 December 2000. Presumably, DAS will have been notified of the decision in a separate document? If that is the case, please may I have a copy of that document?

✓ Answered
23/11/2005

With regards to the requests made under my second FOI request dated 17 June 2005:

8. Firstly, with reference to my request for a copy of the DI55 Policy file, D/DI55/108/15 Pt 4. I do appreciate the time and costs involved in preparing whole files for release, and the costs already incurred in answering the other requests made on 17 June.

You helpfully suggest that DIST staff would assist if I was looking for something specific from this file. Therefore, I would like to modify that request to encompass a search of the file enclosures between the years 1980 to 1996 for documents relating to the Rendlesham forest UFO incident. I would be particularly interested to see any documents dated between 1981 and 1984 relating to the report received from the USAF at Woodbridge. These may contain the description "Unexplained Lights" or "UFO report from RAF Woodbridge" as the case is described in the Sec(AS) file released in 2002.

✓ Answered
23/11/2005

9. Could DIS confirm a) that the chronological dates of enclosures in the DI 55 file cover the years 1971-1996 (these appear on the description of the file you supplied in a list attached to a letter dated 2004) and b) the file was not among those searched by DAS staff in 2001-2 when MoD assembled the contents of the Rendlesham file now available on the Publication Scheme.

✓ Answered
23/11/2005

Secondly, with regards to my 2nd FOI requests 1a & b, covered by your letter of 21 July 2005. In response to these requests you enclosed copies of two letters copied from the file D/DS8/10/209 Pt F – General briefs & reports, UFO correspondence 1983-84, namely:

- E39 a letter from Jenny Randles dated 1 August 1983 requesting a copy of the MoD file on the Lakenheath-Bentwaters UFO incident of 1956
- E52 a reply from **Section 40** of DS8 dated 26 August 1983 in which she writes: "...I have checked to see whether, by chance, the file relating to that period had been retained in spite of the general policy in force at that time..."

10. Presumably, prior to 26 August 1983 **Section 40** exchanged memos with Defence Records and received a reply which allowed her to frame her response to **Section 40**. This would presumably be filed between enclosures E40 and E58. Could you please provide a copy of the relevant papers covering this important internal discussion.

✓ Answered
23/11/2005

12 I trust these two requests can be accommodated within the £600 limit allowed for my 2nd FOI request made on 17 June 2005.

13 I am grateful for the time and attention given to these requests and do appreciate your attention to these matters.

Yours sincerely,