

4 FEB '94 12:41

Letter dated 7th November. c.c. Robert Ramsay, DG, European Parliament. On 30th March, 1990 there was a major security alert over Belgium when interceptor aircraft went after unidentified flying object. Object was heading west towards British air space at speeds in excess of 1000 knots. Wants to know were MoD aware of this, did our armed forces or those of NATO deem there was no security risk, and if so on what premise was this decision made.

16th November, 1993

Dear **Section 40**

Thank you for your recent letter about airborne interception of unidentified objects over Belgium. The questions you pose are not suitable, for technical reasons, to be tabled, and in any event they cannot be tabled before 25th November. I have, however, written to the Minister at the Ministry of Defence, with a copy of your letter, and as soon as I receive a reply I shall be in touch with you again.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

Section 40

Keith Speed

Section 40

PAGE.002

From Sir Keith Speed R.D. M.P.

Please reply to:

Strood House,
Rolvenden, Cranbrook,
Kent, TN17 4JJ

16th November, 1993

Dear Minister,

Section 40

Yours,
signed for Sir Keith in his absence

Section 40

Private Secretary

Jeremy Hanley, Esq., MP,
The Minister of State for the Armed Forces,
Ministry of Defence,
Main Building,
Whitehall,
London,
SW1A 2HB

Section 40

has corresponded with a
at MOD
ref. J/SEC (AS) 12/3.

Section 40

Section 40

26th December 1993.

Reference: Question to Minister of Defence - CC European Parliamentary
Petitions Committee.

Dear Sir Keith

I apologise for a degree of persistence.

I specifically requested a question to be tabled in the House because I am not satisfied with the obvious evasions that I am getting from the Ministry of Defence.

It is obvious that any answer from the Minister will be as a direct result of consultation with the Ministry of Defence whose answers are not commensurate with the facts.

I attach uncorrected pages 114/115/116 of a book manuscript that I am writing on the Belgian Phenomena: this is a copy of a letter written on the 6th December 1993 to the Ministry of Defence.*

Their contradictions form part of this book. I trust they will give you some idea of the complexity of the situation.

If the reply given by the Minister is as indicated, I would then request a tabled question as originally sought.

It is essential in my application to the Petitions Committee of the European Parliament that I obtain a clear and detailed explanation on the positive NADGE major alert in Belgium and the opinion of the British Ministry of Defence Air Defence Experts that there was no risk to our own national security.

Could you please advise me what the 'technical reasons' are for not raising a question in the House.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40





PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE
FOR DEFENCE

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
MAIN BUILDING WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2HB

Telephone **Section 40**..... (Direct Dialling)
(Switchboard)



D/US of S RMC 2547

10 March 1993

Dear David,

Thank you for your letter (reference DC/dt/Mar2.11) of 2 March, enclosing one from your constituent **Section 40**

Section 40 had written a paper about UFOs, and you asked for my comments.

I am afraid that the Ministry of Defence's only interest in the UFO phenomenon is to establish whether or not reported sightings of UFOs present a threat to the security and defence of the United Kingdom. Unless it is judged that a sighting does present such a threat, and I would like to confirm that this has not been the case so far, we do not attempt to investigate further, or to identify whatever might have been seen.

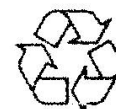
Given this very limited involvement with the subject there is really no comment that I can make on **Section 40** paper.

I hope this is helpful, and I wish your constituent luck with his research.

Yours ever,
Robert

The Viscount Cranborne

David Curry Esq MP



Recycled Paper

108 9

M2

APS/US of S

1. I have placed opposite a draft reply to the letter from David Curry MP.
2. The points that the MP's constituent makes about UFOs are really not for the Ministry of Defence, and the draft reply simply sets out our very limited involvement with this subject.

Section 40
[Redacted]

5 March 1993

Sec(AS)2
Section 40
[Redacted]

D/US of S/RMC 2547

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Section 40

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Given this very limited involvement with the subject there is really no comment that I can make on **Section 40** paper.

I hope this is helpful, and I wish your constituent luck with his research.

The Viscount Cranborne

David Curry MP

Rec 3/3

DAVID CURRY MP

(E1.)



RMC 2547

HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

PE - Sec (AS) 24.

2nd March 1993

Our Ref:DC/dt/Mar2.11

Dear Robert,

I enclose a copy of a letter and paper I have received from my constituent. Section 40

I should be grateful for your comments to pass on to my constituent.

Yours ever
David

DAVID CURRY

The Viscount Cranborne
Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State
for Defence
Ministry of Defence
Main Building, Whitehall SW1A 2HB

Section 40

- WRITER @ INVESTIGATOR

Section 40

David Curry MP
House of Commons

February 17th 1993

Dear Mr Curry,

Attached to this letter is a short paper on certain aspects of the ufo issue and as a very concerned member of your constituency I trust you will find the time to read it. Your views on the subject matter would be appreciated. I shall understand if you require time to do this. I will not accept a denial or 'do not know' there is just too much going on both in the UK and the world for any denial to be justified. I am not pretending that my ideas are representative of the entire subject or that I am necessarily right, but I have studied the ufo issue for a long time and have come to certain conclusions.

As I look at the crumbling morality shown by an escalating percentage of the UK populace (and indeed the world) I am becoming increasingly concerned over who is in actual control. I do not subscribe to or support any one particular religious doctrine, although I do believe in a divine spirit or essence. Mankind appears to be sinking into darkness, the force of violence now intruding into the thoughts and lives of the UK population goes beyond mere violence. I have children myself and I am deeply worried.

I do understand why the subject of the ufo has been ignored, distorted and ridiculed, but the escalating pattern of physical interactions between mankind and some of the forces involved are making this position totally unacceptable. I would suggest that the inherent public disorder in any authoritative admission of the ufo reality is now preferable to what may result if this position of denial is maintained. I do not think this problem will just go away, the whole ufo issue has to be acknowledged and openly debated. It is not the mere 'national defence' of the UK that is at stake, it may turn out to be the very soul of mankind that is in the balance. If you have any doubts over the importance of this issue just take the time to study the facts.

I await your comments.

Yours sincerely

Section 40

THOUGHTS ON THE PRESENT DAY HUMAN CONDITION AND THE UNIDENTIFIED FLYING
OBJECTS FROM EARTH **Section 40** February 1993

Never has so much been believed by so few and denied by so many, such is the problem presented by the ufo.

I offer these thoughts on the ufo subject for discussion. They are by no means written as representative of the entire problem.

It would seem apparent that there is 'something' about this subject, the implications of which, far surpass any thoughts centred on a belief or denial. Those who deny the existence of the ufo often do this vehemently. I suggest that they do this because in reality they are believers also, and therefore only one option is really applicable. What exactly are both groups of people believing in? To generate such fierce denials this covert belief must surely extend beyond the simple interpretation of the ufo as an extraterrestrial vehicle. If this was all the ufo represented, and quite clearly it does not, there could be no purposeful arguments for its nonexistence. Mankind is merely scratching at the surface of the observable universe, who knows what manner of beings populate it. There can be no justifiable arguments against the idea that some of the more complex varieties have been and are visiting the earth.

Many of those who deny the ufo reality are perhaps doing this through fear of a subordinate human position. They presuppose the ufo operates from applications of a super human technology, the power of which could be set against mankind. This in itself may be a justifiable fear, but I suggest that these denials stem from an even greater fear. This 'something' of the ufo issue appears to have connections with human ancestry. I believe we may possess an inherited race memory of some past and awful time and the ufo is the trigger for its recall.

The idea that the ufo may be as old as recorded history is still open to argument, but my contention includes a notion that it is in fact older. I am certainly not on my own in suggesting that the forces which the ufo represent pre-date mankind. As a consequence of this notion the ufo as being representative of a purely extraterrestrial artefact becomes a little less attestable. The ufo now becomes considerably more influential than mere visitations by beings from another planet. We perhaps wrongly assume two things, that mankind is able to see all there is of the world and we are its masters. I believe the trigger has been fired, our memories are beginning to recall some hard, disturbing but vital truths. Perhaps it is this evolving memory that is responsible for the fierce denials, the reluctance to even look at the facts, and why the whole ufo problem is being played down.

If the problem has potentially always been present are our current fears justified, after all these forces could presumably have chosen any time in the past to rid the earth of its parasitic human population. It would seem improbable that they should choose to do this now when the world's population is so much greater. Perhaps our fear is not so much one of extermination but one of outside control. It is possible that in time each and everyone of us will come to realise that our world is indeed under the influence of nonhuman forces. An expanding awareness to this fact makes immediate sense of the distortion and denials of the problem.

The fact remains that whether we like it or not the ufo is a reality and it would appear on the surface that we are being visited by many diverse forces. Those who still persist in ignoring this fact will have to understand that the ufo is escalating its numbers and at the same time it is reinforcing its controlling position. These forces are doing this by leaving real and observably lasting traces of their existence. It would appear that they have chosen this time to re-exert their seemingly superior nature to outwit mankind. Can we really afford to ignore what is so obviously taking place?

What are the aspects of human behaviour deemed necessary to be controlled and how might this be achieved? I suggest the following as a possibility.

I realize that the interpretation of the ufo as a mechanism of human control has been suggested by many other writers and I acknowledge them for this.

A part of the current ufo problem, and I emphasize a part and not all, appears to be building upon some of our worst fears. The forces involved are doing this by presenting us with lasting physical evidence of what outwardly seem to be malevolent actions. There is much dispute as to whether our interpretation of hostile intent is correct. I suggest that these forces are in fact play acting and throwing back at mankind demonstrations of our own malpractices. They are responding to our weakening morality by adopting patterns of behaviour symbolic of our own fall into darkness. In this sense we have only ourselves to blame for their actions and our own two edged predicament. They are perhaps masquerading as the forces of darkness to show us our own fallen condition, the dark side of ufology is really the light, their meaning are the same and the real demons are to be found within humanity. If we dream of conquering the heavens then they will do it for us, if we aspire to great and wonderful things then they will do this also. If this be so they will continue in this vogue until we recognize our condition and in a very real sense these forces become our masters, our controllers and our measure of morality. At the same time the aggressor now becomes the saviour and our worst fears are transformed into humility. In effect real contact is established between mankind and a nonhuman intelligence. We look at the ufo problem with fear in our eyes because we see a reflection of our own condition.

Nature always reveals its other side, there exists within the ufo issue forces that seemingly do not hide behind the mask of darkness. These forces appeal directly to mankind's sense of correctness and wonder and these forces are also leaving lasting impressions. These impressions are indeed wondrous and magical to behold. We seem to have two options, a clear choice between the light and the dark, perhaps this duality is really shades of the same control, a control of liberation and not one of subjugation. The ufo and its effects are showing us our worst and best, they are here to damn our present condition, not to drive us into submission to dark and evil forces.

If these forces are the same forces that pointed the way in previous epochs then perhaps they are somehow intrinsically bound to mankind. There must be a connecting thread, a commonality, between us, this control must be necessary for both our destinies. These forces have to be escalating their interactions with mankind because it is required at this time. Our continual apathy towards their existence is most certainly a factor as must be our apathy towards our condition. It would seem clear that this escalation is an attempt to spread this control, and whether we like it or not this problem is ours and of our own making. Those who take the time to look at this issue realize its importance, the ufo and its effects are reinstating many of our old and necessary doctrines, and in so doing we are being brought face to face with some of our most vital and urgent questions. These forces appear to have coloured our most distant past and are now presenting us with a new interpretation of reality in which our present evils can have no part.

I suggest that these are some of the reasons for the never ending denial, distortion and ridiculing of this most important subject. Should we really be ignoring what is so obviously taking place?

E107



MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
MAIN BUILDING WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2HB

Telephone **Section 40** (Direct Dialling)
(Switchboard)

MINISTER OF STATE FOR
THE ARMED FORCES

D/MIN(AF)/117/93

8² February 1993

Dear David

Thank you for your letter of 12 January to Robin Ferrers enclosing one from your constituent **Section 40** about the Comet Swift-Tuttle. As you know this has been passed to me for reply.

I understand that latest estimates indicate that Comet Swift-Tuttle will not return to the inner Solar system until the year 2126. Despite some previous speculation that this comet might hit the Earth, the latest calculations of the comet's orbit indicate that it will not. If a collision was anticipated, I am sure that the authorities of the day would take any necessary measures to deal with the situation; given the timescales involved it is far too early to speculate on what these measures would be. I understand that NASA are looking at ways in which collisions such as he mentions might be prevented.

I hope this is helpful.

*Yours ever
Archie*

ARCHIE HAMILTON

David Shaw Esq, MP

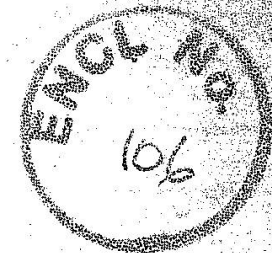
Section 40

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Sec. (AS) 2
- 9 FEB 1993
FILE

Copy to SEC (AS) 2

Section 40





LOOSE MINUTE

D/Sec(AS)12/4

2 Feb 93

APS/Minister(AF)

PARLIAMENTARY ENQUIRY FROM THE RT HON DAVID SHAW MP

1. The attached correspondence from the Rt Hon David Shaw MP was sent to us for official reply by S of S's office. As agreed, however, I have attached a draft reply for Minister(AF) to send.

2. As you will recall, we have recently answered a similar enquiry about Comet Swift-Tuttle - D/MIN(AF)/30/93. While the MOD has no specific responsibility for the subject, and are simply replying in the absence of anyone else better placed to respond, the substance of the draft has been cleared with the Emergency Planning Division at the Home Office, and with the Royal Greenwich Observatory.

Section 40

Sec(AS)2

Section 40

You wrote to the Lord Ferrers on 12 January 1993 about your constituent **Section 40** **Section 40** who has read that Comet Swift-Tuttle is on collision course with the Earth. This has been passed to us for reply.

I understand that latest estimates indicate that Comet Swift-Tuttle will not return to the inner Solar System until the year 2126. Despite some previous speculation that this comet might hit the Earth, the latest calculations of the comet's orbit indicate that it will not. If a collision was anticipated, I am sure that the authorities of the day would take any necessary measures to deal with the situation; given the timescales involved it is far too early to speculate on what these measures would be.

Finally, **Section 40** may also be interested to know that NASA are reported to be looking at ways in which collisions such as he mentions might be prevented.

I hope this is helpful.

The Rt Hon Archie Hamilton MP

The Rt Hon David Shaw MP

F105



HOME OFFICE
QUEEN ANNE'S GATE
LONDON SW1H 9AT

PO Ref 1433/93

21st January 1993

DAVID SHAW ESQ MP
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

Dear Mr Shaw

Thank you for your letter to Lord Ferrers of 15th January 1993
on behalf of **Section 40**

After consideration, it appears that the matters raised are the
responsibility of the Ministry of Defence, so I have sent your
letter there with a request that a reply be sent to you direct.

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Sec. (AS/1)
31 FEB 1993
FILE

Section 40

PRIVATE OFFICE

1433/92



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

RF

Section 40

RECEIVED BY
15 JAN 1993
PRIVATE SECRETARY

Rt Hon the Lord Ferrers
Minister of State
National Disaster and
Emergency Planning Department
Home Office
50 Queen Anne's Gate
London SW1

12 January 1993

Dear Robin

I enclose a copy of a letter I have received from **Section 40** regarding the Swift-Tuttle Comet. I would much appreciate your comments on this matter.

Yours sincerely

Section 40

Section 40

*and writes to me on many and varied subjects which have covered to his books. He has written one of the authoritative studies on **Section 40** I hope you can do a reply which the local newspaper can use - **Section 40** often writes letters to them.*

Section 40

January 1st 1993

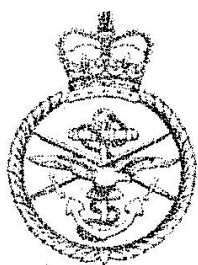
The Right Honourable David Shaw MP
HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

Dear David,

I have read one or two short and casual items about the Swift-Tuttle Comet which is said to be on a collision course with Earth. There was a brief reference to it on the BBC Channel 4 radio which described it as a seven mile wide chunk of ice. It is supposed to hit us in 2001 (I think). The whole thing sounds as if it came from Emanuel Velikovsky's book 'Worlds in Chaos'. Does the present government give any credence to this matter?
With all best wishes for the New Year,

Yours sincerely

Section 40



MINISTER OF STATE FOR THE ARMED FORCES

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
MAIN BUILDING WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2HB
Telephone Section 40 (Direct Dialling)
[Redacted] (Switchboard)

1502
JH

D/MIN(AF)/30/93

26 January 1993

Dear Roger

Thank you for your letter of 17 December 1992 to Thomas Strathclyde about your constituent Section 40 [Redacted] who had read that a comet was on collision course with the Earth, and asked what precautions are being taken. As you know this has been passed to me for reply.

I understand that the comet to which Section 40 [Redacted] refers is Comet Swift-Tuttle, which, it is estimated, will return to the inner Solar System in 2126. Despite some previous speculation that this comet might hit the Earth, the latest calculations of the comet's orbit indicate that it will not. If a collision was anticipated, I am sure that the authorities of the day would take any necessary measures to deal with the situation; given the timescales involved it is far too early to speculate on what these measures would be.

Finally, Section 40 [Redacted] may also be interested to know that NASA are reported to be looking at ways in which collisions such as he mentions might be prevented.

I hope this is helpful.

Yours ever
Archie

ARCHIE HAMILTON

Roger Knapman Esq, MP

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
HJ.Sec (AS)
26 Jan 1993
FILE

Section 40 [Redacted]

Copy to Hd of SECC(A)



Recycled Paper

APS/Minister(AF)

1. I have placed opposite a draft reply to the letter from Roger Knapman MP.
2. We are not aware of any previous enquiries about comets, and have no responsibility for the subject, but are replying in the absence of any other division better placed to respond.
3. This draft has been cleared with the Emergency Planning Division at the Home Office, and with the Royal Greenwich Observatory.

20 January 1993

Section 40

Head of Sec(AS)

Section 40

D/MIN(AF)30/93

Your letter to Lord Strathclyde of 17 December 1992 has been passed to this Department for reply. Your constituent, **Section 40** had read that a comet was on collision course with the Earth, and asked what precautions are being taken.

I believe that the comet to which **Section 40** refers is Comet Swift-Tuttle, which, it is estimated, will return to the inner Solar System in 2126. Despite some previous speculation that this comet might hit the Earth, the latest calculations of the comet's orbit indicate that it will not. If a collision was anticipated, I am sure that the authorities of the day would take any necessary measures to deal with the situation; given the timescales involved it is far too early to speculate on what these measures would be.

Section 40 may also be interested to know that NASA are reported to be looking at ways in which collisions such as he mentions might be prevented.

I hope this is helpful.

The Rt Hon Archie Hamilton MP

Roger Knapman Esq MP



MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
MAIN BUILDING WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2HB

Telephone **Section 40** (Direct Dialling)
Section 40 (Switchboard)

PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE
FOR DEFENCE

D/US of S RMC 2101

13 January 1993

Dear Ann,

Thank you for your letter to The Earl Howe of 16 December 1992, enclosing one from your constituent **Section 40** **Section 40** which has been passed to this Department for reply.

I can confirm that, contrary to the article referred to by **Section 40** **Section 40** no ministerial meeting has taken place to discuss the subject of crop circles. The Government's role in this subject is very limited; as the Ministry of Defence receives and co-ordinates information relating to UFO sightings, and because of the perceived link in some quarters between UFOs and crop circles, members of the public will occasionally ask for our views on crop circles. As is the case with UFOs, however, we take no definitive position and hold no fixed views on the phenomenon.

If **Section 40** is interested in this subject, he may wish to know that there are a number of organisations who are actively involved in crop circle research. If he wishes to contact any of them, their addresses are as follows:

British UFO Research Association

Section 40

Centre for Crop Studies

Section 40

Mrs Ann Winterton MP



Recycled Paper



Quest International

Section 40



Contact International (UK)

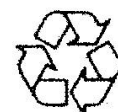
Section 40



I hope this is helpful.

Yours ever,
Robert

The Viscount Cranborne



Recycled Paper

M2

APS/US of S

Copy to:
DI55c

101

1. I have placed opposite a draft reply to the letter from Ann Winterton MP.
2. We are not aware of any meeting having taken place to discuss crop circles, as has been alleged. The Department of the Environment and the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food have confirmed that they are also unaware of any such meeting.

Section 40

11 January 1993

Sec(AS)2

Section 40

D/US of S/RMC 2101

Your letter to The Earl Howe of 16 December 1992, enclosing one from your constituent **Section 40** has been passed to this Department for reply.

I can confirm that, contrary to the article referred to by **Section 40** no ministerial meeting has taken place to discuss the subject of crop circles. The Government's role in this subject is very limited; as the Ministry of Defence receives and coordinates information relating to UFO sightings, and because of the perceived link in some quarters between UFOs and crop circles, members of the public will occasionally ask for our views on crop circles. As is the case with UFOs, however, we take no definitive position and hold no fixed views on the phenomenon.

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British UFO Research Association

Section 40

Centre for Crop Circle Studies

Section 40

Quest International

Section 40

Contact International (UK)

Section 40

I hope this is helpful.

The Viscount Cranborne

Ann Winterton MP

E100



MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
MAIN BUILDING WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2HB

Telephone Section 40.....(Direct Dialling)
[redacted] (Switchboard)

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

D/US of S(AF)ADG 6832

[Signature] December 1991

Dear Fergus,

Thank you for your letter of 25 September to Michael Heseltine, enclosing one from your constituent Section 40 [redacted] who is enquiring about the origin of a "fireball" he witnessed in the skies above his home. I have been asked to reply and I apologise for the delay in doing so.

Section 40 [redacted] may find it helpful if I explain that there are many pieces of old and derelict satellites orbiting the earth, each slowly decaying and falling back to earth. Indeed, on any one day the satellite tracking station at RAF Fylingdales tracks approximately 7000 items of space debris, and of these, 6 or 7 re-enter the atmosphere, disintegrating as they do so.

Turning specifically to the night in question, there are no indications that any debris came down over Lancashire, or indeed anywhere in the UK. It is possible, however, that Section 40 [redacted] may have seen one of the many satellites in low orbit, some of which are visible as they pass overhead.

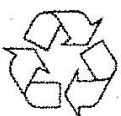
I hope this is helpful.

[Signature]
[Signature]

The Earl of Arran

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Sec. (AS)2
6 DEC 1991
FILE

Sir Fergus Montgomery MP



100% Recycled Paper

E99

LOOSE MINUTE

D/Sec(AS)12/4

19 November 1991

APS/US of S(AF)

1. I attach correspondence including a letter from Sir Fergus Montgomery MP to the Secretary of State for the Environment, covering one from his constituent **Section 40**, reporting that he had sighted a "fireball". This was passed to the Home Office, whence it was passed to MOD.

2. A draft letter for US of S(AF) to send to Sir Fergus is attached. This has been prepared in consultation with DI55. MOD's interest in a matter of this kind is limited to the requirement to monitor objects in orbit (particularly satellites) passing over the UK.

Section 40

Sec(AS)2

Section 40

DRAFT

Your letter of 25 September 1991 to Michael Heseltine, enclosing one from your constituent **Section 40**

Section 40 was passed to my Department for consideration. I am responding to your request for a reply you might pass on. **Section 40** had seen a "fireball", and wondered whether what he saw could have been a satellite, or a portion of one.

Section 40 may find it helpful if I explain that there are many pieces of old and derelict satellites orbiting the earth, each slowly decaying and falling back to earth. Indeed, on any one day the satellite tracking station at RAF Fylingdales tracks approximately 7000 items of space debris, and of these, six or seven re-enter the atmosphere, disintegrating as they do so.

Turning specifically to the night in question, there are no indications that any debris came down over Lancashire, or indeed anywhere in the UK. It is possible, however, that **Section 40** may have seen one of the many satellites in low orbit, some of which are visible as they pass overhead.

I hope this is helpful.

The Earl of Arran

Sir Fergus Montgomery MP



HOME OFFICE
QUEEN ANNE'S GATE
LONDON SW1H 9AT

Our Ref: PO 24525/91

Thank you for your letter to Michael Heseltine of 25 September on behalf of **Section 40**, passed to this department by the Department of Environment.

After consideration, it appears that the matters raised are not for the Home Office but for the Ministry of Defence to whom your correspondence has now been passed. I apologise for this inter-departmental buffeting.

*Passed correspondence to DTSS c
to see if satellite re-entry could
have been the cause of this.*

Section 40

30/10

Section 40

Private Office

MINISTRY OF DEF.
Sec. ASIA
30 OCT 1971
FILE

Sir Fergus Montgomery MP

Private Office
Correspondence Section

MINISTER'S CASE

The attached Minister's case is not one for G2 Division. We are not sure if it is even for the Home Office. Maybe the Meteorological Office can be of assistance?

Section 40

JNO
G2 Division

7 October 1991

Enc



24525/91

2 MARSHAM STREET
LONDON SW1P 3EB

Section 40

My ref:

Your ref: 7425

22 OCT 1991

Accepted by
MOD

Dear Sir Fergus

You wrote to the Secretary of State on 25 September enclosing a letter from Section 40 about a fireball fall from the sky.

However, as the matter seems to be primarily for the Home Office, I am passing your letter to that Department asking them to reply to you direct.

Yours sincerely

Section 40



Private Secretary

Sir Fergus Montgomery MP

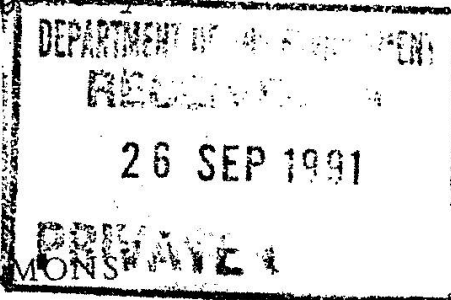


Sir Fergus Montgomery MP

XHO



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA



Ref: 7425

25 September 1991

Dear Michael,

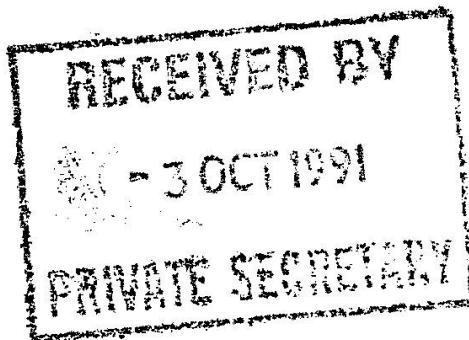
i enclose a letter I have had from

Section 40 [redacted]

who as you can see witnessed a fireball fall from the sky but has read nothing in any of the papers since then. He seems to feel that it landed somewhere in the Lancashire area. I wondered if you could let me have a reply to pass on to him.

Yours,

Fergus



The Rt Hon Michael Heseltine MP

Section 40

Sir Fergus Montgomery, M.P.
House of Commons.
London.

15th Sept 91

Dear Sir Fergus,

I witnessed a 'fireball' fall from the sky, whilst watching T.V. at 12.29 pm. It was visible for between 5 & 10 seconds & the bearing from my home was approx 245° N.W. I hadn't drawn the curtains & it was quite the most spectacular thing I've seen. It was too slow for a meteorite & too fast for a Veeva Light. (in case it was a house) so my belief is that it was a satellite or portion of one. I haven't heard anything in the news this morning, my guess was that it would have landed somewhere in the Lancashire area. Any thing North of this & I reckon it would have been a very large object indeed.

I am at a loss as who to inform, hence this letter to you.

Yours faithfully
P.P.

Section 40



MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
MAIN BUILDING WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2HB

Telephone **Section 40**.....(Direct Dialling)
Section 40 (Switchboard)

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

DEFENCE
12
1991

D/US of S(AF) ADG 6184

22nd October 1991

Dear David,

Thank you for your letter of 19 September to Tom King, enclosing one from your constituent **Section 40** **Section 40** had asked about the investigation of UFOs, and you asked for some information about this.

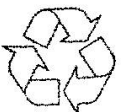
The Ministry of Defence has no department which is appointed solely for the purpose of studying reports of UFOs, and we have no staff who are employed on the subject full time. The reports of sightings that we do receive are referred to our staff in the departments which are responsible for the air defence of the United Kingdom. They examine the reports as part of their normal duties, to determine whether or not they present a threat to the security and defence of the United Kingdom. Unless we judge that they do, and no reports received to date fall into this category, no attempt is made to investigate or identify what was seen.

I hope this is helpful.

John Arman
Tommy Arman

The Earl of Arran

David Atkinson Esq MP





MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
MAIN BUILDING WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2HB

Telephone **Section 40**.....(Direct Dialling)
(Switchboard)

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

D/US of S(AF) ADG 5597

17th October 1991

Dear Paul,

Thank you for your letter of 5 September, in which you raised further questions about the air incident over Kent on 21 April 1991.

Firstly, I can confirm that whatever was seen was not connected with any USAF activity. With regard to the criteria used to judge if such sightings represent a threat, the staff in my Department who are responsible for the air defence of the United Kingdom assess such sightings based on military expertise and an analysis of the available information. Unless it is judged that a sighting does represent a threat, and I can confirm that this has not been the case so far, no further attempt is made to identify what was seen. You also asked about warning systems and the possibility of a hostile response being triggered. The UK operates a range of warning systems, but there are, of course, sophisticated operating procedures and safeguards to ensure that any response is appropriate to the circumstances. I can confirm that the incident over Kent did not result in any response.

As far as a review of UFO sightings is concerned, I am afraid that I simply could not justify the use of defence funds on such an investigation, unless a clear threat to the security of the UK had been identified, and as I have already said, no reports received to date fall into this category. Any air safety implications are, as I have already indicated, a matter for the CAA.

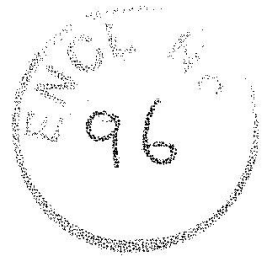
I hope this is helpful.

*James S. ...
Romney Arran*

The Earl of Arran

Paul Murphy Esq MP





M2

File # 12/4

APS/US of S(AF)

1. I attach at E2 a self-explanatory draft response to the letter at E1.

Section 40
[Redacted]

3 October 1991

Sec(AS)2
Section 40
[Redacted]

D/US of S(AF)/ADG 6184

Thank you for your letter of 19 September 1991 to Tom King, enclosing one from your constituent **Section 40** **Section 40** had asked about the investigation of UFOs, and you asked for some information about this.

The Ministry of Defence has no department which is appointed solely for the purpose of studying reports of UFOs, and we have no staff who are employed on the subject full time. The reports of sightings that we do receive are referred to our staff in the departments which are responsible for the air defence of the United Kingdom. They examine the reports as part of their normal duties, to determine whether or not they present a threat to the security and defence of the United Kingdom. Unless we judge that they do, and no reports received to date fall into this category, no attempt is made to investigate or identify what was seen.

I hope this is helpful.

The Earl of Arran

David Atkinson MP

M4APS/US of S(AF)

Copy to:
D Air Def
SRAFLO
DI55c
Sec(AS)1a

1. I attach at E6 a self-explanatory draft response to the letter at E5.
2. Given that a three metre long object seen from a distance of 1000 feet would have appeared very small to the naked eye especially at 9 o'clock in the evening when the light would have been failing. The estimated length of the object must also be treated with caution as, despite the undoubted experience of the crew, it is notoriously difficult to assess dimensions when no references are available. Hence it is probable that the object was not a missile; indeed it may have been another aircraft which, incidentally, would not have required Air Traffic Control clearance to fly at that height if it was clear of controlled airspace such as airways.

Section 40

Sec(AS)2

Section 40

30 September 1991

D/US of S(AF)/ADG 5597

Thank you for your letter of 5 September 1991, in which you raised further questions about the air incident over Kent on 21 April 1991.

Firstly, I can confirm that whatever was seen was not connected with any USAF activity. With regard to the criteria used to judge if such sightings represent a threat, the staff in my Department who are responsible for the air defence of the United Kingdom assess such sightings based on military expertise and an analysis of the available information. Unless it is judged that a sighting does present a threat, and I can confirm that this has not been the case so far, no further attempt is made to identify what was seen. You also asked about warning systems and the possibility of a hostile response being triggered. The UK operates a range of warning systems, but there are, of course, sophisticated operating procedures and safeguards to ensure that any response is appropriate to the circumstances. I can confirm that the incident over Kent did not result in any response.

As far as a review of UFO sightings is concerned, I am afraid that I simply could not justify the use of defence funds on such an investigation, unless a clear threat to the security of the UK had been identified, and as I have already said, no reports received to date fall into this category. Any air safety implications are, as I have already indicated, a matter for the CAA.

I hope this is helpful.

The Earl of Arran

Paul Murphy Esq MP

LOOSE MINUTE

D/D Air Def/111/6/4 - 664

19 Sep 91

Sec (AS) 2aAIR INCIDENT OVER KENT

Reference: D/Sec (AS) 12/4 dated 17 Sep 91.

1. At the Reference, you asked for unclassified background on the questions raised by Mr Murphy concerning the 'Alitalia Incident'. The following may be of use in your reply:

"At the time of the incident, there were no other sighting reports and no reports of any impact with the ground or the busy waters of the Channel which might have corroborated the missile theory. In addition, a three metre long object seen from a distance of 1000ft would have appeared very small to the naked eye especially at 9 o'clock in the evening when the light would have been failing. Moreover, the estimated length of the object must be treated with caution as, despite the undoubted experience of the crew, it is notoriously difficult to assess dimensions when no references are available. Hence, it is probable that the object was not a missile; indeed, it may have been another aircraft which, incidentally, would not have required ATC clearance to fly at that height if it was clear of controlled airspace such as airways.

Turning to the twin questions of warning systems and the possibility of a hostile response being triggered by an unidentified object, the air defence radar system provides 24 hour radar cover over the mainland of the United Kingdom, but its primary function is to monitor and safeguard the approaches to the UK. You will appreciate that we do not expect an air threat to originate from the landmass itself. The RAF also maintains a Quick Reaction Alert force of fighters to intercept unidentified aircraft approaching the airspace around the UK and operates the Ballistic Missile Early Warning System (BMEWS) which is designed to detect, identify and track ballistic missiles. In both cases, sophisticated operating procedures have evolved over many years to ensure that, whilst response can be rapid, it is neither precipitate nor without appropriate safeguards, and exercises are regularly carried out across the spectrum of possible scenarios to practise and perfect the procedures that are used."

Section 40

Air Cdre
D Air Def

Section 40

MEMO TO: DOT 2/3
SRAFLOW
IN TURN

19 Sept 91

Re: Air ... ent over

Ref: SRAF. Sep 91 package.

1. I have checked our records and we did not have any fighter aircraft airborne on 21 April 91. We also did not have anyone airborne at 0200Z during the week. It was the week of Eider J- at 01-1 and our F-111s were not night flying that week. A-10s regularly fly at night. Night flying time started at 1900Z that week. We have no aircraft or missiles that color in the UK. So we don't see any USAF involvement in this incident.

2. I also spoke to Sqn Ldr Section 40 at the Joint Air Ops Section about this incident. They were unable to trace anything from radar or flight plans to the aircraft. He surmises that it is probably a Met Balloon that had a burst.

Section 40

[Redacted signature]

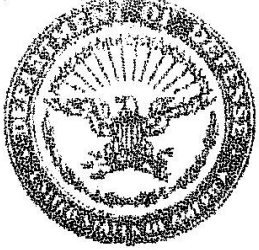
Major, USAF

Chief, Fighter Operations

FROM: HQ 3RF FUELS DIRECTORATE, RAF MILDENHALL

09.19.1991 16:09

P. 1



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS THIRD AIR FORCE (USAFE)
APO NEW YORK 09127-5002

WING COMMANDER **Section 40**
SENIOR RAF LIAISON OFFICER

Telephone: **Section 40**

FAX No. (0638) 512871

FAX TO TELEPHONE NUMBER **Section 40**

BRANCH/DEPARTMENT *SEE (AS) 2a*

FOR THE ATTENTION OF **Section 40** Ext: **Section 40**

MESSAGE (IF ANY) *AIR INCIDENT OVER WEST*

*Please see attached report in response to
your query*

NUMBER OF PAGES SENT (INCLUDING THIS ONE) *2*

FROM: *Wing Comdr* **Section 40** (NAME)

DATE *19 Sep 91* SIGNED: **Section 40**

13 SEP 91 16:06

Section 40 PAGE 001

LOOSE MINUTE

D/Sec(AS)12/4

17 September 1991

D Air Def
SRAFLO

Copy to:
Sec(AS)1a
DI55

AIR INCIDENT OVER KENT

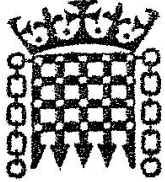
1. I attach a copy of a Parliamentary Enquiry that we have received from Paul Murphy MP.
2. Some addressees may already be aware of the "Alitalia incident", in which the pilot of an Alitalia aircraft reported a near-miss with a missile-type object on 21 April 1991, over Lydd in Kent, at a height of approximately 22000 feet. I have attached a copy of the pilot's report and a newspaper article about the incident for ease of reference.
3. Although an object was seen on radar, subsequent enquiries were not able to identify it.
4. Could SRAFLO confirm that the object was not connected with any USAF activity.
5. I would be grateful if D Air Def could supply some unclassified sentences to cover the MP's point about a response from warning systems, and the possibility of a hostile response being triggered.
6. In order to meet our Parliamentary deadline, can I ask for responses by cop Wednesday 25 September.

Section 40

Sec(AS)2a

Section 40

ES



**PAUL MURPHY, MP,
House of Commons,
London SW1A 0AA**

Desk Phone [Section 40]
Messages [Section 40]
Pontypool Office [Section 40]
(24-hour Answerphone)

FAX Numbers: LONDON [Section 40]
PONTYPOOL [Section 40]

5 September 1991

The Earl of Arran
Ministry of Defence
Main Building
Whitehall
LONDON
SW1A 2HB

Sec (AS) - R

Dear Lord Arran

Thank you for your letter regarding the subject of an air incident over Kent, and the reply sent to my constituent, [Section 40]. I am still very concerned that the Ministry of Defence does not know what the UFO was, and I believe that the matter raises the following:-

Can you state with equal certainty that the 'missile' did not originate from USAF aircraft or bases in Britain?

If, as stated, you have no idea what the objects are, what criteria is used to judge whether they are a threat, have any to date been regarded as a threat?

Did the Alitalia incident produce any response from these warning systems? Is it not a grave danger that one of these unidentified objects will trigger a hostile response with potentially disastrous consequences?

cont...../2

The Earl of Arran

5 September 1991

Every one of the thousands of reports has been dismissed by the MoD as no threat. Surely, whatever criteria are used to judge them individually, the large accumulation of reports that the MoD now possess, demands a review of this phenomenon, its implications for air safety and the defence of the United Kingdom.

I look forward to your reply.

Yours sincerely

Section 40

PP
PAUL MURPHY, MP

cc:

Section 40

(5)

NEAR COLLISION - AIR TRAFFIC INCIDENT REPORT FORM

NOTE: 1^o) To be filled in printed characters and in English language.
 2^o) Shaded boxes contain items to be included in an initial report by radio.
 3^o) Items marked this* must be deleted as appropriate.

SECTION 1 - GENERAL INFORMATION

TYPE OF INCIDENT	A	INCIDENT (NEAR COLLISION) PROCEDURAL/FACILITY*
NAME OF PILOT-IN-COMMAND	B	Section 40
OPERATOR	C	ALITALIA
IDENTIFICATION MARKINGS OF AIRCRAFT	D	I - DAWC
AIRCRAFT TYPE	E	MD 80
RADIO CALL SIGN - IN COMMUNICATION WITH - FREQUENCY AT TIME OF INCIDENT	F	Section 40 - LON 127.1 - AT ~ 2000/2
AERODROME OF DEPARTURE	G	MILAN - LINATE
AERODROME OF FIRST INTENDED LANDING AND DESTINATION, IF DIFFERENT	H	LONDON - HEATHROW
TYPE OF FLIGHT PLAN	J	IFR
POSITION AT TIME OF INCIDENT - HEADING OR ROUTE - TRUE AIRSPEED	J	~ 30NM SOUTH BIGGIN VOR - HEADING 320° - TAS 380
FL, ALTITUDE OR HEIGHT - ALTITUDE SETTING - ATTITUDE	K	LEVEL FLIGHT CLIMBING (DESCENDING) TURNING* FL 222 - ALT 1013 - RATE 2000
FLIGHT WEATHER CONDITIONS AT TIME OF INCIDENT	L	IMC, VMC Distance above/below cloud/fog/haze VMC 30 Km/NM*
	L	Distance horizontally from cloud Between cloud layers In cloud/rain/snow/sleet/fog/haze Flying into/out of sun Reported/estimated flight visibility 30 Km/NM*
DATE AND TIME OF INCIDENT IN GMT	M	REPORTED BY RADIO TO LON 127.1 AFIS/TWR/APP (ACC) FIC* AT 04/21/91 ~ 2000/2

SECTION 2 - DETAILED INFORMATION

DESCRIPTION OF OTHER AIRCRAFT, IF RELEVANT: Type, high/low wing, N. of engines Radio call sign, registration Markings, colour, lighting Other available details	N	OBJECT SIMILAR MISSILE - WITHOUT EXHAUST FLAME - UNKNOWN LIGHT BROWN - SIMILAR DESERT COLOUR ABOUT 3 METERS LENGTH - ROUND SHAPE -
DESCRIPTION OF INCIDENT: If desired add comment or suggestion, including your opinion on the probable cause of the incident. (In case of near-collision give information on respective flight paths, estimated vertical and horizontal sighting and miss distances between aircraft and avoiding action taken by either a/c)	O	DURING DESCENT, AT FL 222 I SAW FOR ABOUT 3-4 SECONDS A FLYING OBJECT, VERY SIMILAR TO A MISSILE, LIGHT BROWN COLOUR, WITH A TRACK OPPOSITE THEN MINE WHICH WAS 320° - IT WAS HIGHER THAN US ABOUT 1000 ft.

AT ONCE I SAID "LOOK OUT - LOOK OUT" TO MY COPILOT WHO LOOKED OUT AND SAW WHAT I HAD SEEN - AS SOON AS THE OBJECT CROSSED US I ASKED TO THE ACC/OPERATOR IF HE SAW SOMETHING ON HIS SCREEN AND HE ANSWERED "I SEE AN UNKNOWN TARGET 10 N.M. BEHIND YOU."

DATE 04/22/91 TIME 8 P.M.	FUNCTION AND SIGNATURE CPT	FUNCTION AND SIGNATURE
PLACE LONDON	OF PERSON SUBMITTING REPORT Section 40	OF PERSON RECEIVING REPORT
OF COMPLETION OF FORM	REPORT Section 40	REPORT

SECTION 3 - SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

by ATS unit concerned (not for pilot's use)

HOW REPORT RECEIVED	P	RADIO/TELEPHONE/TELEPRINTER* AT ARO/AFIS/TWR/APP/ACC/FIC*
DETAILS OF ATS ACTION: Clearance, incident observed on radar, warning given, result of local enquiry, etc.	Q	

* Delete as appropriate

SIGNATURE OF ATS OFFICER _____ DATE/TIME GMT _____

Mod. (6924) NAV UNI A4

39
x1

Inquiry into pilot's sighting of missile

THE CIVIL Aviation Authority has launched an investigation into a reported near-collision between a passenger airliner and a missile in civilian airspace over Kent.

But the Ministry of Defence said it could not have been a British missile. The CAA says that there were no other aircraft under its control there and that it has still failed to explain the sighting.

Captain Achille Zaghetti, pilot of the McDonnell Douglas MD80, operated by the Italian airline Alitalia, was flying from Milan to Heathrow at 22,200ft, with 57 people on board, on 21 April when he reported to British Air Traffic Control that a missile had flown less than 1,000 feet above him in the opposite direction.

It was 9pm, still light in the air, and the local air traffic controllers at Lydd airport said the visibility was exceptionally good.

Capt Zaghetti said the missile was light brown and about 3 metres long. His co-pilot confirmed the sighting. Their descriptions are consistent with a target missile used for artillery or air defence practice, but the Ministry of Defence insisted yesterday that none were in use on 21 April.

Although it has taken the report of an experienced pilot at face value, in a public statement yesterday the CAA attempted to imply that he had seen a drifting object, perhaps a stray balloon.

By Stephen Ward

The statement said: "The pilot said the object was light brown, round, 3 metres long, and did not describe any means of propulsion. The aircraft was under the control of the London air traffic control centre who had no other aircraft in the vicinity but consistent with the pilot report, a faint radar trace was observed 10 nautical miles behind the Alitalia aircraft.

"The air traffic controller submitted an occurrence report and investigatory action began immediately. Extensive inquiries have failed to provide any indication of what the sighting may have been."

A Ministry of Defence spokesman said yesterday: "Whatever he might have seen might have been something that was flying, but was certainly not anything that was fired. It was a Sunday. The only ranges we have in the Kent area are Lydd and Hythe, and they are concerned with small arms only."

Asked if target missiles were used, he said: "It's absolutely in the middle of the busiest air traffic area. People just don't fire missiles there, but of course, we do have quite a few UFO reports and often people who see these things describe them as missile or cigar-shaped, or else round, and sometimes they do appear to be travelling with no means of propulsion."

'The Independent'

6 May 1991

271

ES

**PAUL MURPHY, MP,
House of Commons,
London SW1A 0AA**



**Desk Phone
Messages
Pontypool Office**

Section 40

(24-hour Answerphone)

FAX Numbers:

LONDON
PONTYPOOL

Section 40

5597

Sec(CAS) - PE

5 September 1991

The Earl of Arran
Ministry of Defence
Main Building
Whitehall
LONDON
SW1A 2HB

Dear Lord Arran

Thank you for your letter regarding the subject of an air incident over Kent, and the reply sent to my constituent, Section 40. I am still very concerned that the Ministry of Defence does not know what the UFO was, and I believe that the matter raises the following:-

Can you state with equal certainty that the 'missile' did not originate from USAF aircraft or bases in Britain?

If, as stated, you have no idea what the objects are, what criteria is used to judge whether they are a threat, have any to date been regarded as a threat?

Did the Alitalia incident produce any response from these warning systems? Is it not a grave danger that one of these unidentified objects will trigger a hostile response with potentially disastrous consequences?

cont...../2

The Earl of Arran

5 September 1991

Every one of the thousands of reports has been dismissed by the MoD as no threat. Surely, whatever criteria are used to judge them individually, the large accumulation of reports that the MoD now possess, demands a review of this phenomenon, its implications for air safety and the defence of the United Kingdom.

I look forward to your reply.

Yours sincerely

Section 40

PP
PAUL MURPHY, MP

cc:

Section 40

E90 ~~Blot~~

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
 MAIN BUILDING WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2HB
 Telephone **Section 40**.....(Direct Dialling)
 (Switchboard)

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

D/US of S(AF)ADG 5597

26 August 1991

Dear Paul,

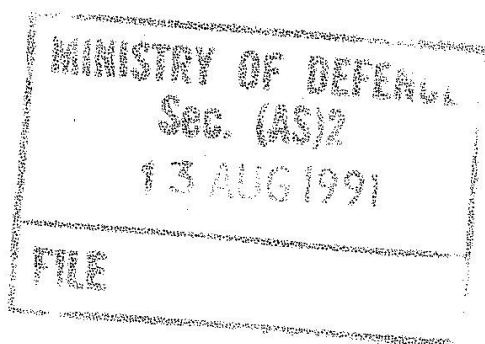
Thank you for your letter of 5 July 1991, enclosing
 correspondence from your constituent, **Section 40**
Section 40 on the subject of an air
 incident over Kent.

My officials have replied to **Section 40** letter pointing
 out that the report of the alleged air incident over Lydd was
 made in the first instance to the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA)
 who are responsible for examining such reports to determine
 whether there are, inter alia, any air safety implications. **Section 40**
Section 40 may wish to contact the CAA direct regarding the
 report of the air incident and their conclusions.

As far as the MOD is concerned, we have been able to rule out the
 possibility that what was seen was a missile from Army firing
 ranges in the Lydd area. Additionally, we have no reports of any
 space-related activity which could be used to provide an
 explanation for what was seen, and the description of the object
 given by the Al Italia captain does not correspond with what
 would be expected if the object had been a meteorological
 balloon.

The MODs only other interest has been to determine whether or not
 the incident presented a threat to the security and the defence
 of the United Kingdom. In this instance my Department do not
 consider that such a threat was presented and, as is the case
 with other similar reports of Unidentified Flying Object, it is
 not our policy to undertake further investigation.

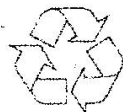
I hope this is helpful.



John Laid
 Barry Arran

The Earl of Arran

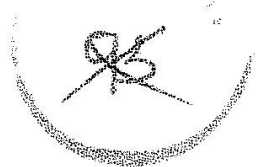
Paul Murphy Esq MP



100% Recycled Paper

File 604 E89

M2



APS/US of S(AF)

Copy to:

GE3(RAF)
DI55c

1. I attach at E3 a self-explanatory draft response to the letter at E1.
2. A copy of our response to **Section 40**, mentioned in E3, is also attached at E2.

(dated 8 July 1991)

Section 40

Sec(AS)2

Section 40

26 July 1991

MINISTRY OF DEF.
Sec. (AS)2
26 JUL 1991
FILE 12/3

E3

D/US of S(AF)/ADG 5597

Thank you for your letter of 5 July 1991, enclosing one from your constituent, **Section 40** **Section 40** on the subject of an air incident over Kent.

My officials have replied to **Section 40** letter pointing out that the report of the alleged air incident over Lydd was made in the first instance to the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) who are responsible for examining such reports to determine whether there are, inter alia, any air safety implications. **Section 40** may wish to contact the CAA direct regarding the report of the air incident and their conclusions.

As far as the MoD is concerned, we have been able to rule out the possibility that what was seen was a missile from Army firing ranges in the Lydd area. Additionally, we have no reports of any space related activity which could be used to provide an explanation for what was seen, and the description of the object given by the Alitalia captain does not correspond with what would be expected if the object had been a meteorological balloon.

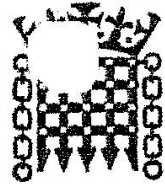
The MoD's only other interest has been to determine whether or not the incident presented a threat to the security

and defence of the United Kingdom. In this instance my Department do not consider that such a threat was presented and, as is the case with other similar reports of Unidentified Flying Objects, it is not our policy to undertake further investigation.

I hope this is helpful.

THE EARL OF ARRAN

Mr Paul Murphy MP



File Copy
PAUL MURPHY, MP,
House of Commons,
London SW1A 0AA

DS + SL (ad)
9/7



Desk Phone
Messages
Pontypool Office

Section 40
[Redacted]

(24-hour Answerphone)

FAX Numbers:

LONDON
PONTYPOOL

Section 40
[Redacted]

6/22-95

5 July 1991

Rt Hon T King, MP
Secretary of State for Defence
Ministry of Defence
Whitehall
LONDON
SW1A 2HB

Dear Secretary of State

Section 40
[Redacted]

I would be most grateful for your comments on the enclosed correspondence from my constituent named above.

Yours sincerely

Section 40
[Redacted]

PAUL MURPHY, MP

Enc

Section 40

10th June 1991.

Mr Paul Murphy M.P.,
The House of Commons,
Westminster, London.

Dear Mr Murphy,

I enclose a copy of a letter that I have written to the Secretary of State for Defense, along with a copy of the Sunday Times article which I refer to in the letter. I am sure that you will share my concern about this matter, it occurs to me that Parliament and the Public should be informed of the circumstances surrounding this incident. A simple denial of responsibility by the Ministry of Defense is not sufficient, I would be grateful therefore if you would pursue this matter, and if possible question the Government in the House of Commons.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

COPY

Section 40

10th June 1991.

Mr Tom King M.P.,
The Secretary of State for Defence,
Ministry of Defence,
Whitehall,
London.

Dear Mr King,

I refer to an incident reported in 'The Sunday Times' dated 5th May 1991, in which it was alledged that an unidentified 'missile' almost collided with an Alitalia passenger airliner en route from Milan to London. It was also reported that the near miss occurred almost directly above a Ministry of Defence firing range. I understand, however, that the Ministry of Defence has stated that the object had not originated from any British armed forces. The corollary of this statement is that some (assumedly unauthorised) agency is launching projectiles in British airspace, thereby creating a very serious threat to civilian air traffic.

I have conducted some personal research into reports of such unidentified incursions into our airspace and it appears that this is by no means an isolated incident.

I should like to know the findings of investigations into this matter carried out by the Ministry of Defence, and what actions Her Majesty's Government intend to take to ensure the safety of aircraft. I urge you to authorise a public enquiry into this and the many similar cases of such intrusions into British airspace.

A copy of this letter has been sent to my member of Parliament, Mr Paul Murphy M.P.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

Jet in near miss with 'myste

THE mystery of how a passenger jet almost collided with an unidentified missile over Kent is being investigated by the Civil Aviation Authority.

The incident occurred as the Alitalia jet carrying 57 people crossed the Kent coast en route from Milan to London two weeks ago.

The pilot, Captain Achille Zaghetto, said he saw an object, which he described as a missile, travelling in the opposite direction, less than 300m away. At the same time an image was detected on radar at London Air Traffic Control Centre, West Drayton.

A CAA spokesman said:

"Extensive inquiries have failed to provide any indication of what the sighting may have been." The Ministry of Defence said the missile had not originated from any British armed forces.

The Alitalia jet, a McDonnell Douglas MD80, was travelling on one of the busiest air lanes in the world, which carries holidaymakers and business travellers from the Continent to London and North America.

The pilot described the missile as "light brown and three metres long". His report was logged by air traffic

controllers at West Drayton, the control centre for flights into London, on Sunday, April 21, at 9pm. Radar operators simultaneously observed a trace 10 nautical miles behind the plane, consistent with the pilot's report.

Duncan Lennox, editor of Jane's Strategic Weapons Systems, said the description fitted that of a target missile or "drone," used for artillery and air defence practice. Target missiles are typically 3.5m long, turbojet powered and fly at about 400mph.

The reported near miss occ-

INSIDE

urred almost directly above Lydd Ranges, a Ministry of Defence firing range in Kent. The area, marked on navigational charts as danger zone D044, is run from Shorncliffe Camp, 10 miles away.

Air traffic controllers at Lydd airport confirmed that weapons testing was carried out at the Lydd range directly under the flight path.

"The MoD notify us when they're firing up to 6,500 feet with live stuff. We're never told of any missiles. It's all top

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(Incomplete photocopy of article sent in by member of public)

'Mystery missile' over Kent coast

LIGHT

secret," said Cleo Proctor, duty controller.

But an MoD spokesman denied there were any military operations in the area. "The area in question, because it's a very busy civilian route, is not somewhere we are allowed to exercise," he said.

According to Lennox, a target missile, although it does not carry a warhead, could destroy an aircraft. "If it hit the cockpit, it would kill the crew and bring down the airliner."

A rogue missile was the sus-

pected cause of the mysterious crash of an Aer Lingus Viscount, which plummeted into the Irish Sea from 17,000ft, with the loss of 61 lives, in 1968.

New light was shed on the mystery when in 1974 fisherman trawled up fragments of a target missile or pilotless aircraft. The Viscount was on a flight path south of the military rocket testing range at Aberporth, on the Welsh coast.

The CAA publicly confirmed the sighting over Lydd only last Friday. It said the pilot had described a "missile-shaped" object. But Zaghetto

was specific in his account to air traffic controllers that what he had seen was a missile.

CAA experts first thought the object might have been an optical illusion. But a radar recording confirmed that the object had left a distinct trace. No other aircraft were in the area.

Al Reid, the operations supervisor at London air traffic control who interviewed Zaghetto after he landed at Heathrow, said the sighting was confirmed by the plane's co-pilot. Both saw it for two or three seconds.

Reid said it was conceivable that the pilot might have seen

an optical illusion and that the radar trace could have been a cloud. "We're really flummoxed," he said.

In 1980 an Italian DC9 vanished into the sea near Sicily with the loss of all 81 people aboard. A radar recording showed an unidentified flying object on collision course with the plane just before it disappeared from the screen.


Two years later another Italian DC9 was flying at 27,000ft when it was narrowly missed by a mystery object that exploded close by. Passengers said they saw a "fast-moving projectile, like a missile".

File: 12/4

D/US of S(AF) ADG 1542

Sec(AS) & A ^{COM}

A copy for your information.

Section 40


for PS/US of S(AF)
Section 40

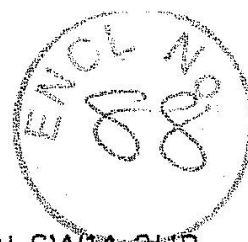

Date: 20/2/90

Copied to:



MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
MAIN BUILDING WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2HB

Telephone **Section 40** (Direct Dialling)
[REDACTED] (Switchboard)



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

D/US of S(AF)ADG 1542

25th February 1990

Dear William,

Thank you for your Private Secretary's letter of 29 January which enclosed a letter from you constituent **Section 40** [REDACTED] **Section 40** [REDACTED] on the subject of Unidentified Flying Objects (UFOs).

I think it would be helpful if I first of all explain that the Ministry of Defence's sole interest in the UFO phenomenon is to establish whether or not reported sightings of UFOs present a threat to the security and defence of the United Kingdom using a judgement based on military expertise and an analysis of the available information. Unless it is judged that a sighting does present a threat, and I would like to confirm that this has not been the case so far, no further attempt is made to investigate whatever might have been seen.

The Ministry of Defence has no department which is appointed solely for the purpose of studying reports of UFOs and we have no staff employed full time on the subject. This being so, we do not have the resources to undertake any detailed research or general survey. The sighting reports we receive, which are usually limited to the brief details of the incident passed on to us by those who witnessed them, are referred to the appropriate staff including those responsible for air defence, who consider them as part of their normal duties.

Moving on to **Section 40** [REDACTED] request for information, I feel it would be appropriate to make the point that, like any other Government Department all Ministry of Defence files are subject to the Public Records Act which states that official files generally remain closed from public view for thirty years after the last action has been taken, and therefore the Ministry of Defence cannot release material "en bloc" prior to the thirty year point. Although any related material over the age of thirty years is available to the public from the Public Records Office at Kew, the material currently available does not include UFO reports themselves since, as was stated in the House of Lords by Viscount Long in April 1982, prior to 1967 the Ministry of Defence maintained a policy of destroying UFO reports after five years.

The Rt Hon William Waldegrave MP

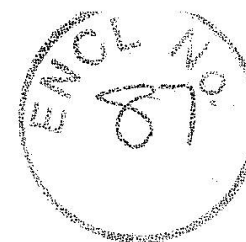


However, I am pleased to say that since then reports have been preserved.

I hope this is helpful.

Yours truly
Thomas

The Earl of Arran



1 x 6 sheets

M2

APS/US of S(AF)
through Head of Sec(AS)

1. I attach at E2 a straightforward draft reply to William Waldegrave's letter of 29 January 1990.
2. The draft reply follows the standard line on the Department's interest in UFOs and explains the position on public access to reports.

13 Feb 90

Section 40

Sec(AS)2a

Section 40

D/US of S(AF) ADG 1542

Thank you for your letter of 29 January to Tom King enclosing a letter from your constituent Section 40 Section 40 on the subject of Unidentified Flying Objects (UFOs). As this subject falls within my area of responsibility, I have been asked to reply.

I think it would be helpful if I first of all explain that the Ministry of Defence's sole interest in the UFO phenomenon is to establish whether or not reported sightings of UFOs present a threat to the security and defence of the United Kingdom using a judgement based on military expertise and an analysis of the available information. Unless it is judged that a sighting does present a threat, and I would like to confirm that this has not been the case so far, no further attempt is made to investigate whatever might have been seen.

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appropriate staff including those responsible for air defence, who consider them as part of their normal duties.

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I hope that you will find this helpful.

A D G

The Rt Hon William Waldegrave MP

Section 40

Mr. William Waldegrave MP,
House of Commons,
Westminster,
London W1A 0AA.

22nd January 1989

Dear Sir,

I am an active member of Quest International, a worldwide organisation concerned with the investigation of UFO sightings and all such related phenomena.

? ||
As my local MP, I am requesting your help into obtaining government documents relating to sighting reports and all other information on unidentified possible alien-controlled craft. I am aware that such documents exist and see no reason why they should not be made public. I assure you that any reply you make to the contrary will be met by further correspondence until a satisfactory reply is received.

I trust my request is not unreasonable and look forward to hearing from you in due course.

Yours faithfully,

Section 40

Section 40

D/US of S(AF) ADG 1010.

Sec (AS) 200

A copy for your information.

Section 40

for PS/US of S(AF)
MB Section 40

Date:

29 DEC 1989

Copied to:



MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
 MAIN BUILDING WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2HB

Telephone **Section 40** (Direct Dialling)
 (Switchboard)



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

D/US of S(AF)ADG 1010

30th December 1989

Dear Michael,

Thank you for your letter of 28 November 1989 enclosing a letter from your constituent **Section 40** on the subject of Unidentified Flying Objects (UFOs).

I think it would be helpful if I first of all explain that the Ministry of Defence's sole interest with the UFO phenomenon is to establish whether or not reported sightings of UFOs present a threat to the defence and security of the United Kingdom using a judgement based on military expertise and an analysis of the available information. Unless it is judged that a sighting does present a threat, and I would like to confirm that this has not been the case so far, no further attempt is made to investigate whatever might have been seen.

Although we believe that the vast majority of reported sightings can adequately and rationally be explained in terms of known phenomena, I hope **Section 40** will understand that as we do not attempt to identify or investigate any sightings beyond the point of establishing whether or not it poses a threat, the vast majority of sightings which are passed to us, remain by definition, unidentified. **Section 40** may be assured that there is no cover up or conspiracy of silence on the issue of UFO sightings.

Moving now to **Section 40** request for information, I would like to confirm that, as is the case in all Government Departments, Ministry of Defence files are subject to the Public Records Act. There is no UK equivalent to the US Freedom of Information Act. Although the Public Records Act does not allow for the release of material "en bloc" before the thirty year point, any related material over this age is available to the public from the Public Records Office at Kew. The material currently available in the Public Records Offices does not include UFO reports themselves since, as Viscount Long stated in the House of Lords in April 1982, prior to 1967 the Ministry of Defence maintained a policy

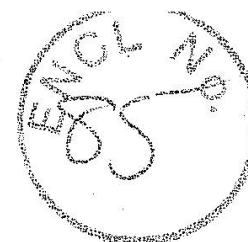
Michael Stern Esq MP

of destroying UFO reports after five years but reports since then
have been preserved.

I hope that you will find this helpful.

Yours sincerely
Robert Arran

The Earl of Arran



M2

APS/US of S(AF)
through Section 40 [redacted]

1. I attach at E2 a self explanatory draft reply to Michael Stern's letter of 28 November 89.

2. The draft reply follows the standard line on the Department's interest in UFOs and explains the position on public access to reports.

21/12/89

Section 40 [redacted]

Sec(AS)2a

Section 40 [redacted]

D/US of S(AF) ADG 1010

Thank you for your letter of 28 November 1989 enclosing a letter from your constituent **Section 40** **Section 40** on the subject of Unidentified Flying Objects (UFOs).

I think it would be helpful if I first of all explain that the Ministry of Defence's sole interest with the UFO phenomenon is to establish whether or not reported sightings of UFOs present a threat to the defence and security of the United Kingdom using a judgement based on military expertise and an analysis of the available information. Unless it is judged that a sighting does present a threat, and I would like to confirm that this not been the case so far, no further attempt is made to investigate whatever might have been seen.

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Moving now to **Section 40** request for information, I would like to confirm that, as is the case in all Government

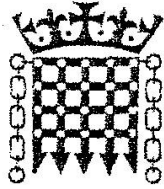
Departments, Ministry of Defence files are subject to the Public Records Act. There is no UK equivalent to the US Freedom of Information Act. Although the Public Records Act does not allow for the release of material "en bloc" before the thirty year point, any related material over this age is available to the public from the Public Records Office at Kew. The material currently available in the Public Records Offices does not include UFO reports themselves since, as Viscount Long stated in the House of Lords in April 1982, prior to 1967 the Ministry of Defence maintained a policy of destroying UFO reports after five years but reports since then have been preserved.

I hope that you will find this helpful.

A D G

Michael Stern MP

Michael Stern, MP.



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

Sec AB
ENCL 1/1
80

ENCL 1
|

The Earl of Arran
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State
for the Armed Forces
Ministry of Defence
Main Building
Whitehall, London SW1 2HB

28th November 1989

The Earl of Arran

QUEST INTERNATIONAL - **Section 40**

I am enclosing a copy of a letter received from the above constituent regarding UFO's. I would be very grateful if you could send me a reply suitable to forward to **Section 40** following his request for information on this subject.

Michael Stern

MICHAEL STERN

eNC

*and
01/12/89.*

REGIONAL



CO-ORDINATOR

Quest International
Section 40

20/11/70.

Dear Mr. Stern,

I am writing to you in my official capacity of Area Regional Co-Ordinator for the Bristol area, representing the above mentioned organisation.

Quest International is a private investigative bureau based in the United Kingdom; the organisation is dedicated to the scientific research of Unidentified Flying Object phenomena.

Quest International recognise the fact that no single aspect of the phenomena should be overlooked or adhered to. The organisation therefore has no single viewpoint or hypothesis regarding UFO's, but studies many different options and research categories.

I am writing to you personally for your help. It is no longer a case of whether UFO's exist, they do; despite the secrecy thrown over the phenomena from certain groups throughout each world Government. Taking a look at this from one angle I can understand the need for serious investigation by each Government, whose airspace is breached by an unknown craft, but to state that no department within the Government is in any way interested or carrying out investigations is too much to expect people to believe, although I suspect a great number do, being more interested with their own lives.

What I am requesting of you is 'Under The Freedom Of Information Act' to forward me as many Government UFO related document's that are available, apertaining to sightings across the United Kingdom.

I am aware that many documents that exist will probably be unavailable due to them effecting national security, but as many Governments have already stated, UFO's do not exist, so why should they affect national security?

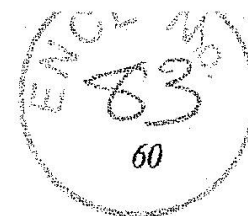
I appreciate that you are very busy, but would welcome any help you can offer me with this request.

Yours Sincerely,

Section 40

Area Regional Co-Ordinator.

17 OCTOBER 1989



The number of persons who appeal against the decision to qualify unemployment benefit because they were compelled to have left their employment voluntarily without just cause are not separately identified from other claimants who appeal against the decision of an adjudication officer.

DEFENCE

Kurt Waldheim

Mr. Andrew Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he will publish the results of the review of the 1986 investigation into the fate of captive British servicemen and the possible involvement of the then Lieutenant Waldheim.

Mr. Archie Hamilton: My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister announced on 16 February 1988 that a review would be undertaken of the results of the investigation carried out in 1986 by the Ministry of Defence into the fate of British servicemen and the possible involvement of the then Lieutenant Waldheim. This was in the light, of both the report of the Commission set up by the Austrian Government, which had access to a wider range of sources than those available for the 1986 investigation, and of the continued questioning of Lieutenant Waldheim's role. Her Majesty's Government have now conducted most thorough inquiries into the allegations concerning his role in areas of specific British interest. The results of this review have been recorded in a report, which I have placed to-day in the Library of the House, and which is being published by HMSO.

The review has been solely concerned with areas of British interest and has centred on the cases of British servicemen, mostly members of the special forces, captured between October 1943 and October 1944 in Greece and the Greek islands under the control of the German Army Group E, in whose headquarters Lieutenant Waldheim was then serving as a junior staff officer. These cases, covering over 80 British servicemen, include both those brought to the attention of the Ministry of Defence and others identified during the research for this review. The review has not looked at other allegations concerning Lieutenant Waldheim's involvement in areas not related to British interests.

The review has involved long and painstaking research. The historical evidence and the documents gathered have been examined and analysed by the director of Army legal services who is well versed in the laws of war and who retains a residual responsibility for the prosecution of war crimes. His duty is to examine the evidence that has been put before him and advise whether, on that evidence, there is a case for a potential accused to answer. After very careful consideration his conclusion concerning the then Lieutenant Waldheim is that there is no evidence from which guilt of a war crime might be inferred.

The report indicates that Lieutenant Waldheim knew of the capture of the British service men and the possible fate of "Commandos", but no evidence has come to light to indicate that as a junior staff officer he had the power either to order or to prevent that fate or indeed to affect the outcome in any way. Knowledge in such circumstances is not itself a crime. Her Majesty's Government have accepted the findings of the report.

The report also deals with British knowledge of Lieutenant Waldheim's wartime role and the post-war handling of relevant records. Allegations that records were altered, destroyed or withheld to protect President Waldheim are shown to be unfounded. He was not wanted by the United Kingdom either as a "top Nazi" or as a war criminal. In order to clarify these issues virtually all the most relevant papers have been included as annexes to the report. A very few documents have either not been published or not in full, on the ground of security or personal sensitivity. All these documents have been examined by Professor Sir Harry Hinsley, lately the Master of St. John's college, Cambridge, who agreed to scrutinise the results of the review in order to ensure its objectivity and thoroughness. I draw the House's attention to his statement in the report, in which he vouches for the validity of the conclusions drawn from these documents. On the question of President Waldheim's alleged post-war involvement with foreign intelligence services and his election to the United Nations, I do not intend to break the practice of successive Governments by commenting on such matters but I commend detailed consideration of the report.

Research has concentrated on the main archives in this country, in Germany and America, but other archives were consulted, as well as individuals whose wartime service was of relevance or who had some other expertise to offer. Although it can never be said that any historic report is definitively the last word, I am satisfied that the investigation has produced, from the thousands of documents examined, what we believe to be the main relevant records. These have established a pattern showing the events, and the responsibilities of the German headquarters' officers involved in those events. We therefore feel justified in bringing this long exercise to a conclusion now, and publishing the results.

A factor in this decision has been the need to consider the feelings of the relatives of the missing service men. I very much regret that it has not been possible to resolve all the outstanding questions about what finally happened to the missing service men, although I should like to assure the House that any further information that may come to light will be passed on to the families.

Cornfield Circles

Mr. Colvin: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether any official assistance has been given by service personnel to civilians investigating the origin of cornfield circles in Hampshire and Wiltshire; and if he will make a statement.

Mr. Archie Hamilton: I am not aware of any official assistance having been given by service personnel to civilians investigating the origin of crop circles.

Defence Technology Enterprises Limited

Mr. Sillars: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many licences have been arranged by Defence Technology Enterprises Ltd.; and how many recipients are companies registered in Scotland.

Mr. Neubert: Defence Technology Enterprises Ltd. has arranged 38 licences. Two are with companies registered in Scotland.

X

answer on Tues... 17 Oct... by PQ No.
 first reply required by 12.00 Fri... 13 Oct... 6834E
 12/4
 ENCL
 82
 1 X 3 sheets

Sec(AS)2

ACTION DIVISION:

Draft approved by	Signature or Initials	Contact Tel No	Question copied by Action Division to:
Section 40			
Secretary of State			Answer copied to:- As above plus: GS Sec
Minister(AF)			
Minister(DP)			
S of S(AF)			
S of S(DP)			

Type of Question:- First Order Oral (No); Non Priority Written; Supplementary Questions are not required.

Please type Member's name, party, constituency and Question here

Mr Michael Colvin (Romsey and Waterside): To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, whether any official assistance has been given by service personnel to civilians investigating the origin of cornfield circles in Hampshire and Wiltshire; and if he will make a statement.

DRAFT ANSWER

My department is not aware of any official assistance having been given by service personnel to civilians investigating the origin of crop circles.

BACKGROUND NOTEPQ 6834E

1. There has been considerable media coverage recently of the phenomenon of "crop circles" and various suggestions have been put forward by groups, including the British UFO Research Association, and individuals as to the most likely origins. These suggestions range from UFO landings, to unusual meteorological effects and include the possibility that at least some of the circles are the work of hoaxers.

2. Enquiries have not revealed any official assistance from service personnel to those investigating the phenomenon. A Written Answer to Teddy Taylor MP on 11 July (copy attached) confirmed that the MoD is not carrying out its own enquiries and is satisfied that the circles are not the result of damage caused by service helicopter activity.

Helicopters

88. **Sir Michael McNair-Wilson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what low-flying restrictions are imposed on service helicopters.

Mr. Neubert: The general regulations governing the use of the United Kingdom low flying system by fixed-wing aircraft apply also to rotary wing aircraft but with appropriate modifications to take account of their different capabilities.

Railgun

90. **Mr. Wallace:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will report on the progress of the Railgun project.

Mr. Sainsbury: I refer to the replies that I gave to the hon. Member for Clackmannan (Mr. O'Neil) on 28 June, column 456.

Independent European Programme Group

92. **Mr. Ian Taylor:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what progress is being made through the Independent European Programme Group in achieving a more open defence market among North Atlantic Treaty Organisation allies.

Mr. Sainsbury: Significant progress is being made by the Independent European Programme Group towards the creation of an open European defence equipment market, based on measures set out in the action plan approved by Ministers at the Luxembourg meeting in November 1988. At their subsequent meeting in Lisbon on 28 June this year, Ministers reviewed the steps being taken to achieve the key objectives. The central feature of the open market is the dissemination to potential suppliers of information about bidding opportunities. To this end, Governments have now nominated one or more focal points to which companies in other Independent European Programme Group countries can register interest in bidding for defence contracts. Countries have also agreed to publish contracts bulletins by the turn of the year. The bulletins will be similar to those already issued by the United Kingdom and France. This more open market will bring benefits to all participating states. It will also be of considerable value to the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation as a whole by enhancing efficient procurement and thereby strengthening the European contribution to the Alliance. With this in mind the Independent European Programme Group will continue to discourage any protectionist tendencies on either side of the Atlantic. Another important initiative which complements the open market is the creation of a European technology plan—to be known as Euclid—which will foster co-operation in research among Independent European Programme Group nations. During its current chairmanship of the Independent European Programme Group, the United Kingdom's aim will be to ensure that the work of the group is taken forward effectively in the best interests of all the allies.

Toxic Waste

Dr. Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if, pursuant to his reply to the hon. Member for Newport,

West (Mr. Flynn), *Official Report*, 19 June, column 60, on toxic waste at Ministry of Defence premises, he will give the reason why it is not the practice to release details of such materials; and if he will consider revising his policy towards publication in line with the practice adopted by United States military facilities.

Mrs. Wise: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what is the basis for his policy not to disclose details of radioactive and toxic waste stored or disposed of at Ministry of Defence premises.

Mr. Sainsbury: Disclosure of such information could indicate the scale and nature of operations in certain programmes on which detailed revelation would not be in the national interest.

Fuel Containers (Devon)

Mr. Speller: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make a statement on the circumstances in which two 10ft x 2ft fuel containers were dropped at Stowford Cross in North Devon on Thursday 29 June; and what steps he is taking to prevent this happening in the future.

Mr. Neubert: The fuel containers in question were jettisoned by a Royal Navy Sea Harrier operating from the Royal Naval air station at Yeovilton, while the aircraft was on an air combat training exercise. The aircraft unintentionally went into a spin and the pilot, following the correct procedures, released the fuel tanks as part of his spin recovery action. The fuel tanks were empty at the time. A local investigation has established that the pilot was not in breach of any regulations.

To minimise the risk to the public, air combat training is carried out over the least populated areas available and always well away from towns and cities. It is also very rare for a Sea Harrier to enter into a spin in this way. The risk therefore of a repetition of this incident or of any consequent injury to persons on the ground is considered to be remote.

Cereal Fields

Mr. Teddy Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what progress has been made in the inquiries initiated by Army helicopters based in the south-west in investigating the origin of flattened circular areas of wheat; and if he will make a statement.

Mr. Neubert: The Ministry of Defence is not conducting any inquiries into the origins of flattened circular areas of crops. However, we are satisfied that they are not caused by service helicopter activity.

Service Children Education Authority

Mr. Key: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many children currently attend schools run by the service children education authority in (a) north-west Europe, (b) Gibraltar, (c) Hong Kong, (d) Cyprus and (e) elsewhere.

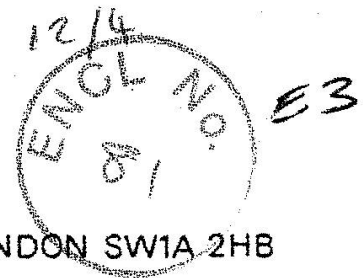
Mr. Neubert: Figures at summer term 1989:

	Number
North West Europe	23,880
Gibraltar	679
Hong Kong	1,610



MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
MAIN BUILDING WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2HB

Telephone **Section 40** (Direct Dialling)
Section 40 (Switchboard)



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

D/US of S(AF) MJN 1754

24 August 1989

Dear Alan,

Thank you for your letter of 30 June to Virginia Bottomley, enclosing a letter from your constituent **Section 40**

Section 40 on the subject of Unidentified Flying Objects (UFOs).

Contrary to the advice given by the House Library this subject falls within my area of responsibility and your letter has therefore been passed to me for reply.

I think it would be helpful if I first of all clarify the Ministry of Defence's involvement with the UFO phenomenon. As **Section 40** correctly mentions, our sole interest with the subject is to ensure that reported sightings do not present a threat to the defence and security of the United Kingdom. However, I can not agree, with your constituent that such an interest indicates that the Department is therefore necessarily involved with the investigation of reported sightings. Indeed **Section 40** **Section 40** may be assured that, unless we judge that a sighting does present a threat, and I would like to confirm that this has not been the case so far, no further attempt is made to investigate whatever might have been seen. As far as establishing whether or not a sighting can be considered to be a threat, we take a pragmatic view and determine whether there is any possibility that the report could have been related to an incoming intruder into UK air space such as a Soviet BEAR or BADGER aircraft.

Although we believe that the vast majority of reported sightings can be adequately and rationally explained in terms of known phenomena, I hope **Section 40** will understand that as we do not attempt to identify or investigate any sighting beyond the point of establishing whether or not it poses a threat, the vast majority of sightings which are passed to us, remain by definition, unidentified. As a rule, the only sightings that are positively identified are those which can be clearly attributed to a well known natural occurrence or those which are evidently the result of misidentification of RAF aircraft known to be operating at the time and in the location of the sighting.

Moving now to **Section 40** last point, I would like to confirm that like all Government departments, Ministry of Defence files are subject to the Public Records Act. Although this does not allow for the release of material 'en bloc' before the 30 year point, any related material over this age is available to the public from the Public Records Office at Kew. However, as Viscount Long stated in the House of Lords in April 1982, prior to 1967 the Ministry maintained a policy of destroying UFO reports after 5 years. Nevertheless, I am pleased to say that since then reports have been preserved.

I hope that you will find this helpful.

Yours sincerely,
Michael Neubert

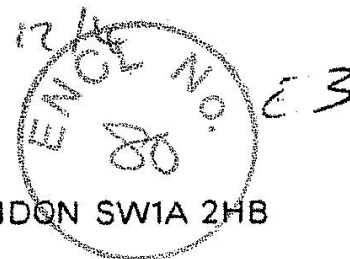
Michael Neubert

Alan Meale Esq MP



MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
MAIN BUILDING WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2HB

Telephone **Section 40** (Direct Dialling)
Section 40 (Switchboard)



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

D/US of S(AF) MJN 1763

2nd August 1989

Dear Stan,

Thank you for your letter of 3 July to The Lord Brabazon of Tara enclosing a letter from your constituent **Section 40** Rotherham, on the subject of Unidentified Flying Objects (UFOs). This subject falls within my area of responsibility and your letter has therefore been passed to me for reply.

I think it would be helpful if I first of all explain that the Ministry of Defence's sole interest with the UFO phenomenon is to establish whether or not reported sightings of UFOs present a threat to the defence and security of the United Kingdom using a judgement based on military expertise and an analysis of the available information. Unless we judge that a sighting does present a threat, and I would like to confirm that this has not been the case so far, no further attempt is made to investigate whatever might have been seen.

Although we believe that the vast majority of reported sightings can be adequately and rationally explained in terms of known phenomena, I hope **Section 40** will understand that as we do not attempt to identify or investigate any sighting beyond the point of establishing whether or not it poses a threat, the vast majority of sightings which are passed to us, remains by definition, unidentified. **Section 40** may therefore be assured that there is no cover up or conspiracy of silence on the issue of UFO sightings.

Moving now to **Section 40** points about the alleged UFO sighting at Rendlesham Forest in December 1980, I would like to confirm that the only information we have on this matter is the report by Colonel Charles Halt, of the United States Air Force. We are satisfied that the events described are of no defence significance and once again I can assure you that there is no question of attempting to cover up any incident or mishap, nor are we attempting in any way to obscure the truth.

I hope that you will find this helpful.

Yours sincerely,
Michael Neubert
Michael Neubert

Stan Crowther Esq MP

ENCLOSURE No.
79

IX 31 helix

M2

APS/US of S(AF)
through Section 40

1. I attach at E2 a self explanatory draft reply to Stan Crowther's letter of 3 July 89.
2. The draft reply refutes the suggestion that the Department is in some way covering up or concealing the truth about UFOs and reiterates our view that the Rendlesham Forest "sighting" is of no defence significance.

28 July 1989

Section 40

Sec(AS)2a

Section 40

D/US of S(AF) MJN 1763

Thank you for your letter of 3 July to The Lord Brabazon of Tara enclosing a letter from your constituent **Section 40** **Section 40** on the subject of Unidentified Flying Objects (UFOs). This subject falls within my area of responsibility and your letter has therefore been passed to me for reply.

I think it would be helpful if I first of all explain that the Ministry of Defence's sole interest with the UFO phenomenon is to establish whether or not reported sightings of UFOs present a threat to the defence and security of the United Kingdom using a judgement based on military expertise and an analysis of the available information. Unless we judge that a sighting does present a threat, and I would like to confirm that this not been the case so far, no further attempt is made to investigate whatever might have been seen.

Although we believe that the vast majority of reported sightings can adequately and rationally explained in terms of known phenomena, I hope **Section 40** will understand that as we do not attempt to identify or investigate any sighting beyond the point of establishing whether or not it poses a threat, the vast majority of sightings which are passed to us, remain by definition, unidentified. **Section 40** may therefore be assured that there is no cover up or conspiracy of silence on the issue of UFO sightings.

Moving now to **Section 40** points about the alleged UFO sighting at Rendlesham Forest in December 1980, I would like to confirm that the only information we have on this matter is the report by Colonel Charles Halt, of the United States Air Force. We are satisfied that the events described are of no defence significance and once again I can assure you that there is no question of attempting to cover up any incident or mishap, nor are we attempting in any way to obscure the truth.

I hope that you will find this helpful.

M J N

Stan Crowther MP

ENCL No.
78

1 x 5 sheets
file copy

M3

APS/US of S(AF)
through Section 40

1. I attach at E2 a self explanatory draft reply to Alan Meale's letter of 30 Jun 89.
2. Although Section 40 constituent has not corresponded with us directly is nevertheless clear that he has obtained a copy of one of our replies to the public through the UFO Society network.
3. The draft reply endeavours to answer his questions and concentrates on correcting Section 40 erroneous view that the Department involves itself with the investigation of UFOs.

24th July 1989

Section 40

Sec(AS)2a

Section 40

D/US of S(AF) MJN 1754

Thank you for your letter of 30 June to Virginia Bottomley, enclosing a letter from your constituent **Section 40** **Section 40** on the subject of Unidentified Flying Objects (UFOs). Contrary to the advice given by the House Library this subject falls within my area of responsibility and your letter has therefore been passed to me for reply.

I think it would be helpful if I first of all clarify the Ministry of Defence's involvement with the UFO phenomenon. As **Section 40** **Section 40** correctly mentions our sole interest with the subject is to ensure that reported sightings do not present a threat to the defence and security of the United Kingdom. However, I can not agree with your constituent that such an interest indicates that the Department is therefore necessarily involved with the investigation of reported sightings. Indeed **Section 40** may be assured that, unless we judge that a sighting does present a threat, and I would like to confirm that this not been the case so far, no further attempt is made to investigate whatever might have been seen. As far as establishing whether or not a sighting can be considered to be a threat, we take a pragmatic view and determine whether there is any possibility that the report could have been related to an incoming intruder into UK air space such as a Soviet BEAR or BADGER aircraft.

Although we believe that the vast majority of reported sightings can adequately and rationally explained in terms of known phenomena, I hope **Section 40** will understand that as we do not attempt to identify or investigate any sighting beyond the point of establishing whether or not it poses a threat, the vast majority of sightings which are passed to us, remain by definition, unidentified. As a rule, the only sightings that are positively identified are those which can be clearly attributed to a well known natural occurrence or those which are evidently the result of misidentification of RAF aircraft known to be operating at the time and in the location of the sighting.

Moving now to **Section 40** last point, I would like to confirm that like all Government departments, Ministry of Defence files are subject to the Public Records Act. Although this does not allow for the release of material 'en bloc' before the 30 year point, any related material over this age is available to the public from the Public Records Office at Kew. However, as Viscount Long stated in the House of Lords in April 1982, prior to 1967 the Ministry maintained a policy of destroying UFO reports after 5 years. Nevertheless, I am pleased to say that since then reports have been preserved.

I hope that you will find this helpful.

M J N

Alan Meale MP



DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT
2 MARSHAM STREET LONDON SW1P 3EB

Section 40

124 sheets
Sec A8.
77

My ref:

Your ref:

Dear Mr Meale

13 July 1989

Thank you for your letter of 30 June to Mrs Bottomley enclosing one from Section 40 about UFOs.

This is a matter for which the Ministry of Defence has responsibility. I am therefore passing your letter to them for reply.

Yours sincerely

Section 40

Private Secretary

Alan Meale Esq MP

This is 100% recycled paper

ALAN MEALE, MP



~~XHO~~

ABOUR

MANSFIELD

Tel: **Section 40**

HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

2 West Hill Way,
Mansfield,
Notts.

30th June 1989

Tel: **Section 40**

Rt Hon V. Bottomley MP
Dept. of the Environment
House of Commons
LONDON SW1A 0AA

Dear Virginia,

I have been advised by the Library that you have recently taken on responsibility for UFOs, something I suspected would have been granted elsewhere. Recent questions I suspect.

I therefore enclose a copy of a detailed letter which I have received from a constituent on the matter.

I would therefore be grateful for your opinion on this.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'Al' with a flourish.

Alan Meale MP
House of Commons
LON1
SWIA OAA

17 JUN 1989

Section 40

June 12 1989

UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS (U.F.O.s)

Dear Alan,

I am writing to ask if you can please obtain answers to the questions contained herein. Prior to these questions, I would like to bring your attention to the following comments made by the Ministry of Defence:-

1. The M.O.D. claim that their "sole interest in these matters is to establish whether or not reported sightings of UFOs present a threat to the security and defence of the U.K. using judgement based on military expertise and an analysis of the available information"
2. The M.O.D. also claim that they "cannot justify the use of Defence Funds on scientific research and investigations unless a clear threat to the security of the U.K. has been established".
3. It is also claimed by the M.O.D. that "our experience is that most sightings can be adequately and rationally explained in terms of natural occurrences such as satellite debris, meteorological balloons and aircraft lights to mention just a few".
4. The M.O.D. also claim that "like all Government Departments, their files are subject to the Public Records Act which, as you may know, states that official files generally remain closed from public view for 30 years after the last action has been taken".
5. The M.O.D. claim also that "the vast majority of information we have on the subject is limited to sighting reports we have received from the public and that this material is not classified".

After considering the above comments, I would like answers to the following questions:-

- (a) The comments of "using military expertise" and the process to analyse "available information" must obviously indicate the M.O.D. is involved with UFO investigation. What military expertise can be called upon whilst still justifiably using Defence Funds? What is the process used to analyse the "available information", especially as it is not classified? *— Ministry to establish that the sighting could not be considered to be a threat to UK*
- (b) The M.O.D. claim that MOST sightings they refer to can be adequately and rationally explained. What about the remainder of the sightings? *we do not investigate ∴ by definition all sightings remain explained, except in those cases that we know were caused by LAF*
On average, statistics based upon civilian UFO investigation organisations records *by LAF* indicate 95% of sightings can be identified. The remaining 5% still defy explanation.
The M.O.D. claim that between 1978 and 1988 they received 3960 UFO sighting reports. Applying the same percentages, and disregarding 95% as explainable cases, that still leaves 198 cases unidentified.
- (c) Are "most sightings" referred to by the M.O.D. the 95%, whilst the 5% are the rest? *X*
- (d) If so, what is the M.O.D.'s explanation for the remainder of the sightings, after "most" have been identified and explained away? *— we do not investigate*
- (e) As you are doubtless aware, during the 1950s there were many thousands of UFO sightings worldwide. Many of these are on file at the various UFO organisations in the U.K. Undoubtedly, the M.O.D. would have also received UFO sighting reports during these years.
Is it now possible, in 1989, more than 30 years later, to open those files to public view, and if not, what legislation under the Public Records Act prevents this?
- (f) If there is no legislation under the Act preventing them being seen, can an explanation be given as to why the files cannot now be seen?

Yes but regretably all files destroyed in 1960s

I hope that you will be able to obtain answers to my questions on this particularly intriguing subject. Thanking you in anticipation,

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

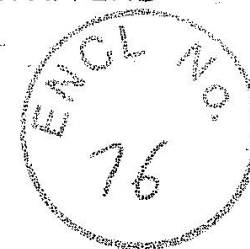
A large black rectangular redaction box covers the signature area. The text "Section 40" is printed in orange at the top left corner of this redacted area.

12/3



MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
 MAIN BUILDING WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2HB

Telephone **Section 40** (Direct Dialling)
Section 40 (Switchboard)



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

D/US of S(AF) MJN 0412

~~25~~ April 1989

Dear Edward,

Thank you for your letter of 4 April enclosing a letter about satellite debris from your constituent, **Section 40**

Section 40

Although there is little more that I can add to my letter of 28 February I think it would be useful if I reiterate that we have no knowledge of any satellite or spacecraft debris entering the Earth's atmosphere over Lincolnshire, or indeed the British Isles as a whole, on the night of 21/22 December. We are, nevertheless, aware of approximately 9 re-entries of debris worldwide which occurred during the two day period in question but can reassure your constituent that it is highly likely that any debris which did not burn up during re-entry would have fallen into the sea.

An investigation beyond our usual monitoring is most unlikely to reveal anything more than we already know. Additionally, I am sure your constituent will understand that it is likely that any significant items of debris which may have landed would have been discovered by those in the locality and that a full scale search of the United Kingdom would not be practicable.

Section 40 suggests that the Lockerbie disaster may have been caused by space debris hitting the aircraft. I can, however, assure him that, having had the opportunity to examine the disaster site, the Government have conclusive evidence that the Lockerbie air crash was caused by internal bomb damage.

I am sorry that I can not be more helpful.

*Yours ever,
 Michael Neubert*

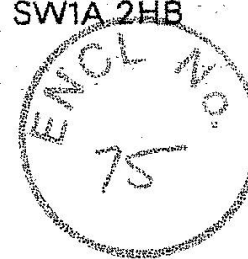
Michael Neubert

Edward Leigh Esq MP

Section 40
2/5 12/9

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
MAIN BUILDING WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2HB

Telephone Section 40 (Direct Dialling)
[redacted] (Switchboard)



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

D/US of S(AF) MJN 0809

19a April 1989

Dear Andrew,

Thank you for your letter of 20 March with the enclosed from your constituent Section 40 on the subject of Unidentified Flying Objects (UFOs).

Section 40 letter covers a lot of ground and I will endeavour to answer his questions in order. Nevertheless, before I do so, I should say that the Ministry of Defence's sole interest in these matters is to establish whether or not reported sightings of UFOs present a threat to the security and defence of the United Kingdom using a judgement based on military expertise and an analysis of the available information. Unless we judge that they do present a threat, and this is not normally the case, no further attempt is made to investigate or identify the phenomenon.

Moreover, I am sure you will appreciate that we do not have the resources to undertake in depth studies and that we could not justify the use of Defence Funds on scientific investigations unless a clear threat to the security of the UK had been identified. This necessarily limits the amount of information we are able to provide.

Moving now however, to points raised in your constituent's letter, I regret that it would be impossible to establish the number of UFO sighting reports that the MOD has ever received but can give an idea of the number received over the last ten years. These figures are attached. As the MOD's involvement with the subject only extends to these sightings which may present a threat to the air defence of the UK, we do not have details of sightings witnessed outside of this country nor can we qualify how many reports could be considered to be misinterpretations or hoaxes. Nevertheless, our experience is that most sightings can be adequately and rationally explained in terms of natural occurrences such as satellite debris, meteorological balloons and aircraft lights to mention just a few.

The MOD does not possess any positive evidence to suggest that "alien" spacecraft have landed or crashed on the planet nor are we aware of any form of communication with extraterrestrials. It would not, of course, be appropriate for me to comment on the official US position with regard to UFOs.

Andrew Mitchell Esq MP

Your constituent is indeed correct to say that the department's Air Staff Secretariat, in addition to its other duties, act as our focal point for those members of the public who wish to correspond about UFOs. Reports are referred to the staffs responsible for the air defence of the UK who examine them as part of their normal duties.

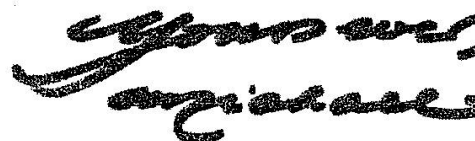
I was interested to read the account of **Section 40** experiences on the night of 12 August 1983 but would like to confirm that we did not receive any reports which might have supported his story, and because no threat to national defence had been demonstrated, the MOD did not investigate the incident.

The only information we have on the usual display of lights witnessed at Rendlesham Forest in December 1980 is the report by Lieutenant Colonel Charles Halt of the United States Air Force, which drew no firm conclusions and, significantly, did not recommend further investigation. Our own view corresponded with this and we are satisfied that the events described were of no defence significance.

Section 40 last question asks about the possible release of information on UFOs in order that any public concern can be dispelled. Firstly, and as I mentioned earlier, I must stress that the vast majority of information we have on the subject is limited to sighting reports that we have received from the public and that this material is unclassified. The second point I would like to make is that, like all Government Departments, MOD files are subject to the Public Records Act which, as you may know, states that official files generally remain closed from public view for 30 years after the last action has been taken. Obviously, this does not allow the MOD to release material 'en bloc' before the 30 year point, although we will be happy to try to answer any specific queries individuals may have about particular incidents which have occurred recently and can advise whether we have received a report on the incident and if so what it contains.

Lastly, I can assure your constituent that the MOD is not trying in any way whatsoever to obscure the truth about UFOs from the public nor do we attempt to cover up any incident.

I hope that you will find this helpful.



Michael Neubert

NUMBER OF UFO SIGHTING REPORTS RECEIVED BY MOD OVER PERIOD 1978-1988

1978	750
1979	550
1980	350
1981	600
1982	250
1983	390
1984	215
1985	180
1986	120
1987	155
1988	400



M4

APS/USofS(AF)
through **Section 40**

*lib copy
12/4*

1. I attach at E6 a fairly straightforward draft reply to Edward Leigh's letter of 4 April 1989.

2. There is little that we can add to the Minister's letter of 28 February, and as such our draft concentrates mainly on restating our earlier points. Given the lack of any conclusive evidence of satellite debris entering the Earth's atmosphere over Lincolnshire and the findings of the agencies involved with establishing the cause of the Lockerbie disaster, we do not believe that an investigation into re-entering satellite debris is necessary nor warranted.

3. The draft has been cleared with the Department of Transport.

17 April 1989

Section 40

Sec(AS)2a

Section 40

original

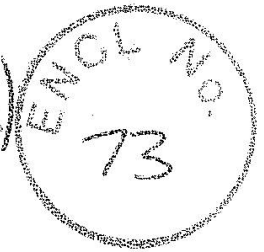
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File copy

D|US of S(AF) MJN 412

April 1989

(1 of 2 PAGES)



Thank you for your letter of 4 April enclosing a letter about satellite debris from your constituent, **Section 40**

Section 40

Although there is little more that I can add to my letter of 28 February I think it would be useful if I reiterate that we have no knowledge of any satellite or spacecraft debris entering the Earth's atmosphere over Lincolnshire, or indeed the British Isles as a whole, on the night of 21/22 December. We are, nevertheless, aware of approximately 9 re-entries of debris world wide which occurred during the two day period in question but can reassure your constituent that it is highly likely that any debris which did not burn up during re-entry would have fallen into the sea.

I should say that an investigation beyond our usual monitoring is most unlikely to reveal anything more than we already know. Additionally, I am sure your constituent will understand that it is likely that any significant items of debris which may have landed would have been discovered by those in the locality and that a full scale search of the United Kingdom would not be practicable.

Section 40 suggests that the Lockerbie disaster may have been caused by space debris hitting the aircraft. I can, however,

assure him that, having had the opportunity to examine the disaster site, the Government have conclusive evidence that the Lockerbie air crash was caused by internal bomb damage. On a more general note, **Section 40** may also be interested to know that we have been advised by the Department of Transport that the chances of an aircraft being hit by a particle of space debris is assessed as being once in every eight hundred years.

I am sorry that I can not be more helpful.

Edward Leigh Esq MP

Michael Neubert