

Registered File Disposal Form

FILE TITLE: (Main Heading - Secondary Heading - Tertiary Heading etc)
WFOs
PQs/PEs

Reference:
(Prefix and Number):
D/Sec(NS) 64/4
Part: *C*

PROTECTIVE MARKING (including caveats & descriptors): **UNCLASSIFIED**

Date of last enclosure: *10.7.97*

Date closed:

PART 1. DISPOSAL SCHEDULE RECOMMENDATION
(To be completed when the file is closed)

Destroy after _____ years

Forward to CS(RM) after *10* years
for Permanent Retention

No recommendation

FOR CS(RM) USE ONLY

_____	_____	_____
Date of 1st review	Date of 2nd review	Forward Destruction Date
Reviewer's Signature: _____	Reviewer's Signature: _____	

PART 2. BRANCH REVIEW
(To be completed not later than 4 years after the date of the last enclosure)
(Delete as appropriate)

a. Of no further administrative value and not worthy of permanent preservation: DESTROY IMMEDIATELY (Remember that TOP SECRET and Codeword material cannot be destroyed locally and must be forwarded to CS(RM)).

b. (i) To be retained for *indefinitely* years (from date of last enclosure) for the following reason(s):

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

Public Interest
For permanent retention in The National Archives

(ii) Key enclosures which support the recommendation are:

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

Destroyed

Considered by CS(RM) for permanent preservation

c. Of no further administrative value but worthy of consideration by CS(RM) for permanent preservation.

PART 3. BY **Section 40**

Signature: _____

Name: _____

(Block Capitals)

Grade/Rank: B2

Date: 28/6/04

(Not below HEO/equivalent)

Branch Title and Full Address:

Tel No: _____

PART 4 DESTRUCTION CERTIFICATE

It is certified that the specified file has been destroyed.

Signature: _____

Name: _____

(Block Capitals)

Grade/Rank: _____

Date: _____

Witnessed by (TOP SECRET* and SECRET only)

Signature: _____

Name: _____

(Block Capitals)

Grade/Rank: _____

Date: _____

(FOR CS(RM) USE ONLY)

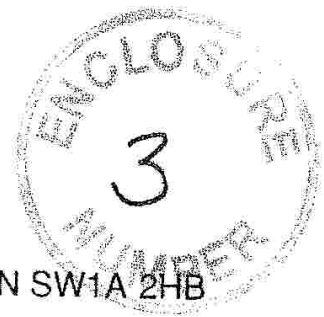
UNCLASSIFIED
RESTRICTED/UNCLASSIFIED

RESTRICTED/UNCLASSIFIED
UNCLASSIFIED



PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE
FOR DEFENCE

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



D/US of S/JS 2508/97/M

28 July 1997

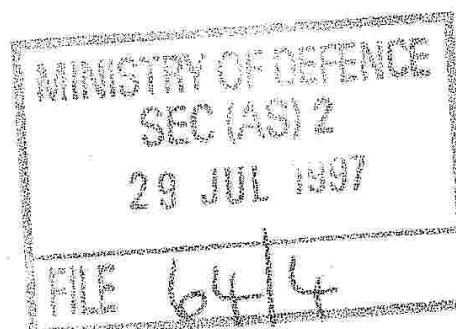
Dear David,

Thank you for your letter of 28 June to George Robertson on behalf of your constituent, **Section 40** about "unidentified flying objects". I am replying in view of my responsibility for this matter.

The events of 5 October 1996 off the Lincolnshire coast received a certain amount of media attention at the time, much of it incorrect, ill-informed and speculative. Our air defence system found no evidence of unidentified flying craft throughout the period in question. Two quite separate phenomena were reported: an unexplained radar plot and lights in the sky. The radar plot observed, which was identified on the National Air Traffic Services Claxby radar in the position of Boston, was judged by experienced operators at two separate locations to be a permanent echo, caused by a natural phenomena (something that does occur in certain weather conditions). It was not suspicious in nature nor of any significance to air or maritime safety, and of no air defence or air concern. The characteristics of the radar plot confirmed beyond reasonable doubt that this judgement was sound.

There was very little reliable or accurate bearing or elevation information in connection with any of the reported sightings of the lights which were observed in the area of The Wash. From that provided, including a copy of police video footage, which was not forwarded to us by the Lincolnshire Police HQ until 5 November, the Greenwich Observatory considered that the lights were of celestial origin and likely to have been Venus which was exceptionally bright during the week in question.

David Chidgey Esq C.Eng FICE MP





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

PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE
FOR DEFENCE

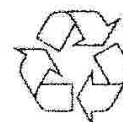
The video recording, which was not taken at the request of the Ministry of Defence as Mr Sears suggests, belongs to a member of the Skegness Police force. Mr Sears may wish to approach them direct or Lincolnshire Police HQ who provided our copy, with a view to obtaining a copy for his own use.

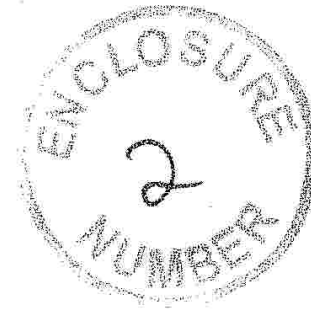
Finally, I should say that I am confident there was no evidence the UK Air Defence Region was compromised on that day and there was, of course, no reason whatsoever, in the light of the this for military action.

I hope this explains the position.

Section 40
[Redacted]

JOHN SPELLAR MP





LOOSE MINUTE

D/Sec(AS)/64/4

9 Jul 97

PE Unit
(thro' Section 40)

LETTER FROM DAVID CHIDGEY MP: US 2508/97

1. Mr Chidgey's constituent, Section 40, has written to Sec(AS) on several occasions over the last 3 years and is well aware of the Department's limited interest in reports of "UFO sightings". The MP has also written on this subject of "UFOs" in general before (May 96) on behalf of another of his constituents.
2. The events referred to in the MP's letter relate to two separate phenomena which were reported in the early hours of Sat 5 Oct 96 in the area of The Wash: an unexplained radar plot and lights in the sky. Although there was no evidence of an unauthorized incursion of the UK Air Defence Region, and as such no further investigation would usually have been conducted, on this occasion the events were subject to a very thorough investigation following media interest and a letter from the late Martin Redmond MP who, at the time, made serious allegations about the effectiveness of the UK Air Defence System (D/USofs/FH/4198/96/M dated 21 November 1996 - copy attached).

BACKGROUND

3. Initial Observations. At approximately 0205Z on 5 October PC Section 40 a Skegness police officer on mobile patrol at Addlethorpe observed stationary multicoloured lights in the sky which he reported to Skegness control room who relayed the message on to Great Yarmouth Coastguard Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre (MRCC) suspecting it might be related to an incident at sea. The MRCC, unaware of any maritime activity, asked the Air Rescue Coordination Centre (ARCC) at RAF Kinloss about any air activity or incident in The Wash area, and with nothing to report, they in turn asked the Control and Reporting Centre (CRC) at RAF Neatishead to check their radar for that area. Neatishead confirmed they had no unidentified radar contact on the air defence radars being used to provide air surveillance in the area. ARCC subsequently checked with the Distress and Diversion (D&D) Cell (which is located at the London Air Traffic Control Centre (LATCC) West Drayton and not RAF Northwood as the Coastguard erroneously assumed and the press subsequently reported) for advice. The D&D Cell advised a radar plot on the NATS Claxby radar over Boston and this information was passed through ARCC to MRCC. CRC Neatishead having by now conducted a search on all available radar displays, observed the same plot on the same Claxby radar in the same position. For reasons that are unclear,

MRCC associated the police officer's report of lights with the radar return over Boston.

4. Actions by Air Defence System. CRC Neatishead's inquiries revealed no sign of air movements or military exercises in the area and there was no evidence of unidentified air activity. The stationary radar plot, without associated height or IFF/SSR (Identification Friend or Foe/Secondary Surveillance Radar) was judged by experienced operators at both Neatishead and the D&D Cell to be a permanent echo. The separate, stationary, lights were judged to be some form of natural phenomena, not suspicious in nature nor of significance to air or maritime safety, and of no air defence or air concern. No flying craft had either penetrated the UKADR or was present on any radar and no recommendation to scramble a Quick Reaction Alert aircraft from RAF Leuchars to investigate either the permanent echo showing on the stationary radar plot, or the reported lights, was sought.

5. Subsequent Reporting. MRCC assumed a coordination role and continued to seek further information on both the radar plot and the lights. At the instigation of the coastguard, further interest in the radar plot was kept alive and involved LATCC(Civil), LATCC(Military), Anglia Radar and Waddington Approach; and with the involvement of a tanker vessel at sea (MV CONOCOAST), Boston and Skegness Police Forces and LATCC(Civil) in the lights until they disappeared with the dawn.

INVESTIGATION OF RADAR PLOT AND VISUAL SIGHTINGS

6. The Boston Radar Plot. The radar Plot was observed in the position of Boston on the NATS sensor at Claxby by the D&D Cell and CRC Neatishead, although neither uses that radar on a routine basis for surveillance or aircraft control in The Wash area. Later, the plot was observed by Anglia Radar at Stanstead and the Claxby radar display. The radar plot was always single and stationary and defied attempts to obtain height or IFF/SSR information on it. Significantly, it was never present on radar displays from the NATS sensors at Cromer and Debden nor on the air defence radar at Trimmingham. The characteristics of the plot confirm beyond reasonable doubt that it was a permanent radar echo. The fact that it could only be detected by the closest sensors indicated a relatively low physical feature which appears as a permanent radar echo only in certain weather conditions and was most likely the 273ft Spire of St Botolph's Church, Boston (the 'Boston Stump').

7. Stationary Lights. Various sightings of lights were made between approximately 0205Z and dawn by observers at Skegness and Boston and on board the Section 40 some 8 miles to the east of Skegness. However, neither the police at Kings Lynn when asked at 0227Z, nor the cargo vessel, Section 40, some 16nms ENE of Skegness, at 0240Z observed any unusual lights. The crews of two civilian airliners flying through the area at 0557Z reported no sightings of lights when asked by LATCC(Civil). Only the original

report by PC **Section 40** was unsolicited. Although there was little reliable or accurate bearing and elevation information in connection with the sightings the observations were assessed by the Royal Greenwich Observatory. They surmise the likely source of the Boston Police sighting as the planet Venus which was exceptionally bright in the early morning sky on 5 October. Their assessment of the Skegness Police video film (which was not, as reported by the media, forwarded to MOD at the time but only after repeated requests for sight of it), was that it was also likely to be the planet Venus. They could offer no explanation for either set of lights observed from the **Section 40**

CONCLUSION

8. Detailed research at the time did not reveal evidence or admissions that alarming or extraordinary events were witnessed on 5 Oct 96. The radar plot observed in a position at Boston was a permanent radar echo. It was correctly assessed as such by CRC Neatishead and no further air defence related action was necessary. The bright stationary lights observed from Boston and Skegness were probably the planet Venus.

9. I apologise for the length of this background note but the events reported at the time required detailed investigation in order to set the record straight. The attached draft reflects the standard lines used previously to explain this event about which Sec(AS) continues to receive a significant amount of correspondence. No subsequent, substantial, information has come to light about this event.

10. I am satisfied that the draft is in accordance with the Government's policy on answering Parliamentary Enquiries and the Open Government Code (DCI Gen 48/97).

Section 40

Sec(AS)2a1

MB8245 **Section 40**

CHOTS: SEC(AS)2A (2)

D/USofS/2508/97

July 1997

Thank you for your letter of 28 June addressed to George Robertson on behalf of your constituent Section 40 about "unidentified flying objects". I am replying in view of my responsibility for this matter.

The events of 5 October 1996 off the Lincolnshire coast received a certain amount of media attention at the time, much of it incorrect, ill-informed and speculative. Our air defence system found no evidence of unidentified flying craft throughout the period in question. Two quite separate phenomena were reported: an unexplained radar plot and lights in the sky. The radar plot observed, which was identified on the National Air Traffic Services Claxby radar in the position of Boston, was judged by experienced operators at two separate locations to be a permanent echo, caused by a natural phenomena (something that does occur in certain weather conditions). It was not suspicious in nature nor of any significance to air or maritime safety, and of no air defence or air concern. The characteristics of the radar plot confirmed beyond reasonable doubt that this judgement was sound.

There was very little reliable or accurate bearing or elevation information in connection with any of the reported sightings of the lights which were observed in the area of The

Wash. From that provided, including a copy of police video footage, which was not forwarded to us by the Lincolnshire Police HQ until 5 November, the Greenwich Observatory considered that the lights were of celestial origin and likely to have been Venus which was exceptionally bright during the week in question.

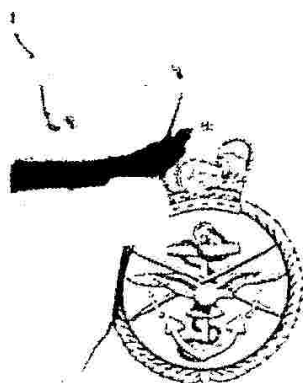
The video recording, which was not taken at the request of the Ministry of Defence as **Section 40** suggests, belongs to a member of the Skegness Police force. **Section 40** may wish to approach them direct or Lincolnshire Police HQ who provided our copy, with a view to obtaining a copy for his own use.

Finally, I should say that I am confident there was no evidence the UK Air Defence Region was compromised on that day and there was, of course, no reason whatsoever, in the light of the this for military action.

I hope this explains the position.

David Chidgey Esq MP

JOHN SPELLAR



21 NOV 1996

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

64/4
 64
 NUMBER

PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE
 FOR DEFENCE

D/US of S/FH 4168/96/M

278v November 1996

Dear Mr. Redmond,

Thank you for your letter of 24 October to Michael Portillo expressing concern about the effectiveness of the UK air defence system. I am replying as this matter falls within my area of responsibility.

I must say at the outset that much of the content of the press reports enclosed with your letter is incorrect, ill-informed and speculative. Much of what you say in your letter is also incorrect.

The facts are that our air defence system found no evidence of unidentified flying craft throughout the period in question. The only radar plot observed, which was identified on the National Air Traffic Services Claxby radar in the position of Boston, was judged by experienced operators at two separate locations to be a permanent echo, caused by a natural phenomena (something that does occur in certain weather conditions), not suspicious in nature nor of any significance to air or maritime safety, and of no air defence or air concern. The characteristics of the radar plot confirm beyond reasonable doubt that this judgement was sound.

There is very little reliable or accurate bearing or elevation information in connection with any of the sightings of lights observed in the area of The Wash. From that provided, including the video which was not forwarded to us by the Lincolnshire Police HQ until 5 November, the Greenwich Observatory view is that the lights were of celestial origin and likely to be Venus which had been exceptionally bright during the week in question.

Martin Redmond Esq MP



I am confident that there is no evidence that the UK Air Defence Region was compromised. There was, of course, no reason whatsoever, in the light of the above for any further military action.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

THE EARL HOWE

PARLIAMENTARY ENQUIRY - FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION**THE GUIDANCE IS NEW : YOU MUST READ IT**

TO: SEC(AS)2 **MINISTRY OF DEFENCE**
SEC(AS)2
-4 JUL 1997 PE REF NUMBER: US 2508/97

MINISTER REPLYING: USOAS **FILE 64/4** DRAFT REQUIRED BY: 15/7/97

DATE: 3/7/97 FROM: **Section 40** PE Unit TEL: **Section 40**

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

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

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

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

1. Ministerial responsibilities changed.

2. Opening and Closing All Ministers prefer to start:

"Thank you for your letter of ... (MP's ref if given) on behalf of/enclosing one from your constituent, Mr ... of ... Toytown about..."
If a Minister is replying on behalf of another Minister start:

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

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

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

"I hope this explains the position"

"I am sorry I cannot be more helpful"

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

3. Open Government A revised Code of Practice on Access to Government Information came into effect in 1997. It is set out in DCI GEN 48/1997.

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

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

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

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

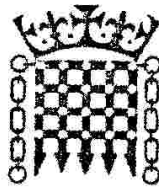
Layout Draft replies should be double spaced. **Always** include the full PE reference number at the top left of the draft.

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

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

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

David Chidgey, C.Eng., FICE, M.P. (Eastleigh)



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

Tel: 0171 219 6944
Fax: 0171 219 2810

US4J
Sec(A2)
UFOs

The Right Hon George Robertson MP
Secretary of State For Defence
Ministry of Defence
Main Building
Whitehall
LONDON
SW1A 2HB

28th June 1997

Unidentified Flying Object - East Anglia 1996.

My constituent, **Section 40** has raised a matter with me regarding the above, which is of some concern to him.

Section 40 who is interested in the subject of UFO's, refers to an incident which he informs me took place over the sea off East Anglia last year. A lighted object apparently hovered and moved around in the sky for several hours. This was witnessed by coastguards, off duty RAF pilots who were fishing, and police who were called in etc. The solution to the matter was apparently a mis-identification of the so-called 'Boston Stump' (a church tower?).

Section 40 believes that a video film of the incident was taken by the police at the request of the Ministry of Defence. He asks why the film is being kept from the public, and when will it be available for public scrutiny or genuine information received about it.

I would be grateful to receive any information your Department may be able to supply on the issue.

Section 40

BRAC
- 2 JUL 1997
ROOM 6134 MAIN BLDG

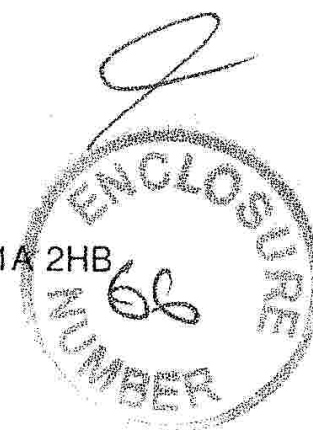
Ref: X/ExS/2/5/3-ho

Constituency Office: 113 Leigh Road, Eastleigh, Hampshire SO50 9DS
Tel: 01703 620007 Fax: 01703 618245

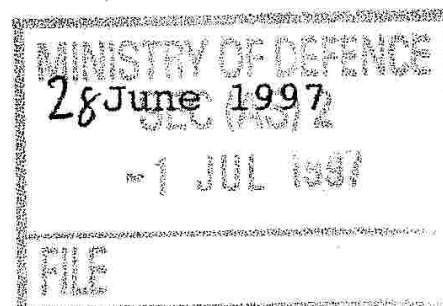


PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE
FOR DEFENCE

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



D/US of S/JS 2076/97/M



Dear Alan.

Thank you for your letter of 2 June (reference: 97/6.97/AS) to George Robertson enclosing correspondence from **Section 40** of **Section 40** Carmarthen, about a "UFO" sighting in West Wales on 21 November 1996. I am replying in view of my responsibility for this matter.

As you may know, my Department examines any reports of 'UFO sightings' sent to us solely to establish whether what was seen might have some defence significance, namely, whether there was any evidence that the UK Air Defence Region might have been breached by hostile or unauthorized foreign military activity. Unless there are defence implications, and to date no 'UFO sighting' reported to us has revealed such evidence, we do not attempt to identify the precise nature of each reported event. We believe that down to earth explanations could be found for these reports, such as aircraft lights or natural phenomena, if resources were diverted for this purpose, but it would be an inappropriate use of defence resources to provide this kind of aerial identification service.

I note from the file of papers you forwarded with your letter that my predecessor wrote to you in January about **Section 40** concerns. I can confirm that routine low level military flying training was authorised in the area concerned on the day in question. This may, therefore, account for some of the reports. It remains the case, however, that there was no evidence that the UK Air Defence Region was compromised by unauthorized foreign military activity.

I am sorry that I cannot be more helpful.

Section 40

JOHN SPELLAR MP

Dr Alan Williams MP



Recycled Paper



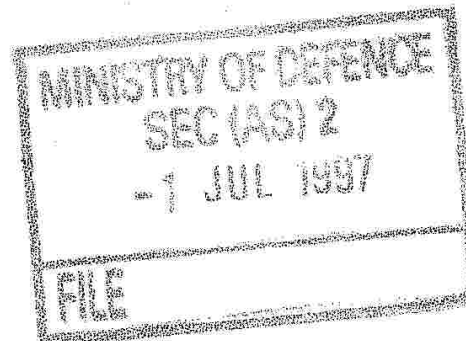
PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE
FOR DEFENCE

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



D/US of S/JS 1983/97/A

25 June 1997



Dear Ben,

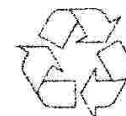
Thank you for your letter of 27 May to George Robertson enquiring on behalf of a constituent about my Department's policy on reports of "unidentified flying objects". I am replying in view of my responsibility for this matter.

My Department has no expertise or role with respect to "UFO/ flying saucer" matters or the question of the existence or otherwise of extraterrestrial lifeforms, about which we remain open-minded. My Department examines any reports of 'UFO sightings' sent to us solely to establish whether what was seen might have some defence significance, namely, whether there was any evidence that the UK Air Defence Region might have been breached by hostile or unauthorized foreign military activity. Unless there are defence implications, and to date no 'UFO sighting' reported to us has revealed such evidence, we do not attempt to identify the precise nature of each reported sighting. We believe that down to earth explanations could be found for these reports, such as aircraft lights or natural phenomena, if resources were diverted for this purpose but it would be an inappropriate use of defence resources to provide this kind of aerial identification service.

I should wish to assure your constituent that the integrity of the United Kingdom's airspace in peacetime is maintained through continuous policing of the UK Air Defence Region by the Royal Air Force which remains vigilant for any potential military threat.

You ask about the law relating to the release of MOD "UFO" report files. As is the case with other government files, all MOD files are subject to the provisions of the Public Records Act of

Ben Bradshaw Esq MP



Recycled Paper



1958 and 1967. This Act of Parliament states that official files generally remain closed from public viewing for 30 years after the last action has been taken. The files selected for preservation are then transferred to the Public Record Office for release into the public domain.

It was generally the case that before 1967 all "UFO" files were destroyed after five years as there was insufficient public interest in the subject to merit their permanent retention. However, since 1967 there has been an increase in public interest in this subject and "UFO" report files are now routinely preserved. A few files from the 1950s and early 1960s did, however, survive and are available for examination by members of the public. They may be viewed at the Public Record Office, Ruskin Avenue, Kew, Richmond, Surrey, TW9 4DU. The references of these files are as follows:

AIR 16/1199	AIR 2/16918
AIR 20/7390	AIR 2/17318
AIR 20/9320	AIR 2/17526
AIR 20/9321	AIR 2/17527
AIR 20/9322	AIR 2/17982
AIR 20/9994	AIR 2/17983
PREM 11/855	

Whilst it was past practice to sanitize some sensitive information held on files before release to the Public Record Office, this is no longer the case and MOD "UFO" report files are now released with no extractions or deletions.

Your constituent may be interested to know that the Cabinet Office has the responsibility for taking forward the Government's manifesto pledge to introduce a Freedom of Information Act. The timetable currently envisaged involves the publication of a White Paper before this year's Summer Recess. This would be followed by a period of open consultation leading to a draft Bill early next year and further consultation.

I hope this explains the position.

Section 40



JOHN SPELLAR MP



Recycled Paper



PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE
FOR DEFENCE

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



D/US of S/JS 2019/97/P

22 June 1997

Dear Nigel,

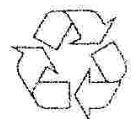
Thank you for your letter of 28 May enclosing correspondence from your constituent, **Section 40** of **Section 40** Preston about an incident which occurred off the Island of Lewis.

Following reports to the authorities of an alleged explosion in the air in the vicinity of the Western Isles on 26 October last year, an extensive search of the area was carried out by RAF and Coastguard Search and Rescue assets. The search was later called off after it became clear that no aircraft, either military or civilian, had been reported overdue. There was no evidence to support any of the media theories about the cause of the incident.

My Department examines any reports of 'UFO sightings' sent to us solely to establish whether what was seen might have some defence significance, namely, whether there was any evidence that the UK Air Defence Region might have been breached by hostile or unauthorized foreign military activity. Unless there are defence implications, and to date no 'UFO sighting' reported to us has revealed such evidence, we do not attempt to identify the precise nature of each reported incident. We believe that down to earth explanations could be found for these reports, such as aircraft lights or natural phenomena, but it would be an inappropriate use of defence resources to provide this kind of aerial identification service.

I should wish to assure **Section 40** that the integrity of the United Kingdom's airspace in peacetime is maintained through continuous policing of the UK Air Defence Region by the Royal Air

Nigel Evans Esq MP



Recycled Paper

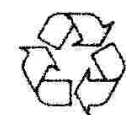


Force which remains vigilant for any potential military threat.
I can confirm that there were no incidents of unauthorized foreign
military incursions of UK airspace on 17 or 22 November 1996.

I hope this is helpful.



JOHN SPELLAR MP



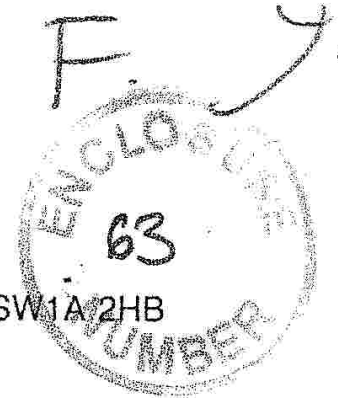
Recycled Paper



PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE FOR DEFENCE

19 JUN 1997

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

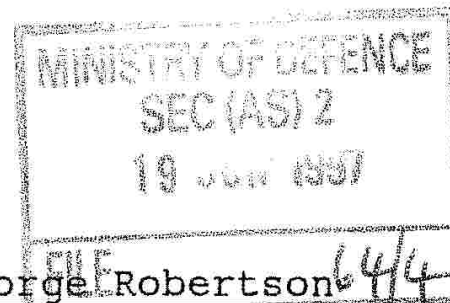


Sec Asst Dir, Int

D/US of S/JS 1963/97/M

17 June 1997

Dear Kevin,



Thank you for your letter of 20 May to George Robertson enclosing one from Section 40 of Section 40 Doncaster, about "unidentified flying objects". I am replying in view of my responsibility for this matter.

My Department examines any reports of 'UFO sightings' sent to us solely to establish whether what was seen might have some defence significance, namely, whether there was any evidence that the UK Air Defence Region might have been breached by hostile or unauthorized foreign military activity. Unless there are defence implications, and to date no 'UFO sighting' reported to us has revealed such evidence, we do not attempt to identify what might have been seen. We believe that down to earth explanations such as aircraft lights or natural phenomena could be found for these reports if resources were diverted for this purpose, but it would be an inappropriate use of defence resources to provide this kind of aerial identification service.

I should wish to assure Section 40 that the integrity of the United Kingdom's airspace in peacetime is maintained through continuous policing of the UK Air Defence Region by the Royal Air Force which remains vigilant for any potential military threat.

I can confirm that it is part of Secretariat (Air Staff) 2a's much wider responsibilities to act as the MOD focal point for handling queries and correspondence relating to reports of "unidentified flying objects", consulting the Department's air defence experts as required.

Finally, Section 40 asks about the number of reports my Department has received during the last 12 months. From June 1996 - May 1997 we received 531 reports of aerial observations

Kevin Hughes Esq MP





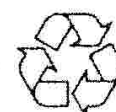
which the witness was not able to identify. None revealed any evidence of an unauthorized military incursion of the United Kingdom's airspace.

I hope this explains our position.

Section 40



JOHN SPELLAR MP



Recycled Paper

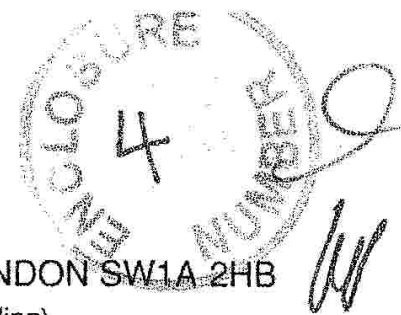
UNCLASSIFIED
RESTRICTED/UNCLASSIFIED

RESTRICTED/UNCLASSIFIED
UNCLASSIFIED



PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE
FOR DEFENCE

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



D/US of S/JS 2109/97/M

24 June 1997

Dear Michael,

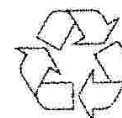
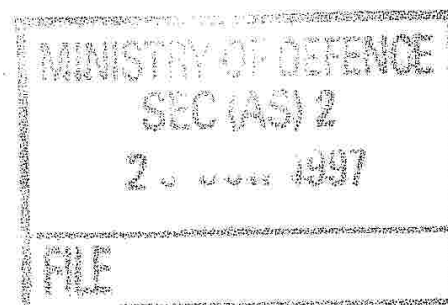
Thank you for your letter of 2 June to John Reid enclosing one from your constituent, **Section 40** [redacted] about "unidentified flying objects". I am replying in view of my responsibility for this matter.

I should explain that my Department has no expertise or role with respect to "UFO/flying saucer" matters or to the question of the existence or otherwise of extraterrestrial lifeforms, about which we remain open-minded. To date, however, we know of no evidence which substantiates the existence of these phenomena.

My Department examines any reports of 'UFO sightings' sent to us solely to establish whether what was seen might have some defence significance, namely, whether there was any evidence that the UK Air Defence Region might have been breached by hostile or unauthorized foreign military activity. Unless there are defence implications, and to date no 'UFO sighting' reported to us has revealed such evidence, we do not attempt to identify the precise nature of each incident. We believe that down to earth explanations could be found for these reports, such as aircraft lights or natural phenomena, if resources were diverted for this purpose but it would be an inappropriate use of defence resources to provide this kind of aerial identification service.

As there was no evidence to substantiate an event of defence concern at Rendlesham Forest in December 1980 no further investigation into the matter was necessary. Although a number of allegations have subsequently been made about these reported events, nothing has emerged over the last 16 years which has given us reason to believe that the original assessment made by this Department was incorrect.

Michael Mates Esq MP



Recycled Paper



I can confirm that as a matter of routine, my Department was notified by the Civil Aviation Authority about the British Airways pilots' report of 6 January 1995. The information was provided shortly after the incident occurred and was discussed with Departmental air defence experts. There was no evidence to suggest anything of defence significance, and my Department's interest in the incident ceased thereafter.

With regard to your question about the number of Airmis incidents involving "unidentified" craft and civil airliners, the Department of Environment, Transport and The Regions has advised that three such incidents were recorded in the last five years; these took place in January 1994, January 1995 and June 1996. Airmis reports are given the name AIRPROX and must be filed by pilots and/or air traffic controller where a loss of separation between aircraft have occurred. AIRPROX incidents are considered by the Joint Airmis Working Group which consist of representatives from both civil and military aviation. The findings of the working group are published and the reports can be obtained from Civil Aviation Authority Printing and Publications, Greville House, 37 Gratton Road, Cheltenham, GL50 2BN.

I hope this explains the position.

Section 40

JOHN SPELLAR MP



Recycled Paper



LOOSE MINUTE

D/Sec(AS)/64/4

18 Jun 97

PE Uni
(thro

Section 40

12/6

LETTER FROM MICHAEL MATES MP - US 2109/97

1. Mr Mates' constituent, Section 40 is not known to us. However, his questions are very similar to a number already received by the Department over the last year and the standard lines have been used in the draft reply.

2. One of the questions refers to "The Rendlesham Forest Incident". The incident, which is alleged to have occurred in December 1980 in Rendlesham Forest, near RAF Woodbridge, continues to interest "UFO" enthusiasts and has been the subject of books magazine articles and television programmes. We continue to receive a steady stream of correspondence on this subject and have, again, used the standard line on this topic. In summary, a report of an incident (a copy of which will be walked down to you) was sent to the MOD on 15 Jul 81 under cover of a letter from RAF Bentwaters. It comprised a statement from the then Deputy Base Commander at RAF Woodbridge, Lt Col Charles Halt, recording what a few USAF personnel and, in part, he himself claimed to have seen outside RAF Woodbridge over the nights of 27-29 Dec 80. The report was examined by the Department at the time. Nothing of defence significance was found which is, of course, the Department's only interest in such reports.

3. The information about Airmiss incidents involving civil airliners has been cleared with the Civil Aviation Division of the Department of Environment, Transport and The Regions.

4. I am satisfied that the draft is in accordance with the Government's policy on answering Parliamentary Enquiries and the Open Government Code (DCI Gen 48/97).

Section 40

Sec(AS)2a1

MB8245 Section 40

CHOTS: SEC(AS)2A (2)

D/US/2109/97

June 1997

Thank you for your letter of 2 June addressed to John Reid enclosing questions about "unidentified flying objects" from one of your constituents, **Section 40** [REDACTED]. I am replying as this matter falls within my area of responsibility.

I should explain that my Department has no expertise or role with respect to "UFO/flying saucer" matters or to the question of the existence or otherwise of extraterrestrial lifeforms, about which we remain open-minded. To date, however, we know of no evidence which substantiates the existence of these phenomena.

My Department examines any reports of 'UFO sightings' sent to us solely to establish whether what was seen might have some defence significance, namely, whether there was any evidence that the UK Air Defence Region might have been breached by hostile or unauthorized foreign military activity. Unless there are defence implications, and to date no 'UFO sighting' reported to us has revealed such evidence, we do not attempt to identify the precise nature of each incident. We believe that down to earth explanations could be found for these reports, such as aircraft lights or natural phenomena, if resources were diverted for this purpose but it would be an inappropriate use of defence resources to provide this kind of aerial identification service.

As there was no evidence to substantiate an event of defence concern at Rendlesham Forest in December 1980 no further investigation into the matter was necessary. Although a number of allegations have subsequently been made about these reported events, nothing has emerged over the last 16 years which has given us reason to believe that the original assessment made by this Department was incorrect.

I can confirm that as a matter of routine, the MOD was notified by the Civil Aviation Authority about the British Airways pilots' report of 6 January 1995. The information was provided shortly after the incident occurred and was discussed with Departmental air defence experts. There was no evidence to suggest anything of defence significance, and my Department's interest in the incident ceased thereafter.

With regard to your question about the number of Airmis incidents involving "unidentified" craft and civil airliners, the Department of Environment, Transport and The Regions has advised that three such incidents were recorded in the last five years; these took place in January 1994, January 1995 and June 1996. Airmis reports are given the name AIRPROX and must be filed by pilots and/or air traffic controller where a loss of separation between aircraft have occurred. AIRPROX incidents are considered by the Joint Airmis Working Group which consist of representatives from both civil and military aviation. The findings of the working group are published and the reports can be

obtained from Civil Aviation Authority Printing and Publications,
Greville House, 37 Gratton Road, Cheltenham, GL50 2BN.

I hope this explains the position.

JOHN SPELLAR

Michael Mates MP

Classification:

Caveat:

Covering:



F Sigs 927
(Rev 2/95)

Facsimile Transmission Cover Sheet

Serial Number:		Transmission:		Document Reference:	
		Date: 18 JUNE		64/4	
		Time:		Total number of pages including this one:	
				1 + 9	
From:		Fax Number:		To:	
SEC(AS)		Section 40		Section 40	
Room 8245				CAD	
MOD		Tel Number:		Dept E.T.R.	
MAIN BUILDING		Section 40			
Authorised by:			Transmitted by:		
Rank	Name	Appointment	Rank	Name	Tel Number
EO	Section 40	Sec(AS)2A1			
Signature:		Section 40		Signature:	

Subject: PARLIAMENTARY ENQUIRY 2109/97

Section 40

Any queries please give me a call.

Regard

Section 40

called. Contact with para proposed

Civil Auction Division.

Section 40

18/6

①

Classification:

Caveat:

Covering:

URGENT!



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

Telephone (Direct dial) Section 40 [redacted]
(Switchboard) 0171 218 9000
(Fax) Section 40 [redacted]

Department of Environment,
Transport and The Regions
Civil Aviation Department

Your reference

Our reference
D/Sec(AS)/64/4
Date
18 June 1997

Attn: Section 40 [redacted]

== by fax ==

Dear Section 40 [redacted]

PARLIAMENTARY ENQUIRY: US 2109/97

1. As agreed during our telephone conversation last week please find attached our proposed draft reply to the Parliamentary Enquiry received from Michael Mates.
2. I should be grateful for confirmation that you are content with my proposed paragraph about Airmis incidents involving civil airliners over the last five years, which you will note is mostly cribbed from Rob Toft's handiwork earlier this year. I presume, but would welcome confirmation, that there haven't been any more such incidents since June 1996?
3. Finally, could you fill in the blank in the background note - what is the correct title of your branch? The deadline for this work is COP Thu 19 June, so may I ask for a response by 1500hrs tomorrow please?

Yours sincerely

Section 40 [redacted]

Encs.

(2)

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

SEC (AS) 2

- 9 JUN 1997

PARLIAMENTARY ENQUIRY - FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION

FILE

THE GUIDANCE IS NEW : YOU MUST READ ITTO: Sec (As) 2aPE REF NUMBER: US 2109/97MINISTER REPLYING: USOFSDRAFT REQUIRED BY: 19/6/97DATE: 9/6/97FROM: **Section 40**

PE Unit

TEL: **Section 40**

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

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

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

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

1. Ministerial responsibilities changed.

2. Opening and Closing All Ministers prefer to start:

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

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

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

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

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

"I hope this explains the position"

"I am sorry I cannot be more helpful"

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

3. Open Government A revised Code of Practice on Access to Government Information came into effect in 1997. It is set out in DCI GEN 48/1997.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(3)

2109

US40
Sec(AS)20
UFO



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

Dr. John Reid, MP,
Ministry of Defence,
Main Building,
Whitehall,
London, SW1A 2HB

2nd June, 1997.

Dear John

I am enclosing a number of questions on the subject of Unidentified Craft from my constituent, **Section 40** I would be grateful for your responses.

Yours

Section 40

MICHAEL MATES, MP

4

PARLIAMENTARY
BRANCH
6 JUN 1997
ROOM 6134 MAIN BLDG

Unidentified Craft

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, does his Department acknowledge that the United Kingdom airspace has been penetrated on several occasions by craft of unknown design and origin whose flight and maneuverability far exceed current advanced aircraft design; and if he will make a statement.

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, (i) does his Department acknowledge that the United Kingdom airspace has been penetrated on several occasions by craft of unknown design and origin whose flight and manoeverability far exceed current advanced aircraft design and (ii) how many records of near misses and sightings of unidentified craft in United Kingdom airspace by civilian airliners does his department hold; and if he will make a statement.

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, if he will make it his policy to allocate resources to researching extraterrestrial phenomena.

Unidentified Craft

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, does his Department accept that based on evidence such as that given by Lt Colonel Charles Holt on The Rendlesham Forest Incident, material contained in Joint Airmiss Working Group Report No. 1/95 and the fact that his Department receives up to five-hundred reports a year relating to unidentified craft that (i) the UK airspace has been penetrated on one or more occasions by unidentified craft whose performance characteristics far exceed cutting edge technology and (ii) that the best available evidence supports the hypothesis that these craft are of extraterrestrial origin; and if he will make a statement.

From

Section 40

(constituent of Michael Mates)

5

LOOSE MINUTE

D/Sec(AS)/64/4

Jun 97

D R A F T

PE Unit

(thro **Section 40**)

LETTER FROM MICHAEL MATES MP - US 2109/97

1. Mr Mates' constituent, **Section 40** is not known to us. However, his questions are very similar to a number already received by the Department over the last year and the standard lines have been used in the draft reply.
2. One of the questions refers to "The Rendlesham Forest Incident". The incident, which is alleged to have occurred in December 1980 in Rendlesham Forest, near RAF Woodbridge, continues to interest "UFO" enthusiasts and has been the subject of books magazine articles and television programmes. We continue to receive a steady stream of correspondence on this subject and have, again, used the standard line on this topic. In summary, a report of an incident (a copy of which will be walked down to you) was sent to the MOD on 15 Jul 81 under cover of a letter from RAF Bentwaters. It comprised a statement from the then Deputy Base Commander at RAF Woodbridge, Lt Col Charles Halt, recording what a few USAF personnel and, in part he himself claimed to have seen outside RAF Woodbridge over the nights of 27-29 Dec 80. The report was examined by the Department at the time. Nothing of defence significance was found which is, of course, the Department's only interest in such reports.

⑥

[3. The information about Airmis incidents involving civil
airliners has been cleared with the Civil Aviation Division of the Department
of Environment, Transport and The Regions.]

4. I am satisfied that the draft is in accordance with the
Government's policy on answering Parliamentary Enquiries and the
Open Government Code (DCI Gen 48/97).

Section 40

Sec(AS)2a1

MB8245 Section 40

CHOTS: SEC(AS)2A (2)

7

D/US/2109/97

June 1997

Thank you for your letter of 2 June addressed to John Reid enclosing questions about "unidentified flying objects" from one of your constituents, **Section 40** [REDACTED]. I am replying as this matter falls within my area of responsibility.

I should explain that my Department has no expertise or role with respect to "UFO/flying saucer" matters or to the question of the existence or otherwise of extraterrestrial lifeforms, about which we remain open-minded. To date, however, we know of no evidence which substantiates the existence of these phenomena.

My Department examines any reports of 'UFO sightings' sent to us solely to establish whether what was seen might have some defence significance, namely, whether there was any evidence that the UK Air Defence Region might have been breached by hostile or unauthorized foreign military activity. Unless there are defence implications, and to date no 'UFO sighting' reported to us has revealed such evidence, we do not attempt to identify the precise nature of each incident. We believe that down to earth explanations could be found for these reports, such as aircraft lights or natural phenomena, if resources were diverted for this purpose but it would be an inappropriate use of defence resources to provide this kind of aerial identification service.

⑧

As there was no evidence to substantiate an event of defence concern at Rendlesham Forest in December 1980 no further investigation into the matter was necessary. Although a number of allegations have subsequently been made about these reported events, nothing has emerged over the last 16 years which has given us reason to believe that the original assessment made by this Department was incorrect.

I can confirm that as a matter of routine, the MOD was notified by the Civil Aviation Authority about the British Airways pilots' report of 6 January 1995. The information was provided shortly after the incident occurred and was discussed with Departmental air defence experts. There was no evidence to suggest anything of defence significance, and my Department's interest in the incident ceased thereafter.

With regard to your question about the number of Airmiss incidents involving "unidentified" craft and civil airliners, the Department of Environment, Transport and The Regions has advised that three such incidents were recorded in the last five years; these took place in January 1994, January 1995 and June 1996. Airmiss reports are given the name AIRPROX and must be filed by pilots and/or air traffic controller where a loss of separation between aircraft have occurred. AIRPROX incidents are considered by the Joint Airmiss Working Group which consist of representatives from both civil and military aviation. The findings of the working group are published and the reports can be

9

obtained from Civil Aviation Authority Printing and Publications,
Greville House, 37 Gratton Road, Cheltenham, GL50 2BN.

I hope this explains the position.

JOHN SPELLAR

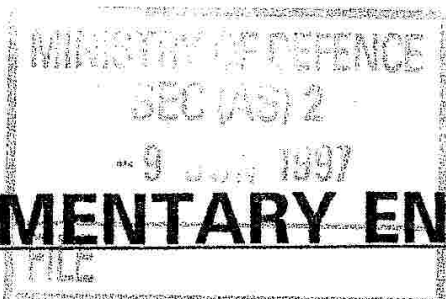
Michael Mates MP

10

Secretariat(Air Staff) Fax: **Section 40****** Transmit Conf. Report ****

18 Jun '97 12:54

Secretariat(Air Staff)---> Section 40	
No.	4812
Mode	NORMAL
Time	4'13"
Pages	10 Page(s)
Result	O K



PARLIAMENTARY ENQUIRY - FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION

THE GUIDANCE IS NEW : YOU MUST READ IT

TO: Sec (As) 2a

PE REF NUMBER: US 2109/97

MINISTER REPLYING: USOFS

DRAFT REQUIRED BY: 19/6/97

DATE: 9/6/97

FROM: **Section 40**

PE Unit

TEL: **Section 40**

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

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

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

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

1. Ministerial responsibilities changed.

2. Opening and Closing All Ministers prefer to start:

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

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

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

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

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

"I hope this explains the position"

"I am sorry I cannot be more helpful"

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

3. Open Government A revised Code of Practice on Access to Government Information came into effect in 1997. It is set out in DCI GEN 48/1997.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

2109

US45
Sec(AS)2a
Ufos



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

Dr. John Reid, MP,
Ministry of Defence,
Main Building,
Whitehall,
London, SW1A 2HB

2nd June, 1997.

Don Sam

I am enclosing a number of questions on the subject of Unidentified Craft from my constituent, **Section 40** I would be grateful for your responses.

Sam

Section 40

MICHAEL MATES, MP

PARLIAMENTARY
BRANCH
6 JUN 1997
ROOM 6134 MAIN BLDG

Unidentified Craft

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, does his Department acknowledge that the United Kingdom airspace has been penetrated on several occasions by craft of unknown design and origin whose flight and maneuverability far exceed current advanced aircraft design; and if he will make a statement.

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, (i) does his Department acknowledge that the United Kingdom airspace has been penetrated on several occasions by craft of unknown design and origin whose flight and manoeverability far exceed current advanced aircraft design and (ii) how many records of near misses and sightings of unidentified craft in United Kingdom airspace by civilian airliners does his department hold; and if he will make a statement.

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, if he will make it his policy to allocate resources to researching extraterrestrial phenomena.

Unidentified Craft

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, does his Department accept that based on evidence such as that given by Lt Colonel Charles Halt on The Rendlesham Forest Incident, material contained in Joint Airmiss Working Group Report No. 1/95 and the fact that his Department receives up to five-hundred reports a year relating to unidentified craft that (i) the UK airspace has been penetrated on one or more occasions by unidentified craft whose performance characteristics far exceed cutting edge technology and (ii) that the best available evidence supports the hypothesis that these craft are of extraterrestrial origin; and if he will make a statement.

From

Section 40

(constituent of Michael Mates)

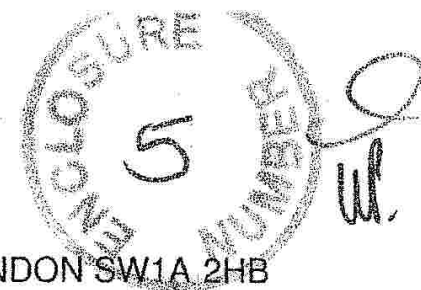
RESTRICTED/UNCLASSIFIED
UNCLASSIFIED

RESTRICTED/UNCLASSIFIED
UNCLASSIFIED



PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE
FOR DEFENCE

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



D/US of S/JS 2106/97/A

24 June 1997

Dear Ieuan,

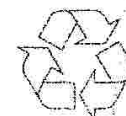
Thank you for your letter of 4 June (reference: IWJ/2/96/137) to George Robertson enclosing one from your constituent, **Section 40** **Section 40** of **Section 40** Llangefni about an article relating to alleged "UFO" incidents. I am replying in view of my responsibility for media matters.

My Department examines any reports of 'UFO sightings' sent to us solely to establish whether what was seen might have some defence significance, namely, whether there was any evidence that the UK Air Defence Region might have been breached by hostile or unauthorized foreign military activity. Unless there are defence implications, and to date no 'UFO sighting' reported to us has revealed such evidence, we do not attempt to identify the precise nature of each reported sighting. We believe that down to earth explanations could be found for these reports, such as aircraft lights or natural phenomena, if resources were diverted for this purpose but it would be an inappropriate use of defence resources to provide this kind of aerial identification service.

As is the case with other government departments, MOD files are subject to the provisions of the Public Records Act of 1958 and 1967. This Act of Parliament states that official files generally remain closed from public viewing for 30 years after the last action has been taken. Those files selected for preservation are then transferred to the Public Record Office for release into the public domain.

It was generally the case that before 1967 all "UFO" files were destroyed after five years as there was insufficient public

Ieuan Wyn Jones Esq MP



Recycled Paper



interest in the subject to merit their permanent retention. However, since 1967 there has been an increase in public interest in this subject and "UFO" report files are now routinely preserved. A few files from the 1950s and early 1960s did, however, survive and are available for examination by members of the public. They may be viewed at the Public Record Office, Ruskin Avenue, Kew, Richmond, Surrey, TW9 4DU. The references of these files are as follows:

AIR 16/1199	AIR 2/16918
AIR 20/7390	AIR 2/17318
AIR 20/9320	AIR 2/17526
AIR 20/9321	AIR 2/17527
AIR 20/9322	AIR 2/17982
AIR 20/9994	AIR 2/17983
PREM 11/855	

All surviving paperwork from over 30 years ago on the subject of "UFOs" previously held by my Department has now been transferred to the Public Record Office.

I can confirm that as a matter of routine, my Department was notified by the Civil Aviation Authority about the British Airways pilots' report of 6 January 1995. The information was provided shortly after the incident occurred and was discussed with Departmental air defence experts. As there was no evidence to suggest anything of defence significance, my Department's interest in the incident ceased thereafter. As is usual with airmiss incidents involving civil aircraft, the CAA Joint Airmiss Working Party (a joint Civil/Military body with complete access to all sources of available civil and military information) investigated the incident. Airmiss Working Group investigations are published and can be obtained from Civil Aviation Authority Printing and Publications, Greville House, 37 Gratton Road, Cheltenham GL50 2BN.

Finally, **Section 40** may be interested to know that the Cabinet Office has the responsibility for taking forward the Government's manifesto pledge to introduce a Freedom of Information Act. The timetable currently envisaged involves the publication of a White Paper before this year's Summer Recess.



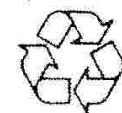


This would be followed by a period of open consultation leading to a draft Bill early next year and further consultation.

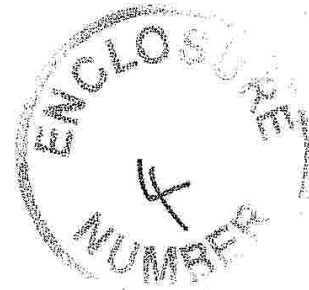
I hope this explains the position.



JOHN SPELLAR MP



Recycled Paper



LOOSE MINUTE

D/Sec(AS)/64/4

18 Jun 97

PE Uni
(thro

Section 40

LETTER FROM IEUAN WYN JONES MP - US 2106/97

1. Ieuan Wyn Jones' constituent, Section 40, has written requesting that all documentation held by the Government on five alleged "UFO" incidents mentioned in an article in the June edition of "FOCUS Magazine", be released into the public domain. The magazine to which Section 40 refers is not the MOD in-house magazine "FOCUS" but one of the many magazines now available on the subject of "UFOs" and the paranormal.

2. Although the MP has written to Ministers about "UFOs" before, most recently October 1996, this is the first approach on behalf of Section 40. The draft therefore seeks to explain MOD policy concerning the "UFO" phenomena, and clarifies the rules governing the release of documentation held on official files. A paragraph obtained from the Cabinet Office has been included about the proposed Freedom of Information Act.

3. I am satisfied that the draft is in accordance with the Government's policy on answering Parliamentary Enquiries and the Open Government Code (DCI Gen 48/97).

Section 40

Sec(AS)2a1

MB8245 Section 40

CHOTS: SEC(AS)2A (2)

D/US/2106/97

June 1997

Thank you for your letter of 4 June (ref: IWJ/2/96/137) addressed to George Robertson enclosing one from your constituent **Section 40** of **Section 40** Llangefni concerning an article relating to alleged "UFO" incidents. I am replying as this matter falls within my area of responsibility.

My Department examines any reports of 'UFO sightings' sent to us solely to establish whether what was seen might have some defence significance, namely, whether there was any evidence that the UK Air Defence Region might have been breached by hostile or unauthorized foreign military activity. Unless there are defence implications, and to date no 'UFO sighting' reported to us has revealed such evidence, we do not attempt to identify the precise nature of each reported sighting. We believe that down to earth explanations could be found for these reports, such as aircraft lights or natural phenomena, if resources were diverted for this purpose but it would be an inappropriate use of defence resources to provide this kind of aerial identification service.

As is the case with other government departments, MOD files are subject to the provisions of the Public Records Act of 1958 and 1967. This Act of Parliament states that official files generally remain closed from public viewing for 30 years after the last action has been taken. Those files selected for preservation

are then transferred to the Public Record Office for release into the public domain.

It was generally the case that before 1967 all "UFO" files were destroyed after five years as there was insufficient public interest in the subject to merit their permanent retention. However, since 1967 there has been an increase in public interest in this subject and "UFO" report files are now routinely preserved. A few files from the 1950s and early 1960s did, however, survive and are available for examination by members of the public. They may be viewed at the Public Record Office, Ruskin Avenue, Kew, Richmond, Surrey, TW9 4DU. The references of these files are as follows:

AIR 16/1199	AIR 2/16918
AIR 20/7390	AIR 2/17318
AIR 20/9320	AIR 2/17526
AIR 20/9321	AIR 2/17527
AIR 20/9322	AIR 2/17982
AIR 20/9994	AIR 2/17983
PREM 11/855	

All surviving paperwork from over 30 years ago on the subject of "UFOs" previously held by the MOD has now been transferred to the Public Record Office.

I can confirm that as a matter of routine, the MOD was notified by the Civil Aviation Authority about the British Airways pilots' report of 6 January 1995. The information was provided shortly after the incident occurred and was discussed with Departmental air defence experts. As there was no evidence to

suggest anything of defence significance, my Department's interest in the incident ceased thereafter. As is usual with airmiss incidents involving civil aircraft, the CAA Joint Airmiss Working Party (a joint Civil/Military body with complete access to all sources of available civil and military information) investigated the incident. Airmiss Working Group investigations are published and can be obtained from Civil Aviation Authority Printing and Publications, Greville House, 37 Gratton Road, Cheltenham GL50 2BN.

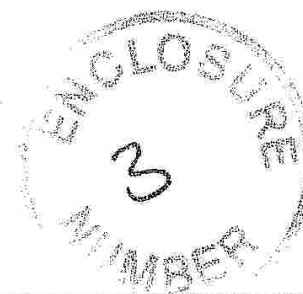
Finally, **Section 40** may be interested to know that the Cabinet Office has the responsibility for taking forward the Government's manifesto pledge to introduce a Freedom of Information Act. The timetable currently envisaged involves the publication of a White Paper before this year's Summer Recess. This would be followed by a period of open consultation leading to a draft Bill early next year and further consultation.

I hope this explains the position.

JOHN SPELLAR

Ieuan Wyn Jones MP

6414



Wed 18 Jun, 1997 9:29

mailbox standard Page 1

DATE	FROM	SUBJECT	CODES
18/06/97	Hd of CS(RM)1	PE 2106/97	[]

Intended:

Sent: 18/06/97 at 8:34

Delivered: 18/06/97 at 8:36

To: SEC(AS)2A (2)

CC:

Ref: 322

From: Hd of CS(RM)1

Auth by:

Subject: PE 2106/97

Text: attached

Priority: Normal
Reply Request []

SEE PAGE
View Acknowledge [*]

Attachments [1]
Codes []

Loose Minute

CS(RM)/4/6/37

June 1997

Sec(AS)2A1 *

*Chots only

LETTER FROM IEUAN WYN JONES MP - US 2106/97

1. You recall correctly my reviewers have recently alerted me to a small number of files relating to "ufos" (fewer than 50) currently collecting dust in DIS.
2. Further investigation revealed all are relatively recent files, none older than 10 years.
3. I have only one minor change to make to your bold paragraph - the Public Records Office should read Public Record Office.

Section 40
Hd CS(RM)1
MTD8/2 Section 40

Classification:

Caveat:

Covering:



Facsimile Transmission Cover Sheet

Serial Number:		Transmission: Date: 16 JUN Time:		Document Reference: 64/4	
From: SEC(AS) Room 8245 MOD MAIN BUILDWG		Fax Number: Section 40		Total number of pages including this one: 1 + 7	
Authorized by: Rank Name Appointment EO Section 40 Sec(AS)2A1		Tel Number: Section 40		To: Section 40 Hd CS(CRM) 1	
Signature: Section 40		Transmitted by: Rank Name Tel Number AO Section 40		Fax Number: Section 40	
Signature: Section 40		Signature: Section 40			

Subject: PE 2106/97

Section 40

Yet another PE I'm afraid.
 Can you confirm the validity of the para in bold in the draft reply. We've used it before but we had a telephone chat a while ago which I recall might call this into question.
 The deadline is Thu 19 June - grateful for a word before then if possible.

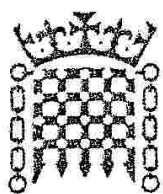
Section 40

Classification:

Caveat:

Covering:

USAS
Sec(AS)2
UFOs



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

PE: 2107/97

Our ref: IWJ/2/96/137

4 June 1997

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

Dear Secretary of State

I enclose correspondence I have received from my constituent,
Section 40 [redacted] of Section 40 [redacted] Llangefni, Ynys
Môn, regarding an article in "Focus" magazine on UFO incidents.

I would be grateful if you could let me have your response to
its contents in due course.

Yours sincerely

Section 40 [redacted]

W
MP for Ynys Môn

2/56/137

22 MAY 1997

Section 40

Llangefni

Section 40

18 May, 1997

Ieuan Wyn Jones, MP
House of Commons
London,
SW1A 0AA

Dear Sir:

I would like to draw your attention to a recent article in Focus Magazine (June 1997, p. 70-1) which referred to a number of UFO incidents.

I would be grateful to you if you would make representations on my behalf with the appropriate government departments and ask that all documents relating to these incidents be released for public viewing.

Sincerely,

Section 40

Enclosure: Cuttings from Focus Magazine (June 1997)

Britain's Area 51 revealed... UFOs in military zones

**RAF Neatishead,
Norfolk**

**Late October/Early
November 1980**

A UFO was tracked by radar during night-flying exercises by RAF Phantoms. The uncorrelated target was stationary at 5,000 ft. It then made a series of incredible manoeuvres and jumped to an altitude in excess of 90,000 ft before disappearing. One of the Phantoms was tasked with intercepting the UFO and got to within half a mile of "a very bright light," but before the aircraft could get any closer, the object flew off.

**RAF/USAF Woodbridge/
Bentwaters, Suffolk**

27-29 December 1980

Strange lights in nearby Rendlesham Forest were investigated by USAF patrolmen. As they approached the source of these lights

they noted it was a metallic triangular shape roughly three metres across the base and standing around two metres high.

Unable to determine whether it was hovering or on legs of some kind, their report describes a pulsing red light on the top of the craft with a bank of blue lights underneath. Before they could get any closer it began to move through the trees and vanished.

The following day three depressions were found in the ground where the sighting took place and subsequent independent analysis indicated 10 times the normal level of background radiation in the centre of where the object had been.

Later in the night a moving, pulsing sun-like light was seen to throw off glowing particles before breaking into

pieces that shot skywards and remaining there for some time, darting about and emitting red, green and blue lights. These events were witnessed by several military personnel including the Deputy Base Commander who audio taped a dramatic commentary during his search and filed his official report outlining the events. However, other eye witnesses spoke of even more fantastic happenings including a 30 ft wide 20 ft tall vehicle landing in a nearby field.

**RAF/USAF Bentwaters/
Lakenheath, Suffolk**

13 August 1956

An uncorrelated target was picked up over the North Sea heading toward the airfield at a speed of over 4,000 mph. Twenty miles inland it disappeared.

At the same time, a second contact was made with a group of slow moving targets and a T-33 fighter was

directed to intercept, but without radar it was unable to find them. The targets hovered for 10 to 15 minutes, then began moving again, hovered briefly, then disappeared off the screens.

Later, a Venom fighter was scrambled. The target was tracked by separate ground systems and the interceptor was vectored towards it. As the Venom closed in, its own radar obtained a 'lock,' but the pilot lost contact. Ground staff advised the pilot that the UFO was now behind him and appeared to be giving chase. A second Venom was scrambled but before it arrived, the UFO had disappeared.

**Aldershot, Hampshire
12 August 1983**

A local historian and keen angler noticed a vivid light moving towards him as he fished on a canal bank. The bright light went out, but he was still

aware of some illumination. Suddenly two, four-feet-tall beings approached and beckoned him to follow them. Amazingly he did, and found himself climbing into a 40ft disc. He was made to stand under an amber light for minutes before being told: "You can go. You are too old and infirm for our purposes."

**Pennines, 8-9 miles
SE Manchester Airport
6 January 1995**

A Boeing 737, with 60 people on board, encountered a high speed, wedge-shaped craft as it approached Manchester airport on a flight from Milan. The captain reported that the UFO had small white lights and a black stripe down one side and flashed silently down the side of the jet so close that his co-pilot involuntarily ducked. The crew had it in sight for a total of about two seconds. There was no apparent sound or wake.

LOOSE MINUTE

D/Sec(AS)/64/4

Jun 97

D R A F T

PE Unit

(thro **Section 40**)

LETTER FROM IEUAN WYN JONES MP - US 2106/97

1. Ieuan Wyn Jones' constituent, **Section 40**, has written requesting that all documentation held by the Government on five alleged "UFO" incidents mentioned in an article in the June edition of "FOCUS Magazine", be released into the public domain. The magazine to which **Section 40** refers is not the MOD in-house magazine "FOCUS" but one of the many magazines now available on the subject of "UFOs" and the paranormal.
2. Although the MP has written to Ministers about "UFOs" before, most recently October 1996, this is the first approach on behalf of **Section 40**. The draft therefore seeks to explain MOD policy concerning the "UFO" phenomena, and clarifies the rules governing the release of documentation held on official files. A paragraph obtained from the Cabinet Office has been included about the proposed Freedom of Information Act.
3. I am satisfied that the draft is in accordance with the Government's policy on answering Parliamentary Enquiries and the Open Government Code (DCI Gen 48/97).

Section 40

Sec(AS)2a1

MB8245 **Section 40**

CHOTS: SEC(AS)2A (2)

D/US/2106/97

June 1997

Thank you for your letter of 4 June (ref: IWJ/2/96/137) addressed to George Robertson enclosing one from your constituent **Section 40** of **Section 40** Llangefni concerning an article relating to alleged "UFO" incidents. I am replying as this matter falls within my area of responsibility.



My Department examines any reports of 'UFO sightings' sent to us solely to establish whether what was seen might have some defence significance, namely, whether there was any evidence that the UK Air Defence Region might have been breached by hostile or unauthorized foreign military activity. Unless there are defence implications, and to date no 'UFO sighting' reported to us has revealed such evidence, we do not attempt to identify the precise nature of each reported sighting. We believe that down to earth explanations could be found for these reports, such as aircraft lights or natural phenomena, if resources were diverted for this purpose but it would be an inappropriate use of defence resources to provide this kind of aerial identification service.

As is the case with other government departments, MOD files are subject to the provisions of the Public Records Act of 1958 and 1967. This Act of Parliament states that official files generally remain closed from public viewing for 30 years after the last action has been taken. Those files selected for preservation

are then transferred to the Public Record Office for release into the public domain.

It was generally the case that before 1967 all "UFO" files were destroyed after five years as there was insufficient public interest in the subject to merit their permanent retention. However, since 1967 there has been an increase in public interest in this subject and "UFO" report files are now routinely preserved. A few files from the 1950s and early 1960s did, however, survive and are available for examination by members of the public. They may be viewed at the Public Record Office, Ruskin Avenue, Kew, Richmond, Surrey, TW9 4DU. The references of these files are as follows:

AIR 16/1199	AIR 2/16918
AIR 20/7390	AIR 2/17318
AIR 20/9320	AIR 2/17526
AIR 20/9321	AIR 2/17527
AIR 20/9322	AIR 2/17982
AIR 20/9994	AIR 2/17983
PREM 11/855	

 All surviving paperwork from over 30 years ago on the subject of "UFOs" previously held by the MOD has now been transferred to the Public Records Office. *[Hd of CS(RM)1: we have used this line before in PEs - is it still correct?]* 

I can confirm that as a matter of routine, the MOD was notified by the Civil Aviation Authority about the British Airways pilots' report of 6 January 1995. The information was provided shortly after the incident occurred and was discussed with

Departmental air defence experts. As there was no evidence to suggest anything of defence significance, my Department's interest in the incident ceased thereafter. As is usual with airmiss incidents involving civil aircraft, the CAA Joint Airmiss Working Party (a joint Civil/Military body with complete access to all sources of available civil and military information) investigated the incident. Airmiss Working Group investigations are published and can be obtained from Civil Aviation Authority Printing and Publications, Greville House, 37 Gratton Road, Cheltenham GL50 2BN.

Finally, **Section 40** may be interested to know that the Cabinet Office has the responsibility for taking forward the Government's manifesto pledge to introduce a Freedom of Information Act. The timetable currently envisaged involves the publication of a White Paper before this year's Summer Recess. This would be followed by a period of open consultation leading to a draft Bill early next year and further consultation.

I hope this explains the position.

JOHN SPELLAR

Ieuan Wyn Jones MP

Secretariat(Air Staff) Fax: **Section 40****** Transmit Conf. Report ****

16 Jun '97 15:42

Secretariat(Air Staff)---> Section 40	
No.	4758
Mode	NORMAL
Time	3'49"
Pages	8 Page(s)
Result	OK

PARLIAMENTARY ENQUIRY - FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION**THE GUIDANCE IS NEW : YOU MUST READ IT**TO: SEC GAS 2aPE REF NUMBER: US 2106 /97MINISTER REPLYING: USASDRAFT REQUIRED BY: 19/6 /97DATE: 9 / 6 /97FROM: **Section 40**PE Unit TEL: **Section 40**

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

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

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

******* IMPORTANT UPDATES *********1. Ministerial responsibilities changed.****2. Opening and Closing All Ministers prefer to start:**

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

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

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

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

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

"I hope this explains the position"

"I am sorry I cannot be more helpful"

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

3. Open Government A revised Code of Practice on Access to Government Information came into effect in 1997. It is set out in DCI GEN 48/1997.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

USAS
Sec(AS)2
UFOs



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

Our ref: IWJ/2/96/137

4 June 1997

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

Dear Secretary of State

I enclose correspondence I have received from my constituent,
Section 40 [redacted] of Section 40 [redacted] Llangefni, Ynys
Môn, regarding an article in "Focus" magazine on UFO incidents.

I would be grateful if you could let me have your response to
its contents in due course.

Yours sincerely

Section 40 [redacted]

W IEUAN WYN JONES
MP for Ynys Môn



2/56/137

22 MAY 1997

Section 40

Llangefni

Section 40

18 May, 1997

Ieuan Wyn Jones, MP
House of Commons
London,
SW1A 0AA

Dear Sir:

I would like to draw your attention to a recent article in Focus Magazine (June 1997, p. 70-1) which referred to a number of UFO incidents.

I would be grateful to you if you would make representations on my behalf with the appropriate government departments and ask that all documents relating to these incidents be released for public viewing.

Sincerely,

Section 40

Enclosure: Cuttings from Focus Magazine (June 1997)

Britain's Area 51 revealed... UFOs in military zones

**RAF Neatishead,
Norfolk**

**Late October/Early
November 1980**

A UFO was tracked by radar during night-flying exercises by RAF Phantoms. The uncorrelated target was stationary at 5,000 ft. It then made a series of incredible manoeuvres and jumped to an altitude in excess of 90,000 ft before disappearing. One of the Phantoms was tasked with intercepting the UFO and got to within half a mile of "a very bright light," but before the aircraft could get any closer, the object flew off.

**RAF/USAF Woodbridge/
Bentwaters, Suffolk**
27-29 December 1980

Strange lights in nearby Rendlesham Forest were investigated by USAF patrolmen. As they approached the source of these lights

they noted it was a metallic triangular shape roughly three metres across the base and standing around two metres high.

Unable to determine whether it was hovering or on legs of some kind, their report describes a pulsing red light on the top of the craft with a bank of blue lights underneath. Before they could get any closer it began to move through the trees and vanished.

The following day three depressions were found in the ground where the sighting took place and subsequent independent analysis indicated 10 times the normal level of background radiation in the centre of where the object had been.

Later in the night a moving, pulsing sun-like light was seen to throw off glowing particles before breaking into

pieces that shot skywards and remaining there for some time, darting about and emitting red, green and blue lights. These events were witnessed by several military personnel including the Deputy Base Commander who audio taped a dramatic commentary during his search and filed his official report outlining the events. However, other eye witnesses spoke of even more fantastic happenings including a 30 ft wide 20 ft tall vehicle landing in a nearby field.

**RAF/USAF Bentwaters/
Lakenheath, Suffolk**
13 August 1956

An uncorrelated target was picked up over the North Sea heading toward the airfield at a speed of over 4,000 mph. Twenty miles inland it disappeared.

At the same time, a second contact was made with a group of slow moving targets and a T-33 fighter was

directed to intercept, but without radar it was unable to find them. The targets hovered for 10 to 15 minutes, then began moving again, hovered briefly, then disappeared off the screens.

Later, a Venom fighter was scrambled. The target was tracked by separate ground systems and the interceptor was vectored towards it. As the Venom closed in, its own radar obtained a 'lock,' but the pilot lost contact. Ground staff advised the pilot that the UFO was now behind him and appeared to be giving chase. A second Venom was scrambled but before it arrived, the UFO had disappeared.

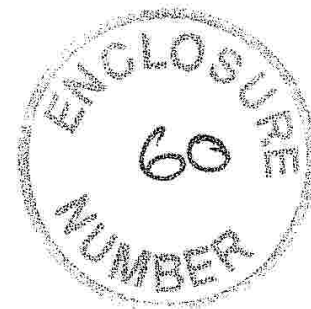
Aldershot, Hampshire
12 August 1983

A local historian and keen angler noticed a vivid light moving towards him as he fished on a canal bank. The bright light went out, but he was still

aware of some illumination. Suddenly two, four-foot-tall beings approached and beckoned him to follow them. Amazingly he did, and found himself climbing into a 40ft disc. He was made to stand under an amber light for minutes before being told: "You can go. You are too old and infirm for our purposes."

**Pennines, 8-9 miles
SE Manchester Airport**
6 January 1995

A Boeing 737, with 60 people on board, encountered a high speed, wedge-shaped craft as it approached Manchester airport on a flight from Milan. The captain reported that the UFO had small white lights and a black stripe down one side and flashed silently down the side of the jet so close that his co-pilot involuntarily ducked. The crew had it in sight for a total of about two seconds. There was no apparent sound or wake.



LOOSE MINUTE

D/Sec(AS)/64/4

17 Jun 97

Section 40

PE Uni

(thro

LETTER FROM DR ALAN WILLIAMS MP - US 2076/97

1. This is the second time Section 40 has raised this issue with his MP. Dr Alan Williams wrote to the then USofS at the turn of the year. A copy of Earl Howe's reply to him (D/USofS/FH5119/96P of 22 January) has been included in the file of papers supporting this second approach.

2. In his initial approach Section 40 sought information on alleged 'UFO' sightings in the Cardigan Bay area on 21 Nov 96 and, assuming these events to be soundly based, posed a number of questions about them. He gave weight to his assumptions by commenting that:

- Dyfed-Powys police were reported to be co-operating with the RAF and their 'UFO unit';
- MOD denied there was any military activity in the area.

Section 40 also wrote in similar terms to the military staff at the London Air Traffic Control Centre, West Drayton seeking information about what they had observed on their radar. There is nothing new in his latest approach to his MP.

3. The Air Defence Staffs confirmed that on the day in question there was no unusual air defence activity, no penetration of the UK Air Defence Region, no unknown aircraft activity on any military radars and that no Quick Reaction Alert aircraft (QRAs) had been scrambled. Three reports of alleged 'UFO' sightings were received by Sec(AS) for 21 Nov 96 but these were for the Twickenham area, two-three miles off Newhaven/Brighton, and Althorpe near Scunthorpe. There were no reports from, or about, the Cardigan Bay area. The Aberporth Range danger area extends into Cardigan Bay and the Range regularly fires air-to-air missiles (on average two each week). On 21 Nov 96 two missiles were fired, the first at 1045 hrs and the second at 1529 hrs. Neither of these firings accord with the timings of the reported 'UFO' sightings (1610 hrs, 2045 hrs and 2110 hrs) and we cannot, therefore, suggest any connection. The position has not changed since we last looked into this matter.

4. As USofS will recall, the MOD examines any reports of "unidentified flying objects" received solely to establish whether what was seen might have some defence significance; namely, whether there is any evidence that the UK Air Defence Region might have been compromised by hostile or unauthorized foreign military activity. Unless there is evidence of a potential military threat, (no "UFO" report to date has revealed such evidence), the Department does not attempt to identify the precise nature of each sighting reported to us.

5. Dr Williams has asked that we comment on the questions which **Section 40** sought to have tabled in the House. There were several authorized military low level flying sorties which took place in the area on the day in question at times which roughly accorded with the sightings. Records are not held in a way that would enable military aircraft flying at medium level to be identified.

6. We are unable to provide details of civil air traffic that might have been in the area at the time (aircraft, microlights, gliders, balloons etc). In the circumstances we could only speculate on what Mr Alexander might have seen.

7. I am satisfied that the draft is in accordance with the Government's policy on answering Parliamentary Enquiries and the Open Government Code (DCI Gen 48/97).

Section 40



Sec(AS)2a1

MB8245 **Section 40**

CHOTS: SEC(AS)2A (2)

D/US/2076/97

June 1997

Thank you for your letter (ref: 97/6/97/AS) of 2 June addressed to George Robertson enclosing correspondence from **Section 40** of **Section 40** Carmarthen, about a "UFO" sighting in West Wales on 21 November 1996. I am replying as this matter falls within my area of responsibility.

As you may know, my Department examines any reports of 'UFO sightings' sent to us solely to establish whether what was seen might have some defence significance, namely, whether there was any evidence that the UK Air Defence Region might have been breached by hostile or unauthorized foreign military activity. Unless there are defence implications, and to date no 'UFO sighting' reported to us has revealed such evidence, we do not attempt to identify the precise nature of each reported event. We believe that down to earth explanations could be found for these reports, such as aircraft lights or natural phenomena, if resources were diverted for this purpose, but it would be an inappropriate use of defence resources to provide this kind of aerial identification service.

I note from the file of papers you forwarded with your letter that my predecessor wrote to you in January about **Section 40** concerns. I can confirm that routine low level military flying training was authorised in the area concerned on the day in question. This may therefore account for some of the reports. It

remains the case, however, that there was no evidence that the UK Air Defence Region was compromised by unauthorized foreign military activity.

I am sorry that I cannot be more helpful.

JOHN SPELLAR

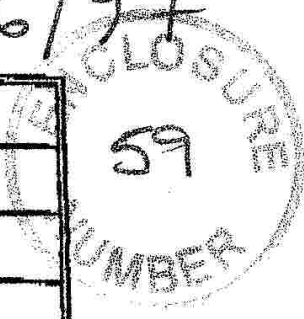
Dr Alan Williams MP

64/4

→ PE 2076/97

LOG&TRACE

DATE	LFA	BASE	TYPE	TIME IN	TIME OUT	HT
21/NOV	7	Clashed LBR	LYNX	1450	1630	100
1610		---	---	1430	1620	---
		---	---	1420	1600	GL
				1552	1607	250
	Mahan	MR	TORN	1614	1630	250
	Leaming	LI	2XF3	1520	1620	250
	M	MR	TORN	1610	1620	250
	lynchan	NSSD	LA	2043	2111	250



PE 2076/97

Log + Trace: 21 Nov 96

- 1. 1610 hrs CARDIGAN BAY or
- 2. 2045 hrs Surrounding areas.
- 3. 2110 hrs ← NONE

WFA 7

SN165/ ~~NSSD~~

Section 40

① Yes, can the Complaints cell do a log and trace.

② Can you check (not to put in the draft) if Aberporth fired air to air or ground to air (or even air to ground) missiles on that day.

Section 40

Says, with this report, I've got it wrong!

Classification
 Caveat
 Covering

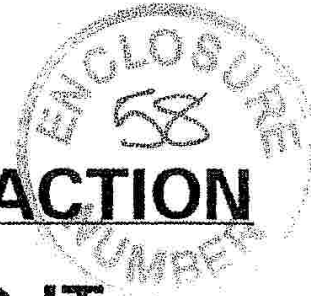
F Sigs 927
 (Int.9/92)

Facsimile Transmission Cover Sheet

Transmission Details		Document Details	
Serial Number:	Date and Time of Transmission:	Reference:	
From: OC FCF HQ P&SS(UK)	Fax Number Section 40 Ext. Section 40 GPTN Section 40	Subject: TRACES for Sangib	
To: Sec AS 2b	Fax Number:	Total number of pages including this cover sheet	
Authorizing Officer		Transmit Operators	
Rank, Name and Appointment:		Rank/Grade and Name:	
Signature: Section 40		Signature:	

Message/Remarks:

Covering
 Caveat

PARLIAMENTARY ENQUIRY - FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION**THE GUIDANCE IS NEW : YOU MUST READ IT**TO: SEC(AS) 2aPE REF NUMBER: US 2076/97MINISTER REPLYING: USOFSDRAFT REQUIRED BY: 17/6/97DATE: 5/6/97FROM: **Section 40**

PE Unit

TEL: **Section 40**

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

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

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

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

1. Ministerial responsibilities changed.

2. Opening and Closing All Ministers prefer to start:

"Thank you for your letter of ... (MP's ref if given) on behalf of/enclosing one from your constituent, Mr ... of ... Toytown about..."
If a Minister is replying on behalf of another Minister start:

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

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

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

"I hope this explains the position"

"I am sorry I cannot be more helpful"

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

3. Open Government A revised Code of Practice on Access to Government Information came into effect in 1997. It is set out in DCI GEN 48/1997.

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

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

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

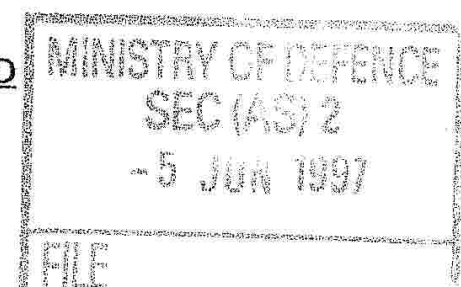
Ministers place great importance on the content style and speed of the replies. Letters should be polite, informal, to the point and in clear, simple language. Avoid acronyms and MOD jargon. Always emphasise the positive aspects of Government policy. No background note is required unless essential to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

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

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

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

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





HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

USAFS 2077
Sec (AS) 21a
UFOs
① - 5119/96

Ref: 97/6.97/AS

2nd June 1997

Rt. Hon. George Robertson M.P.,
Secretary of State,
Ministry of Defence,
Main Building,
Whitehall,
London.
SW1A 2HB

Dear George,

I am writing on behalf of **Section 40** Carmarthen, who came to see me in a surgery last week. **Section 40** tells me that on 21st November 1996, there was a UFO sighted in West Wales. Enclosed is a report of many witnesses' comments. I would be grateful for your comments on the enclosures.

He also told me that there were three questions that he wanted me to table as Written Parliamentary Questions. I explained that I am a total non-believer in UFO's and could not table such questions in my name, but that I would send them to you by letter for reply. I would be grateful for your comments on the questions and on the enclosures.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

Dr. Alan Williams

M.P. for Carmarthen East and Dinefwr

PARLIAMENTARY
BRANCH
- 4 JUN 1997
3746135 MAIN BLDG

SUGGESTED PARLIAMENTARY QUESTIONS

Will the ^{Secretary} ~~Minister~~ of State for Defence received + read the report prepared on the activities of one or more low-flying triangular craft over mid-west Wales on the evening of 21/11/96 and would he make a statement.

Will the S&S4D inform the House of the identity of the above craft, including its nationality together with the purpose of its flight over Mid Wales on the evening in question. + NHMAS.

Will the S&S4D, in view of the flying characteristics of this craft, i.e. the apparent discharge of intense lights at frequent intervals at very low heights, enforce a ban on such flights in future, or at least issue public warnings in advance of such flights as is the case with normal RAF low-flying exercises - NHMAS.

THE WEST WALES PARANORMAL GROUP

(affiliated to The Welsh Federation of Independent Ufologists)

Section 40 [redacted] Cardiganshire, Section 40 [redacted]

Tel: Section 40 [redacted] - Tel/Fax: Section 40 [redacted] - (Media: Section 40 [redacted])

email: Section 40 [redacted]

Organiser: Section 40 [redacted] Press Officer: Section 40 [redacted]

TRIANGULAR CRAFT

U.S. SIGHTING REPORTS FOR 1995

The following sighting reports of triangular objects for 1995 were extracted from data available at the National UFO Reporting Centre web site by **Section 40**

Further information on these mysterious craft is available at The UFO Phenomenon

DATE	TIME	LOCATION	DETAILS
1/01/95	22:00	Shelton, WA	CA woman visiting daughter witness discs and triangular ships over Squaxin Island in Puget Sound. Dramatic.
1/03/95	5:00	Gladstone, OR	Woman witnessed triangular ship with white & blue lights. She & neighbors witnessed 5 ships. Reported military jets in area.
1/03/95	18:00	Marysville, WA	Young man sees large triangular ship with blue & white lights moving slowly in night. Set off to north.
1/04/95	0:54	Rodney, MI	Mother & daughter witness approx. 10 triangular object hovering in sky, beaming lights to ground. Calls 911
1/07/95	5:00	Makapiu Point, HI	Man and wife observe bizarre hump-backed, triangular object hover over sea. Had opaque windows. Humming.
1/21/95	21:50	Seymour, TN	A man and his fiancée witnessed gigantic triangle hovering in the night sky. Red & blue belly lights. Good report.
1/22/95	20:00	Seattle, WA	Man witnesses triangular object with dull, or "subdued" lights streak overhead.
1/30/95	20:29	Harrisburg, PA	County Emergency Agency supervisor receives call regarding triangular ship, seen to emit three beams of light.
2/21/95	19:00	Council Bluffs, IA	Young man sees 3 solid lights; pulls off highway. Sees gigantic, gray triangle with "archways." Good report, excellent drawing.
2/26/95	20:00	Tallassee, TN	FAA empl. & pilot reports seeing triangular ships with bizarre lights. Over mountainous country.
3/11/95	3:00	Chesapeake, VA	Man witnessed orange triangular object with light in center pass overhead. Surrounded by 20 red objects. Very high.

3/25/95 23:10 Salinas, CA Man & wife hear approaching "thumping" sound. See two bright red, pulsing triangles in sky fly from NW.

4/13/95 23:07 Brooklyn, AR Witness reports huge, brilliantly bright triangle passes overhead. Lit up area, hovered, turned, streaked off.

4/23/95 3:45 99 mile Exit/I-5, WA Truck driver reports witnessing "elongated triangle, almost transparent" in morning sky. Traversed 60 deg. of sky quickly.

5/12/95 22:50 Duarte, CA Young woman reports triangular ship suspended in SE sky, three smaller lights below larger object. Objects fly off.

5/13/95 21:40 Framingham, MA Woman reports triangular ship flies overhead, stops, hovers. Simply "winked out." Object very bright. First sighting for her.

6/11/95 17:15 Tacoma, WA 3 adults witness "white balloon" to south. Then witness 3 triangular-shaped objects nearby. They slowly drift into clouds.

7/09/95 23:00 Versailles, MO Multiple witnesses observe huge triangular ship, surrounded by four disc-shaped ships, with up to 50 bizarre creatures underneath!

7/27/95 23:20 Rochester, NY Two men driving on major highway witness a strange triangle overhead with red, green, & yellow lights directly overhead. Flew slowly.

7/29/95 22:30 Culver City, CA Woman sits outside to witness aircraft. Sees a large "triangular-shaped object with pastel lights on edge" pass slowly overhead.

8/15/95 4:30 Tacoma, WA Woman & friend witness "yellowish, whitish triangular object" suddenly appear in morning sky. "Popped out of nowhere." Just disappears.

8/20/95 21:35 Culver City, CA Woman hears peculiar roaring sound, goes outside and witnesses "triangular craft" fly overhead.

8/29/95 21:45 La Habra, CA Man sees 2 triangles hovering in night sky. They dim, get brighter. (All facts not available.)

9/10/95 22:00 Auburn, WA Young woman sees "black boomerang with dim lights" descend in sky. Then, she with 5 friends, see triangular ship with 5 lights hovering.

9/24/95 20:25 Boise, ID Woman calls to report seeing large, triangular-shaped, black mass hovering, moving slowly. Son sees same thing

from different location.

9/24/95 20:45 Scappoose, OR	Three young people witness a triangular-shaped craft hovering nearby. Craft had 2 white lights, 1 red. Maneuvered slowly.
10/22/95 19:35 Auburn, CA	Young girl with friends witness bizarre "triangle with 3 red, dim lights," streak across sky. Strobed bright light. Scared.
11/03/95 Albany, NY	Man reports witnessing triangular shaped craft pass overhead on NO 03, 04, & 05. Illuminated clouds; changed shape!
11/17/95 22:25 Lower Nazareth, PA	Woman witnesses huge, triangular-shaped ship, covered with bizarre lights, "like traffic lights." Very dramatic sighting.
11/18/95 1:15 Muskegon, MI	Woman reports daughter encountered intensely bright red, triangular object sitting on side of road. Object rose, disappeared suddenly.
11/19/95 20:45 Holton, KS	Youth with friend pursue on Highway 16 "triangular thing in sky, with yellow, blue, and green" lights. Object turned abruptly, flew north.
12/06/95 17:00 Bothell, WA	Father & daughter driving in car witness "beautiful electric blue" triangular shaped object in evening sky. Flipped on side, maneuvered.
12/20/95 23:50 Schnecksville, PA	Man & daughter witness triangular object with very bright white lights on the corners, 1 red light in the center. Object circled their home!

This page last updated: Wednesday, 07-May-97 02:07:17 EDT

~~1997 Reports~~ ~~Contacts~~

TRIANGULAR CRAFT

U.S. SIGHTING REPORTS FOR 1996

The following sighting reports of triangular objects for 1996 were extracted from data available at the National UFO Reporting Centre web site.

Further information on these mysterious craft is available at The UFO Phenomenon.

DATE	TIME	LOCATION	DETAILS
2/01/96	21:00	Big Pine, CA	Woman sees large triangular object with white sparks pouring off its nose pass over Highway 395, disappear to East. Twice size of moon.
2/18/96	2:05	Cedar Springs, MI	Man & wife witness three strange lights near their rural home. They exhibited red, green, and white light; formed a triangle.
2/19/96	22:44	Whidbey Island, WA	Three adults see triangular shaped object, with 4 very bright white lights, streak to the East. Emphasized brightness of light, humming sound.
3/20/96	21:00	Seattle, WA	Young woman & 2 friends witness 3 lights overhead, arranged in a triangular pattern. Suddenly, a 4th light appears. Not aircraft.
3/24/96	20:10	Austin, TX	Commercial pilot & friend on Austin airport see "triad of white lights" streak directly over airport. "Speed was incredible." Radar neg..
3/26/96	21:45	Thousand Oaks, CA	Man & wife in hot tub see 2 "tiny triangles" streak from South to North directly overhead, as fast as "shooting star." Silent; yellow color.
4/12/96	22:08	Baltimore, MD	Man sees formation of 10-12 dimly lit amber lights in wedge-formation pass E to W overhead at VERY high speed, like shooting star. (A formation or one object? - John)
5/04/96	5:30	Morris, MI	Woman sees delta-shaped ship w/ convex bottom & 3 prominent lights over house. Illuminates entire yard with light beam. Frightened by it.
5/21/96	23:58	Charleston, IL	Four youth camping witness big white light, then huge triangular craft with 2 red lights on side. Object illuminated them with spotlight.
6/12/96	12:15	Seattle, WA	Two young men, unloading van, see 3x pinpoints of light streak directly overhead.

Arranged in a triangular shape.

11/16/96 22:00 Riverside, NJ

Woman & daughter see V-shaped obj. w/
red/blue/green lights streak across sky,
stop dead, hover.
Many neighbors witness object.

11/17/96 Grandview, MO

Multiple residents see 2x large triangles
w/ lights & fireball behind it fly over,
call 911.
Police choppers respond; neg.. Loud. TV.

11/17/96 2:30 Arcadia, CA

2x young men see large triangular obj.
w/ lights on corners. Dips, rises, several
times, then STREAKS to W.
Had "shimmering effect."

12/29/96 19:00 Hartsburg, MO

Relayed rept.: 2x men trapping witness
silent, black triangular obj. overhead.
3-4 white strobe lights; blue & red lights.
No sound.

This page last updated: Wednesday, 07-May-97 02:07:20 EDT

~~Home~~ ~~Search~~ ~~Contact~~

THE WEST WALES PARANORMAL GROUP

(affiliated to The Wales Federation of Independent Ufologists)

Section 40, Ceredigion, Section 40
Tel: Section 40 - Tel/Fax: Section 40 - (Media: Section 40)
email: Section 40
Organiser: Section 40 Media & Research: Section 40

Summary Report of the UFO Sightings in Mid and West Wales, 21st Nov 1996, as reported to the West Wales Paranormal Group.

Introduction

The following is a report into unusual atmospheric and aerial phenomena which was observed in Mid and West Wales on the evening of 21st November 1996. The phenomenon is popularly known as The Flying Triangle or Black Triangle - a type of UFO which has been sighted elsewhere in Wales as well as many countries throughout the world since the early 1980's and possibly earlier.

Our sources have included signed witness reports and personal interviews with witnesses. We have found no evidence of collusion in these reports, most witnesses were totally amazed at the quantity of corroborative evidence gathered for this report. We have omitted the names of witnesses to respect their privacy but many have readily agreed to subsequent investigation by other bona fide researchers. Please contact us for further details.

We would like to express our thanks to everyone who contacted us in regard to these events and to those public services who patiently answered our enquiries - even if it was only to say that they knew nothing about the events. We would also like to express our thanks to the journalists and staff on the local newspapers who printed the initial stories and helped in our enquiries, without whom this report would have been considerably less comprehensive. We look forward to the day when such reports can be published without ridiculous and sensationalist headlines and without the ludicrous "explanations" by so-called 'experts' that inevitably follow in subsequent issues!

We would also like to thank the staff at the Ministry of Defence, but unfortunately the standard response we received from them proved to be of little assistance. It seems inconceivable that the RAF were unaware of this craft as it flew around Mid and West Wales for several hours - or if they weren't then they simply are not doing their job properly. It seems probable that they are instructed to stay well clear of these craft, possibly due to the electro-magnetic discharges. It is also possible that the craft operates at night and at such low altitude as to avoid collisions with civil aircraft. The MoD response therefore can be seen to be correct only if they have prior knowledge of these otherwise unidentified craft - however they have said elsewhere that they do not operate an aircraft recognition service and therefore feel under no obligation to identify "UFO"s even if they could. Perhaps such obstructionism is part of the "deal"?

We'd also like to thank everyone who has attended meetings of the West Wales Paranormal Group at New Quay, Aberaeron and Lampeter, some of whose experiences are recorded here. For details of future meetings phone Section 40. We also hope to be able to publish all our other UFO sightings from 1996, together with those from earlier years that have recently been made known to us.

We would like to make it clear that although this evening's sightings were unusual in their number, that we do not consider the area to have been especially favoured in the quantity of sightings - the East Midlands have seen a large number of them - and the Belgian sightings from the early 1990's involved thousands of witnesses. We would also like to point out that we would initially pursue a

rational and terrestrial explanation for this Flying Triangle phenomena (and UFO's in general) and would not suggest an extra-terrestrial explanation without some positive evidence for it.

If you have any information regarding these sightings or any other interesting "paranormal" phenomena then either phone the number above or write to us at **Section 40** [REDACTED] Ceredigion, **Section 40**

Sightings

Swansea Area

4.10 pm. Witnesses saw a large elliptical shape craft, with tailfin, pass through the air at approx 2,000 ft moving in a N/NE direction over Swansea. The object was travelling at normal jet speed and had a white smoke trail behind it. The object glowed white and was not clearly defined around the edges. It was brighter than the moon when it passed in front of it. Weather was reasonably clear, with the sun setting in the west. There were several witnesses, one of whom viewed the object through binoculars, and stated that no wings were visible on the craft. Size unknown. No positive identification forthcoming but it was possibly a normal airliner dazzling in the setting sunlight ?

Cardigan Area

6.00 - 6.30 pm. Three witnesses were driving in their car from Dinas to Cardigan, near Eglwysrw, in a NE direction. What sounded like two aerial objects with flashing red and green lights flew low and slow over the car. The Shape(s) was uncertain but the lights were described as being "Christmas Tree" like. When the craft/s was passing over the car it emitted a loud noise "a bit like a jet". No positive identification was forthcoming but it could just possibly be the two Hercules transport planes seen near New Quay although the times of the sightings are inconsistent.

7.30 pm. Two witnesses in a car saw a low flying triangular shaped craft flying S/SE from Cardigan Bay coast over Mwnt and Penparc, between Cardigan and Aberporth. Initially they just saw flashing blue and red lights in the sky but as the craft passed over their car they could clearly make out the triangular shape. As the craft flew further on it glowed yellow and then suddenly "shot off, like a bullet towards the Preseli hills" (S/SW direction.) A few minutes later the craft then returned (witnesses presumption) and hovered over the car before disappearing extremely quickly once again. N.B. a possibility of two separate craft must now be considered in view of this and other witnesses accounts and the correspondences as stated.

8.45 pm. The second witness initially heard a loud rumbling noise and thought it was an aircraft flying extremely low - perhaps about to crash. The witness ran into the back garden which is in village of Penparc. She looked up to see a large triangular shaped craft flying slowly overhead. The craft was described as having rounded corners, black underneath and having grey sides. It was surrounded in an orange glow which clearly silhouetted the craft. There were red and blue lights in the tips, with a secondary flashing light following (i.e. detached) from the craft. A fairly clear description of the Flying Triangle "UFO".

8.50 - 9.20 pm. A driver initially saw a bright flashing orange/yellow light seawards off the Cardigan to Penparc road on way home. On arriving at home in Penparc his family watched the flashes for a while. They seemed to be every 5 minutes or so. No sound was heard. No positive identification was possible. The witnesses said the flashes were definitely not lightning. No storms were reported in the area.

9.00 pm. Witness, 3 miles north of Glandwr (7 miles south of Cardigan) saw a bright flash of light outside. Went out of the house to investigate and saw intermittent very bright flashes, approx 2 seconds in duration. They were seen in a northerly direction which lit up the surrounding cloud. The weather was clear and definitely not lightning. There was a 5 minute pause between the groups of flashes.

9.30 pm. Cardigan Bus Depot. Witness saw flashing blue, red and yellow lights which lit up the surrounding white clouds very clearly. The flashing lasted about 10 minutes and was accompanied by "crackling like static". Not a storm.

Aberystwyth Area

8.50 pm. A witness in Rhydyfelen, just south of Aberystwyth, saw an object out of his living room window. It was travelling extremely fast and very low over the roof tops. The object appeared to have a white light at the front and a red light to the rear, this appeared to merge as the craft was moving so fast. No sound was heard, the object moved very rapidly and out of sight towards the sea (W).

9.10 pm. Witness in Rhydyfelen saw a brilliant white column of light, "about 10 times higher than it was wide", for 2/3 seconds about 2 miles out into Cardigan Bay. It was reported to the police as she felt it could be a distress flare. No ships or boats were at sea at the time. The following day the local police reported that they had been contacted by police in Hereford to say that an identical column of light had been seen there at the same time - no further information available.

Time unknown (before 9.30 pm). Sub-editor with local paper talked to someone in Aberystwyth who had seen a bright light in the sky overhead.

10.30 - 11.00 pm. Two witnesses at Llanbadarn Fawr saw a large grey mass flying along the valley tops of the Rheidol Valley. The object was emitting a slowly pulsating streak of light. It flew in an arc out into Cardigan Bay where it was seen to hover in a pillar of light. The object made several circles of Aberystwyth during the 30 minutes it was observed. Diameter of circles was approx. 15 - 20 miles. Movement of the object described as being a mile or so at a time on each pulse of horizontal light (much brighter than sheet lightning.) The flashes were between 1 - 3 seconds long, sometimes there were multiple flashes between 3 - 7 seconds in duration. No sound was heard. The object's speed was said to be much faster than a normal jet, almost too fast for the naked eye to track. Object finally disappeared off towards Nant-y-moch and the Hafren Forest. Weather described as hazy with 25% cloud cover, dry with a light breeze and near freezing temperature.

Cardigan Bay Coast

Time unknown. Two witnesses in Aberaeron contacted the local coastguard on seeing bright flashes going off in Cardigan Bay. Coastguards arrived after flashes had stopped and assumed the flashes were lightning. No storm was reported in the area.

Time unknown. Witness at Llangrannog reported seeing bright white flashes going off over Cardigan Bay every few seconds.

5.30-6.30 pm several separate witnesses saw 2 RAF Hercules transport planes flying low, they were following each other closely together and at moderate speed. They were seen near New Quay travelling up the coast (S-N) towards Aberystwyth. n.b. this single report is included for information but is not considered to be related to the other sightings neither do we consider that the Hercules were mistaken for the FT by any witnesses. There is a possibility that they might have been sent as 'decoys' to conveniently account for any forthcoming UFO reports but admittedly, we have no evidence to support this.

8 - 9 pm (uncertain) witness left his house at top of the hill in Ffosyffin, he saw the horizon brilliantly lit up about 20 miles out to sea. The white light seemed to have a "central core" and was "sitting over the horizon". There was continuous illumination for 30 secs-1 minute. He called his father who also witnessed the light and shortly afterwards they spoke to several others who had also seen the light/s.

9.10 - 9.15 pm Driver going North to Aberystwyth at Llanrhystud saw a bright white flash that lit up the sky for two seconds. Definitely not lightning. No sound.

10.10 pm. Driver at Llanon, coming south on coast road, saw an enormous burst of white light to his right (i.e. seawards), like a 1,000 fireworks going off at once. No sound.

Teifi Valley

9.0 - 9.30 pm.(approx). Bright flashes of light seen behind Adpar hill by witnesses in Newcastle Emlyn (i.e. to the East).

9.30 pm.(approx) Driver and four passengers were on route to Llanybydder from Pencader, approx 1 mile from home when they spotted a moving white light low over the tree tops moving an NE direction. Initially thought this was a shooting star but it was too low and lasted too long and was too slow. As object moved across sky it changed to an orange colour before disappearing in a brilliant white flash. Witnesses thought it may have been a plane crashing so investigated area but nothing was found. No sound heard.

- 9.20 pm. Bright flashes of light seen westward of Llanfair Clydogau by witness while driving, approx 700 feet above sea level (NE of Lampeter). Had a panoramic view over the area. Particularly noticed two very bright flashes close together.

9.45 pm. Driver in the vicinity of Llandewi Brefi (NE of Lampeter) saw a bright white flash illuminate the sky and the surrounding area and was almost blinded by it. Then saw a second flash, not so intense, further to the north. Thought the light had come from an adjacent field about 100 yards further on the right and had the impression that there may have been a rectangular object. Clear night, no thunder or other noise heard.

Shrewsbury / Welshpool / Machynlleth

Driver going home from Birmingham to Aberystwyth area. 10.00 pm saw a bright green "star" descending vertically on the horizon in the direction of Shrewsbury (i.e. to the West). Further along the A5 came across a police diversion due to what looked like deliberately spilled pile of sand. Diversion took them through Shrewsbury and back on to the A5 and thence the A458. As they approached the Trewern Bridge (5 miles NE of Welshpool) they saw the first in a series of extremely bright, bluey white flashes that projected upwards from behind the hills to their right (i.e. North). The flashes continued every 4/5 minutes until they reached the east side of Welshpool, when they seemed to be left behind. Witnesses bewildered! 30 minutes later, in the Mallwyd area, 3 very bright flashes dazzled witnesses. This time flashes came from in front of them (i.e. West) as well as behind the hills to their right (i.e. North). Witness also reported seeing several military helicopters flying in a "hurried fashion" during the drive home - exact location unknown.

Subsequent Investigation

As one of the initial explanations for the flashing lights had been that there was an electrical storm in the area, the Met Office were contacted. According to their records there was no report of a storm that night, although they said they could not rule one out. No witnesses in the entire area heard any thunder that evening, nor was there any rain. Weather was generally described as "clear", with patchy cloud. It seems impossible that a storm could traverse such a wide area and not give any rain or thunder. Furthermore, many witnesses described the flashes as coming from ground level and the range of colours and length of flashes is atypical of a storm. Conclusion is simple. No storm.

As much of the area is designated as a Military low-flying and missile testing area it seemed a good idea to contact the Ministry of Defence. They simply trotted out the usual line about there being "no UFO sighting reported in the area at the time *that was considered to be of defence significance*" and that "there was no unusual air defence activity, no penetration by hostile military aircraft of the UK Air Defence Region, no unknown aircraft activity on any military radars and that no Quick Reaction Alert Aircraft were scrambled".

Incidentally, such quotations as worded above would prove useful if and when such time arises as a new technology craft is announced as the MoD could simply truthfully say that, "yes - it was not unidentified" (we knew), and "yes - it was not of defence significance" (it was one of ours)! With a 'secret-technology' hypothesis the answer would both be true and logical whilst neatly sidestepping the real issue - another indication of the usual modus operandi of the MoD.

The MoD did inform us that two air-to-air missiles had been fired from Aberporth testing station that morning but this, of course, would not have been at the relevant time. There also seems to be a contradiction in there being a ground-based firing range firing an air-to-air missile but this may well have been a typographical error. In any event, the missiles would probably have been fired from land or sea along the Cardigan Bay coast into Cardigan Bay and certainly not towards land. Interestingly, the Aberystwyth Police informed us that two RAF Hercules aircraft had been seen in the area on the day but unfortunately they could not confirm the time for this. Hercules are known for low-flying in this area and may be responsible for some UFO sightings involving small flashing aerial lights. However, to our knowledge, they have never been associated with the huge brilliant white flashes nor the Flying Triangle-type-craft as seen by many witnesses. It is interesting that the MoD did not report the existence of the low flying Hercules.

We were unable to find out if there were any civilian aircraft, blimps or so forth in the air. However, it would seem unlikely for them to be around during the night at low altitude in a designated RAF low-flying area. Aberystwyth police claimed that a civilian pilot on an inward bound transatlantic flight contacted Air Traffic Control at Heathrow asking about bright flashes of light but ATC referred us to the military ATC at West Drayton and no information on this has been forthcoming.

Initial news reports on the radio the following day claimed that local police and the "RAF UFO Unit" were investigating UFO reports from West Wales, the Midlands and Herefordshire. We were unable to get further information as to the source of this news. It is possible that the witness in Hereford, mentioned above, may have been responsible as he is a radio producer for the local radio station. It seems unbelievable that this news would have been given out if there had been an easy explanation for the sightings. None of the local police stations contacted gave any indication of having been contacted by a "RAF UFO Unit" or of there having been any official enquiry.

So officially we drew a complete blank - nobody was willing to give us information other than to follow the official line that nothing happened that night. None of the police stations contacted reported having received any calls from the public (other than Aberystwyth with one single report) nor that any of their officers had seen anything unusual whilst on duty that night.

And yet we have 18 reports, many of them by multiple witnesses of seeing something very unusual happening in the skies of mid and west Wales on the evening of 21st November 1996. Although it is possible that the two earliest reports are unrelated to the main events (although Omar Fowler subsequently informed us that there had indeed been elliptical craft - with tailfins - sighted in the Midlands only a week or two prior to our report!) it still leaves 16 reports which are all unexplained, other than that they all are consistent with the Flying Triangle "UFO" reports that have been compiled by various sources, in particular Omar Fowler's Phenomena Research Association.

Correspondences of reports on 21st Nov sightings with other reports.

Shape. Two reports of witnesses clearly identified the outline of a triangular craft. One of those reports also gave the rounded corners which are sometimes characteristic of these craft.

Sound. In general there was no sound associated with the reports, with the exception of the low overflight at Penparc, when a loud rumbling noise was heard. This is typical of other reports, the Flying Triangle is normally silent unless one is directly underneath it and it is flying slow and low.

Lights. These can be divided into three groups: white flashes, coloured flashes and orange glow.

One of the most outstanding "trademarks" of Flying Triangle reports are brilliant, almost blinding white flashes. These usually, but not always occur when the craft rapidly accelerates or decelerates. These often occur in pairs as it appears the craft often hovers or flies very slowly for 5 minutes or so before taking off in a flash at tremendous speed only to "stop on a sixpence" 5 seconds later. Several witnesses saw two closely timed flashes, some distance apart.

Besides these flashes, several witnesses saw flashing red and blue lights. Note that normal aircraft operating at night have continuously flashing anti-collision and navigation lights, which are red, white and green. These are never extremely bright and do not go on only every 5 minutes or so. Whatever the Flying Triangle is, it does not conform to standard aeronautical practice! There are numerous variations between observed lights coming from FT's but blue and red are quite common, along with green, yellow and white. Lights in the tips are also a common feature as is a white light on the leading tip and an orange one in the centre.

Finally the yellow/orange glow that direct observers of the craft saw, just prior in two cases, to its taking off in a flash. Again this is standard for the FT, it would appear that the orange/yellow glow could represent some form of "Charging-up" of the air around the craft to enable rapid acceleration.

Electro-magnetic disturbances. One witness reported that the air seemed charged with static. Again not uncommon, and perhaps indicative that the motive power for these craft is not conventional jet power.

Following lights. Initially this sounded very unusual but Omar Fowler's booklet actually reports many such lights, sometimes singular, as in the Penparc report, sometimes multiple.

Speed. Our reports are again very typical of FT phenomena. It would appear that the craft operate in two modes: hovering or slow (50 - 100 knots) and extremely fast (speed unknown but appears to disappear "in a flash" with no appreciable transition between the two (seemingly inertia-free). Again this is not conventionally possible either in terms of propulsion devices or in terms of the inertial effect on possible crew members (the g forces would, in a conventional aircraft would cause a blackout or even totally squash the crew not to mention the probability of wrecking the machine itself!)

Operating height. For some reason these craft spend most of their time flying at very low altitude. Typical phrases are "just above the roof-tops", "behind the hills" and so forth. Given the speed that these craft operate at when accelerating (which most estimate to be well in excess of Mach 1 - yet no sonic boom!) this would appear to be extremely dangerous, yet there is no evidence that there is any way the crew (if any) can see where they are going - no cockpits are sighted and the edges of the craft appear to be solid. Logos or insignia are not seen, Neither are any aerials, masts or other normal distinguishing features. A further consideration is that if, as seems likely, the craft operates within an intense electro-magnetic field, then conventional magnetic compasses, radar and radio would be appear to be useless, so how the craft navigates and tracks other craft in the area and communicates (if it indeed does so) remains a mystery. It is possible that navigation is by an inertial system and that some form of laser or microwave-based digital pulsed communication system is involved. This may also account for the lack of IFF transponder response which has been alleged in other encounters with the craft.

Size. No witnesses were able to give a reliable estimate of the size. One, possibly of "jet airliner size" in length, is the closest report given for the 21st November sighting. From other sources we know that many other witnesses have seen craft of this type and shape ranging in size from 30 feet to 700 feet in length. In some cases even quoted as "the size of a football pitch"! The accuracy in judging the size would greatly depend on an accurate judgement on the height of the craft above the observer. This can be particularly difficult against a dark sky with no other point of reference especially if the craft perhaps has some special kind of non-reflective 'stealthy' coating.

Time and Date. Although these craft have been seen in daytime and summer, they are most commonly seen in the evening during the hours of darkness in autumn and winter, as was the case with our reports.

Conclusion

Mid and West Wales were definitely visited by one or more (probably two) craft of the "Flying Triangle" type on the evening of 21st November 1996.

Speculation on the Identity of the Flying Triangle "UFO".

There are two schools of thought about these craft. Either they are "Our Secret Technology", that is they are terrestrial in design, manufacture and operation or they are extra-terrestrial in some or all of those aspects.

There can be no doubt that whichever is true, the Flying Triangle is more typical of other "UFOs" than it is of any publicly known terrestrial aircraft type in either design, propulsion or use. All of the reported characteristics of the FT are familiar to anyone who has studied the 'UFO' phenomenon and their variously differing designs and characteristics. This similarity would suggest a common source and/or propulsion system.

Nearly all "UFOs" manage to combine the ability to move practically silently, apart from a humming/whirring noise when very close to the observer; the ability to change speed and direction in an instant; a range of speeds from hovering and very slow upwards to extremely fast - some claim above Mach 10; they often give off electro-magnetic effects, including interference with TVs and radios, car electrics etc; they are often seen to be inside a glowing (usually red/orange/yellow) field of, presumably electrically charged/ionised air; their arrival and departure is often spectacularly bright and rapid and so forth.

In short all these craft, including the Flying Triangle, appear to be propelled by an some form of electro-magnetic device which also could possibly act as an anti-gravity force-field providing for inertia-free acceleration/deceleration and flight. Rather than this speculation being a flight of fancy (forgive the pun), it is understood, for example, that ARCO together with Japanese scientists test-flew an aircraft 150 miles in Canada in 1987 using a microwave energy source and that theoretically, an aircraft powered in this way would be able to fly almost indefinitely provided the power continued to be beamed at it. It is worthy of note that many reports of the 'next generation' stealth aircraft suggest that they are remotely piloted vehicles (RPV's) with virtual reality control from the ground, via satellite or from conventional aeroplanes such as the AWACS-type 747 - more probably a combination of the three. This would alleviate the problems associated with high g-force effects on pilots.

It seems bizarre that if this is terrestrial technology that has been around for 50 years, at least, nobody has been found to be manufacturing or designing such craft (or paying for them!) Similarly, they might need to be crewed (unless remotely controlled) and certainly maintained but again nobody has come forward to claim to have done so. Furthermore, before such craft would have been built

the underlying technology and scientific theory would need to have been publicly discussed to ensure that the project was viable.

With regard to the Flying Triangle in particular, these have been around for at least 10 years in their present designs, and have been very widely reported when flying around - yet where do they come from, where are they based? It is believed that British Aerospace have prototype scaled-down versions of this design operating from Wharton in Lancashire, but they are a mere 30 feet long and have only been flying for a year at the most. It seems most unlikely that BAe would build full-scale aircraft of such an unconventional design, operate them and then only afterwards, build the scaled down prototypes!

Project Aurora and Project HALO are said to be triangular or diamond-shaped prototype craft that are being developed by the US military and are the subject of continuing independent investigation. However, concrete evidence of these very-real projects being the Flying Triangle is sadly lacking and prone to many researchers jumping to hasty conclusions.

A conjecture that is not generally considered is that the Flying Triangle's flight characteristics and styling are partly or wholly modelled on the assumed manoeuvres and physical form of extra-terrestrial craft - whether real or otherwise. The reasons for this possibility could be either to divert public attention from a top secret military project with obvious earthly origins and/or to purposefully reinforce a manufactured public belief system in an extra-terrestrial 'reality'. For whatever reason the latter may be so, we can only guess as to why (we have our suspicions). A further associated conjecture is that the FT may even be a sophisticated satellite-source holographic projection that is utilised for decoy purposes and the associated witness phenomena such as auditory and tactile vibrations and even (optional) radar sensitivity may also be microwave generated. There does appear to be a mounting body of evidence to suggest that widespread covert forces exist to spread counter dis-information to actually promote a ET reality. This double-bluff is contrary to the more-popular belief that the UK, US and other governments are attempting to hide the reality of an extra-terrestrial presence. However, regrettably, this alternative theory is not readily absorbed by a growing body of biased researchers who seem bent on 'proving' an extra-terrestrial connection. It may turn out that they are being used to perpetuate the myth - only time will tell!

It is interesting to note that in 1987 there was some public concern over a British Aerospace facility in the Hafren Forest in Powis due, in part, to anomalous "strobe-like" lights being seen over the hill tops in the area. BAe refused, at the time to inform the locals about what was going on but did say that they had chosen the site (in a disused quarry in the middle of a huge forest) due to its distance from domestic and industrial electromagnetic "smog". We are currently investigating whether BAe is still operating at the site and its purpose - it certainly wasn't or isn't a conventional airfield or manufacturing site!

However, it is possible that the UK Government has given permission to another government (USA?) for the Flying Triangle craft to be test-flown over Wales and elsewhere in exchange for technological know-how or additional defence facilities. It may be that given the apparent massive discharges of electro-magnetic energy coming from this type of craft that it is not permitted to fly in certain countries, but that the UK is once again acting as the USA's hand-maiden. With the UK's secrecy laws and culture of denial in the civil service it would be easier to maintain a "plausible denial" of FT operations here.

Other considerations include: if they are of terrestrial origin who has given them permission to fly so low over populated and rural areas, with a propulsion system that is guaranteed to be spotted by anyone who is out and about (hardly stealth!) and so low that when it "flashes" it practically blinds any motorist who has the misfortune to be nearby. Further, to operate in British skies it would need to have been granted a certificate of air-worthiness, which should be publicly available for inspection.

On the other hand some reports of 'close encounters' with purported Flying Triangle "crews" have suggested that they are flown by USA military personnel, but how reliable these reports are is a

matter for conjecture and beyond the scope of this report. Elaborate hoaxes may not be beyond the bounds of possibility.

So, what to conclude? We are reluctant to suggest the extra-terrestrial hypothesis in the absence of any positive evidence but we cannot confirm the terrestrial alternative for similar reasons. However, a terrestrial alternative does seem the most likely and logical explanation given the evidence available to-date. Until further evidence is produced, the jury must remain out on the true nature and origin of these craft. One thing is most definitely certain - in whatever form - they exist and they are here!

Current Investigations

We are currently researching the possible propulsion system and power source/s of the Flying Triangle and hope to publish a further report on this subject in the future. We are willing to exchange information with others in this field and would welcome contact with like-minded researchers.

Our local M.P. Mr Cynog Dafis (Plaid Cymru), had expressed an interest in the interim report and has agreed to pursue the matter further. It is hoped that the issue will be raised through the House of Commons Parliamentary Questions procedure.

Further Reading

Fowler, Omar. The Flying Triangle Mystery. 1996. Phenomenon Research Association. **Section 40**
Section 40 Derby, **Section 40** Compilation of Flying Triangle reports, mainly from the UK.
 Suggests an extra-terrestrial origin.

Matthews, Tim. Stealth, Lies and Videotapes. 1997. Lancashire UFO Society. **Section 40**
 Lancaster, **Section 40** Suggests Flying Triangles are of terrestrial origin and that British Aerospace are involved in developing a UK version.

Sheffield, Derek. Deadly Concealment. 1996. Blandford. The Henry Root approach to UFOlogy as the author attempts to get an honest answer out of the authorities regarding the Belgian Flying Triangle sightings in the early 1990's.

Lyne, William R. 1995 Space Aliens from the Pentagon. Tesla Technology and THE BIG LIE. Man-Made UFO's and public deception to promote the New World Order and Global Elite.

We recommend that anyone wishing to keep up-to-date with reports of the Flying Triangle reads magazines such as "Alien Encounters", "Sightings", "UFO Magazine" and "UFO Reality" which are available from local newsagents. Also, the Internet - particularly the alt.ufo.reports, alt.ufo.research and alt.paranet.ufo newsgroups.



PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE
FOR DEFENCE

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

D/US of S/FH 5119/96/P

Hand January 1997

Dear Dr. Williams,

Thank you for your letter of 12 December to William Hague enclosing one from **Section 40** of the West Wales Paranormal Group about 'UFO sightings' on 21 November. **Section 40** also wrote in similar terms to the military staffs at the London Air Traffic Control Centre, West Drayton and I hope he will accept this as a reply to both letters.

My Department examines any reports of 'UFO sightings' sent to us solely to establish whether what was seen might have some defence significance, namely, whether there was any evidence that the UK Air Defence Region might have been breached. Unless there are defence implications, and to date no 'UFO sighting' reported to us has revealed such evidence, we do not attempt to identify the precise nature of each reported sighting. From the descriptions we do receive, aircraft or natural phenomena probably account for most of the observations.

I should wish to assure **Section 40** that the integrity of the UK's airspace in peacetime is maintained through continuous policing of the UK Air Defence Region by the Royal Air Force and we remain vigilant for any potential military threat. Our enquiries reveal that on the day in question there was no unusual air defence activity, no penetration by hostile military aircraft of the UK Air Defence Region, no unknown aircraft activity on any military radars and that no Quick Reaction Alert aircraft were scrambled.

We have also checked whether the Aberporth Range was being used that day since the range danger area extends into Cardigan Bay. The Range regularly fires air-to-air missiles but, although

Dr Alan Williams MP



Recycled Paper



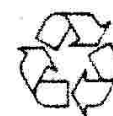
on 21 November two missiles were fired, the timings do not accord with the events documented by **Section 40**

I hope this is helpful.

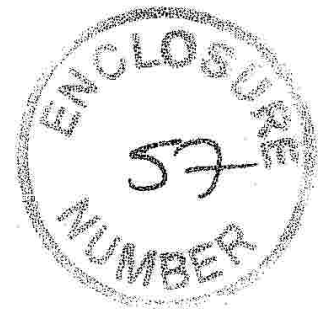
Yours sincerely,

Section 40

THE EARL HOWE



Recycled Paper



LOOSE MINUTE

D/Sec(AS)/64/4

10 Jun 97

PE Uni
(thro

Section 40

LETTER FROM NIGEL EVANS MP - US 2019/97

1. Nigel Evans' constituent, Section 40, is rather confused about the dates and locations of the incidents he mentions in his letter to his MP. In Nov last year Nigel Evans forwarded a letter from Section 40 asking about an air crash alleged to have occurred in Morecambe Bay on 26 Oct. There were no military aircraft crashes on 26 Oct, and the CAA confirmed that there were no civil aircraft accidents in the Morecambe Bay or surrounding areas on that day. In fact, media reports at the time suggested an explosion in the air, initially attributed to a mid-air collision, north of the Butt of Lewis. An extensive search of that area was carried out by RAF and Coastguard Search and Rescue assets but was later abandoned after it became clear that no aircraft had been reported overdue. Media reports subsequently focused on the possibility that the incident was caused by space debris, although the Ballistic Missile Early Warning System at RAF Fylingdales, which tracks all satellites in orbit within the UK's area of responsibility, had no evidence to support this theory.

2. Section 40 is a member of a Morecambe "UFO" group. His latest letter to Nigel Evans seeks information about "UFO" sightings alleged to have occurred in mid-Nov last year. As USofS will recall, the MOD examines any reports of "unidentified flying objects" solely to establish whether what was seen might have some defence significance; namely, whether there is any evidence that the UK Air Defence Region might have been compromised by hostile foreign military activity. Unless there is evidence of a potential military threat, the Department does not attempt to identify the precise nature of each sighting reported to us.

3. RAF air defence staff have confirmed that there were no recorded incidents of unauthorized military incursions of UK airspace for either 17 or 22 Nov 96; moreover, there is no record of unusual or unauthorized air activity of any nature on these dates. Although the Department received three "UFO" reports from members of the public for 17 Nov, none concerned sightings in the Preston or surrounding areas. There were no reports of sightings anywhere in the country for 22 Nov. In the absence of any substantive information at the time, we can only speculate on what the witnesses might have seen. It is quite common for members of the public to report military aircraft "chasing" objects which are, in fact, two or three aircraft flying in formation.

4. In view of **Section 40** confusion about the events of October last year, and his interest in "UFO" matters, the attached draft seeks to set the record straight and provides the standard line about the Department's interest in "UFO" sightings. I am satisfied that the draft is in accordance with the Government's policy on answering Parliamentary Enquiries and the Open Government Code (DCI Gen 48/97).

Section 40

Sec(AS)2a1

MB8245 **Section 40**

CHOTS: SEC(AS)2A (2)

Enc.

D/US/2019/97

June 1997

Thank you for your letter of 28 May enclosing two from your constituent Section 40 of Section 40 Preston, Lancashire, about an incident which occurred off the Island of Lewis.

Following reports to the authorities of an alleged explosion in the air in the vicinity of the Western Isles on 26 October last year, an extensive search of the area was carried out by RAF and Coastguard Search and Rescue assets. The search was later called off after it became clear that no aircraft, either military or civilian, had been reported overdue. There was no evidence to support any of the media theories about the cause of the incident.

My Department examines any reports of 'UFO sightings' sent to us solely to establish whether what was seen might have some defence significance, namely, whether there was any evidence that the UK Air Defence Region might have been breached by hostile or unauthorized foreign military activity. Unless there are defence implications, and to date no 'UFO sighting' reported to us has revealed such evidence, we do not attempt to identify the precise nature of each reported incident. We believe that down to earth explanations could be found for these reports, such as aircraft lights or natural phenomena, if resources were diverted for this purpose, but it would be an inappropriate use of defence resources to provide this kind of aerial identification service.

I should wish to assure Mr Wood that the integrity of the United Kingdom's airspace in peacetime is maintained through continuous policing of the UK Air Defence Region by the Royal Air Force which remains vigilant for any potential military threat. I can confirm that there were no incidents of unauthorized foreign military incursions of UK airspace on 17 or 22 November 1996.

I hope this explains the position.

JOHN SPELLAR

Nigel Evans MP



Mon 9 Jun, 1997 15:54 mailbox standard Page 1

DATE	FROM	SUBJECT	CODES
09/06/97	ADGE1	PE: US 2019/97	[]

Intended:

Sent: 09/06/97 at 15:52

Delivered: 09/06/97 at 15:53

To: SEC(AS)2A (2)

CC:

Ref: 343

From: ADGE1

Auth by:

Subject: PE: US 2019/97

Text: Please see attached reply to your PE. Regards

Priority: Normal
Reply Request []

SEE PAGE
View Acknowledge []

Attachments [1]
Codes []

LOOSE MINUTE

D/DAO/1/13

9 Jun 97

Sec(AS)2a1

PARLIAMENTARY ENQUIRY: US 2019/97: NIGEL EVANS MP

Reference: D/Sec(AS)/64/4 dated 6 Jun 97.

1. At Reference, you asked for confirmation that there were no recorded incidents of unauthorised military incursions of UK airspace on 17 and 22 Nov 97.

2. Having consulted HQ 11/18 Gp, I can confirm that there was no such activity; moreover, there is no record of unusual or unauthorised air activity of any nature on these dates.

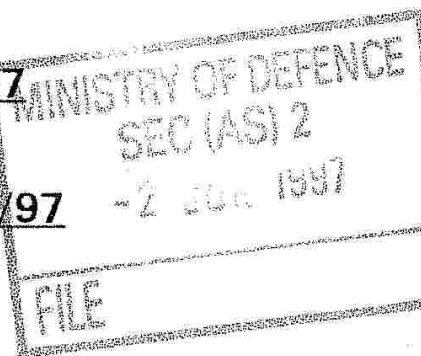
Section 40

Wg Cdr

ADGE 1

MB4227 Section 40

CHOTS: ADGE1

PARLIAMENTARY ENQUIRY - FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION**THE GUIDANCE IS NEW : YOU MUST READ IT**TO: SEC(AS)2aPE REF NUMBER: US 2019/97MINISTER REPLYING: USASDRAFT REQUIRED BY: 12/6/97DATE: 2/6/97FROM: **Section 40**PE Unit TEL: **Section 40**

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

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

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

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

1. Ministerial responsibilities changed.

2. Opening and Closing All Ministers prefer to start:

"Thank you for your letter of ... (MP's ref if given) on behalf of/enclosing one from your constituent, Mr ... of ... Toytown about..."
 If a Minister is replying on behalf of another Minister start:

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

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

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

"I hope this explains the position"

"I am sorry I cannot be more helpful"

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

3. Open Government A revised Code of Practice on Access to Government Information came into effect in 1997. It is set out in DCI GEN 48/1997.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

NIGEL EVANS MP

29 MAY 1997



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

PE
USGS
Sec (AS) 2
VFOs

John Spellar, MP
The Ministry of Defence
Main Building
Whitehall
London. SW1A 2HB

28 May 1997

Dear John

Re: Section 40 [redacted] Preston, Lancs. Section 40 [redacted]

I enclose for you a letter that I have received from my constituent regarding an incident which occurred off Lewis Island, Scotland on 26th October 1996.

In view of the concerns expressed I would be grateful for any comments that you might have.

John

Section 40 [redacted]

PARLIAMENTARY
BRANCH
30 MAY 1997
ROOM 6134 MAIN BLDG

Surgery: [01200 425939](tel:01200425939)

Email: ribblevalley@dial.pipex.com

Web site: <http://dSPACE.dial.com/town/square/hi13>

A strong voice for
Ribble Valley and Fulwood

Section 40

PRESTON

LANCS

Section 40

~~26th~~ Feb 1997.2nd MAY

Dear MR EVANS

In reference to my correspondence regarding the Lewis Island incident.

I would like to add some further information about the strange happenings on the night of 26th Oct 1996 on that evening earth tremor was felt in Lancashire and Morecombe had a large power cut. A lot of people are asking if there is a connection.

Also on Nov 17th 1996 there was another incident over Preston when 5 people witnessed a large triangular UFO south of the town. Five days later a large silent aircraft was observed being intercepted by 3 Tornados just after GPM east of Preston.

Can you ask the Minister of Defence for an explanation are the American testing a new secret aircraft.

Best wishes

Section 40

Section 40

Preston
Lancs

Section 40

~~12th March 97~~
25 97

Dear Mr ERANS

I Sending you some information on UFO
and UFO MAGAZINE March and April 97

Please could you send me copy of the
official on the Lewis Island report made by
The local MP.

Best wishes

Section 40



LOOSE MINUTE

D/Sec(AS)/64/4

9 Jun Section 40

PE Uni
(thro [REDACTED])

Copy to:

DOMD
Head of CS(RM)1 } sent by CHOTS

LETTER FROM BEN BRADSHAW MP - US 1983/97

1. I attach a draft reply for USofS to send to Ben Bradshaw MP setting out the MOD's current policy relating to the so-called "UFO" phenomenon.

2. The Department receives a number of letters from members of the public who believe "unidentified flying objects" to be craft of extraterrestrial origin. The draft therefore makes it clear that the Department keeps an open-mind about the possibility that extraterrestrial lifeforms exist, but to date knows of no evidence which proves that they do. No discussions within the Department take place specifically on the phenomenon of "UFOs" in the sense implied by Mr Bradshaw's unnamed constituent.

3. The draft reply also provides information on the Public Records Act in respect of the law governing release of "UFO" files and advice on the forthcoming proposed Freedom of Information Act provided by the Cabinet Office. In the past some information, such as the names and addresses of those reporting "UFO" sightings was deleted from papers released to the Public Record Office.

4. I am satisfied that the draft is in accordance with the Government's policy on answering Parliamentary Enquiries and the Open Government Code (DCI Gen 48/97).

Section 40
[REDACTED]

Sec(AS)2a1
MB8245 Section 40
CHOTS: SEC(AS)2A (2)

Enc.

D/US/1983/97

June 1997

Thank you for your letter to George Robertson of 27 May enquiring on behalf of a constituent about MOD policy on reports of "unidentified flying objects". I am replying as this matter falls within my area of responsibility.

My Department has no expertise or role with respect to "UFO/flying saucer" matters or the question of the existence or otherwise of extraterrestrial lifeforms, about which we remain open-minded. My Department examines any reports of 'UFO sightings' sent to us solely to establish whether what was seen might have some defence significance, namely, whether there was any evidence that the UK Air Defence Region might have been breached by hostile or unauthorized foreign military activity. Unless there are defence implications, and to date no 'UFO sighting' reported to us has revealed such evidence, we do not attempt to identify the precise nature of each reported sighting. We believe that down to earth explanations could be found for these reports, such as aircraft lights or natural phenomena, if resources were diverted for this purpose but it would be an inappropriate use of defence resources to provide this kind of aerial identification service.

I should wish to assure your constituent that the integrity of the United Kingdom's airspace in peacetime is maintained through continuous policing of the UK Air Defence Region by the

Royal Air Force which remains vigilant for any potential military threat.

You ask about the law relating to the release of MOD "UFO" report files. As is the case with other government files, all MOD files are subject to the provisions of the Public Records Act of 1958 and 1967. This Act of Parliament states that official files generally remain closed from public viewing for 30 years after the last action has been taken. The files selected for preservation are then transferred to the Public Record Office for release into the public domain.

It was generally the case that before 1967 all "UFO" files were destroyed after five years as there was insufficient public interest in the subject to merit their permanent retention. However, since 1967 there has been an increase in public interest in this subject and "UFO" report files are now routinely preserved. A few files from the 1950s and early 1960s did, however, survive and are available for examination by members of the public. They may be viewed at the Public Record Office, Ruskin Avenue, Kew, Richmond, Surrey, TW9 4DU. The references of these files are as follows:

AIR 16/1199	AIR 2/16918
AIR 20/7390	AIR 2/17318
AIR 20/9320	AIR 2/17526
AIR 20/9321	AIR 2/17527
AIR 20/9322	AIR 2/17982
AIR 20/9994	AIR 2/17983
PREM 11/855	

Whilst it was past practice to sanitize some sensitive information held on files before release to the Public Record Office, this is no longer the case and MOD "UFO" report files are now released with no extractions or deletions.

Your constituent may find it of interest to know that the Cabinet Office has the responsibility for taking forward the Government's manifesto pledge to introduce a Freedom of Information Act. The timetable currently envisaged involves the publication of a White Paper before this year's Summer Recess. This would be followed by a period of open consultation leading to a draft Bill early next year and further consultation.

I hope this explains the position.

JOHN SPELLAR

Ben Bradshaw MP

Classification:

Caveat:

Covering:



Facsimile Transmission Cover Sheet

Serial Number:	Transmission: Date: 9 JUN. 97 Time:	Document Reference: 64/4	Total number of pages including this one: 1 + 6
From: SEC(AS) Room 8245 MOD MAIN BUILDING	Fax Number: Section 40 Tel Number: Section 40	To: Section 40 Hd CS(RM) 1	Fax Number: Section 40
Authorised by: Rank Name Appointment EO Section 40 Sec(AS)2A1	Signature: Section 40	Transmitted by: Rank Name Tel Number AO Section 40	Signature: Section 40

Subject: PE 1983/97 - BEN BRADSHAW MP. - UFOs.

Section 40

Said I'd let you see the draft before it went off. This is due with PE Unit by COP tomorrow. Please let me know if you have any comments.

Section 40

Section 40

Section 40 phoned

Happy with draft

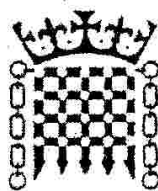
Section 40 1040hrs 9/6.

Classification:

Caveat:

Covering:

USGS
Sec(13)
Ufo:



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

George Robertson
Secretary of State for Defence
Main Building
Whitehall
London SW1A 2HB

May 27th

Dear George,

I have a number of questions from a constituent which I would be grateful if your Department could answer. They regard what are commonly known as "UFOs".

1. Will the law relating to the release of documents on "UFOs" be changed?
2. If papers are released, will they be blanked out? (I'm not quite sure what she means by this)
3. Are there on-going discussions on the "UFO phenomenon"?
4. Are any policies in connection with "UFO" going to change with a new Government?

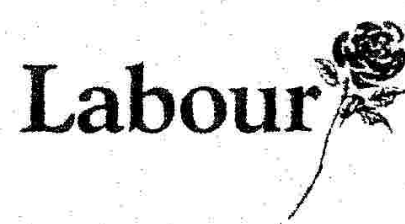
With very best wishes,

Section 40
[Redacted]

PARLIAMENTARY
BRAMPTON
26 MAY 13



Ben Bradshaw
MP for Exeter



①

LOOSE MINUTE

D/Sec(AS)/64/4

Jun 97

D R A F T

PE Unit

(thro **Section 40**)

Copy to:

DOMD

Head of CS(RM)1

LETTER FROM BEN BRADSHAW MP - US 1983/97

1. I attach a draft reply for USofS to send to Ben Bradshaw MP setting out the MOD's current policy relating to the so-called "UFO" phenomenon.

2. The Department receives a number of letters from members of the public who believe "unidentified flying objects" to be craft of extraterrestrial origin. The draft therefore makes it clear that the Department keeps an open-mind about the possibility that extraterrestrial lifeforms exist, but to date knows of no evidence which proves that they do. No discussions within the Department take place specifically on the phenomenon of "UFOs" in the sense implied by Mr Bradshaw's unnamed constituent.

3. The draft reply also provides information on the Public Records Act in respect of the law governing release of "UFO" files and advice on the forthcoming proposed Freedom of Information Act provided by the Cabinet Office. In the past some information,

②

such as the names and addresses of those reporting "UFO" sightings was deleted from papers released to the Public Record Office.

4. I am satisfied that the draft is in accordance with the Government's policy on answering Parliamentary Enquiries and the Open Government Code (DCI Gen 48/97).

Section 40
Sec(AS)2a1
MB8245 Section 40
CHOTS: SEC(AS)2A (2)

Enc.

3

D/US/1983/97

June 1997

Thank you for your letter to George Robertson of 27 May enquiring on behalf of a constituent about MOD policy on reports of "unidentified flying objects". I am replying as this matter falls within my area of responsibility.

My Department has no expertise or role with respect to "UFO/ flying saucer" matters or the question of the existence or otherwise of extraterrestrial lifeforms, about which we remain open-minded. My Department examines any reports of 'UFO sightings' sent to us solely to establish whether what was seen might have some defence significance, namely, whether there was any evidence that the UK Air Defence Region might have been breached by hostile or unauthorized foreign military activity. Unless there are defence implications, and to date no 'UFO sighting' reported to us has revealed such evidence, we do not attempt to identify the precise nature of each reported sighting. We believe that down to earth explanations could be found for these reports, such as aircraft lights or natural phenomena, if resources were diverted for this purpose but it would be an inappropriate use of defence resources to provide this kind of aerial identification service.

I should wish to assure your constituent that the integrity of the United Kingdom's airspace in peacetime is maintained through continuous policing of the UK Air Defence Region by the

④

Royal Air Force which remains vigilant for any potential military threat.

You ask about the law relating to the release of MOD "UFO" report files. As is the case with other government files, all MOD files are subject to the provisions of the Public Records Act of 1958 and 1967. This Act of Parliament states that official files generally remain closed from public viewing for 30 years after the last action has been taken. The files selected for preservation are then transferred to the Public Record Office for release into the public domain.

It was generally the case that before 1967 all "UFO" files were destroyed after five years as there was insufficient public interest in the subject to merit their permanent retention. However, since 1967 there has been an increase in public interest in this subject and "UFO" report files are now routinely preserved. A few files from the 1950s and early 1960s did, however, survive and are available for examination by members of the public. They may be viewed at the Public Record Office, Ruskin Avenue, Kew, Richmond, Surrey, TW9 4DU. The references of these files are as follows:

AIR 16/1199	AIR 2/16918
AIR 20/7390	AIR 2/17318
AIR 20/9320	AIR 2/17526
AIR 20/9321	AIR 2/17527
AIR 20/9322	AIR 2/17982
AIR 20/9994	AIR 2/17983
PREM 11/855	

(5)

Whilst it was past practice to sanitize some sensitive information held on files before release to the Public Record Office, this is no longer the case and MOD "UFO" report files are now released with no extractions or deletions.

Your constituent may find it of interest to know that the Cabinet Office has the responsibility for taking forward the Government's manifesto pledge to introduce a Freedom of Information Act. The timetable currently envisaged involves the publication of a White Paper before this year's Summer Recess. This would be followed by a period of open consultation leading to a draft Bill early next year and further consultation.

I hope this explains the position.

JOHN SPELLAR

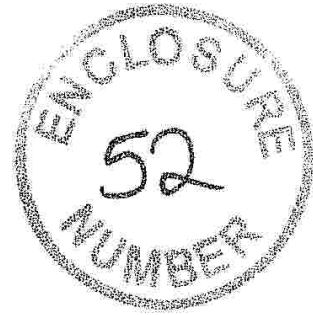
Ben Bradshaw MP

6

Secretariat(Air Staff) Fax: **Section 40****** Transmit Conf. Report ****

9 Jun '97 8:44

Secretariat(Air Staff)---> Section 40	
No.	4666
Mode	NORMAL
Time	2'54"
Pages	7 Page(s)
Result	O K



LOOSE MINUTE

D/Sec(AS)/64/4

Jun 97

D R A F T

PE Unit

(thro Section 40)

Section 40

addresses.

Copy to:

DOMD - CR(RS)

or whatever

LETTER FROM BEN BRADSHAW MP - US 1983/97

I attach a draft reply for US of S to send to Ben Bradshaw

MP

1. ~~The MP has written on behalf of a unnamed constituent and~~

~~seeks information on the MOD's current policy relating to the so-called "UFO" phenomenon.~~

2. ~~The constituent also seeks information on any planned changes~~

~~in the law governing release of "UFO" files.~~

The draft gives

reply also provide

information on the Public Records Act and information, via DOMD

and the Cabinet Office, on the forthcoming proposed Freedom of Information Act provided by the Cabinet Office.

some information, such as the names and addresses of those reporting UFO sightings was deleted from papers released to the Public Record Office

2. Many members of the public who write to the Department receive a number of letters from members of the public who believe "unidentified flying objects" to be craft of

extraterrestrial origin. The draft therefore includes a paragraph

which makes clear that the Department keeps an open-mind about the

possibility that extraterrestrial lifeforms exist, but to date

knows of no evidence which proves that they do. As we have no

remit regarding the possible existence of extraterrestrial life,

No discussions within the Department take place specifically on

the phenomenon of "UFOs" in the sense implied by the constituent.

Mr Bradshaw's unnamed

3. 4

4. I am satisfied that the draft is in accordance with the Government's policy on answering Parliamentary Enquiries and the Open Government Code (DCI Gen 48/97).

Section 40

Sec(AS)2a1

MB8245 Section 40

CHOTS: SEC(AS)2A (2)

D R A F T

D/US/1983/97

June 1997

X
 Thank you for your letter to George Robertson of 27 May enquiring on behalf of a constituent about ^{MOD}~~the MOD's~~ policy on reports of "unidentified flying objects". I am replying as this matter falls within my area of responsibility.

Insert from Page 2.
↓
~~I should first explain that~~ My Department examines any reports of 'UFO sightings' sent to us solely to establish whether what was seen might have some defence significance, namely, whether there was any evidence that the UK Air Defence Region might have been breached by hostile or unauthorized foreign military activity. Unless there are defence implications, and to date no 'UFO sighting' reported to us has revealed such evidence, we do not attempt to identify the precise nature of each reported sighting. We believe that down to earth explanations could be found for these reports, such as aircraft lights or natural phenomena, if resources were diverted for this purpose but it would be an inappropriate use of defence resources to provide this kind of aerial identification service.

X
 I should wish to assure you ^{constituent} that the integrity of the United Kingdom's airspace in peacetime is maintained through continuous policing of the UK Air Defence Region by the Royal Air Force which remains vigilant for any potential military threat.

X You ask about the law relating to the release of MOD "UFO" report files. As is the case with other government files, all MOD files are subject to the provisions of the Public Records Act of 1958 and 1967. This Act of Parliament states that official files generally remain closed from public viewing for 30 years after the last action has been taken. The files selected for preservation are then transferred to the Public Record Office for release into the public domain.

It was generally the case that before 1967 all "UFO" files were destroyed after five years, as there was insufficient public interest in the subject to merit their permanent retention. However, since 1967, ^{there has been} ~~following~~ an increase in public interest in this subject ^{and} "UFO" report files are now routinely preserved. A few files from the ^{1950s} ~~fifties~~ and ^{1960s} ~~sixties~~ did, however, survive and are available for examination by members of the public. They may be viewed at the Public Record Office, Ruskin Avenue, Kew, Richmond, Surrey, TW9 4DU. The references of these files are as follows:

AIR 16/1199	AIR 2/16918
AIR 20/7390	AIR 2/17318
AIR 20/9320	AIR 2/17526
AIR 20/9321	AIR 2/17527
AIR 20/9322	AIR 2/17982
AIR 20/9994	AIR 2/17983
PREM 11/855	

Whilst it was past practice ~~on occasion~~ to sanitize some ^{classified} information held on files ^{before} ~~which had been~~ released to the Public

We used to delete distribution lists with DI branding on them. We also used to sanitize the names of the ^{good pair} ~~reportees~~ but we don't anymore.

(DO I NEED TO MAKE REFERENCE TO THIS IN THE BACKGROUND NOTE)

Record Office, this is no longer the case and MOD "UFO" report files are now released with no extractions or deletions.

Your constituent may find it of interest to know that

~~The Cabinet Office is the lead Department for implementing Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster's~~ has the responsibility

taking forward

~~the Government's manifesto pledge to introduce a Freedom of Information Act. The timetable currently envisaged involves the publication of a White Paper before this year's Summer Recess. This would be followed by a period of open consultation leading to a draft Bill early next year and further consultation. Whilst I cannot prejudge the contents of the Queen's Speech, it would be a likely candidate for enactment in the 1998/99 Parliamentary Session. In the meantime, Ministers have emphasised the need for all Departments to be as open as possible under the terms of the existing Code of Practice on Access to Government Information.~~

Do we want this bit left in!!

~~I should conclude by adding that my Department has no interest, expertise or role with respect to "UFO/flying saucer" matters or the question of the existence or otherwise of extraterrestrial lifeforms, about which we remain open-minded. To date, however, the MOD remains unaware of any evidence which might substantiate these alleged phenomena.~~

Insert in previous page

I hope this explains our position.

JOHN SPELLAR

Ben Bradshaw MP

*

~~If we need to copy this to Domo for "safety" reasons I suppose we'd better include it!!~~
No don't include it.



LOOSE MINUTE

D/Sec(AS)/64/4

6 Jun 97

ADGE1

PARLIAMENTARY ENQUIRY: US 2019/97: NIGEL EVANS MP

1. The attached PE has been received from Nigel Evans the Conservative MP for Ribble Valley, forwarding a letter from a constituent, **Section 40**.

2. I am writing in respect of the highlighted paragraph which talks about a five day period between 17 and 22 Nov 96. I would like to be able to include a short paragraph in the background note to USofS (something along the lines below), and would welcome your confirmation (or otherwise) of the accuracy of the sentence in bold:

"There were no recorded incidents of unauthorized military incursions of UK airspace on the dates in question. We can therefore only speculate on what the witnesses are alleged to have seen. It is quite a common occurrence for members of the public to report military aircraft "chasing" objects, which in the event turn out to be two or more aircraft flying in formation."

3. Thank you for your assistance with this task. To meet the PE Unit's deadline, I should be grateful for a response by COP Wed 11 June if at all possible.

Section 40

Sec(AS)2a1

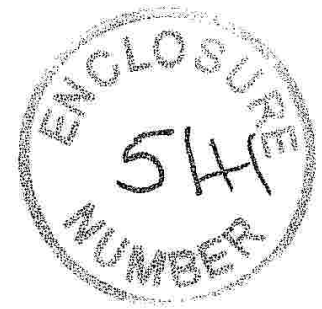
MB8245 **Section 40**

CHOTS: SEC(AS)2A (2)

06 JUN '97 09:24 FROM CS (RM)

TO 82680

P.01/01



LOOSE MINUTE

CS(RM)/4/6/37

6 June 1997

Sec(AS)2a1 *

* Fax only x82680

PE: US 1983/97: BEN BRADSHAW MP

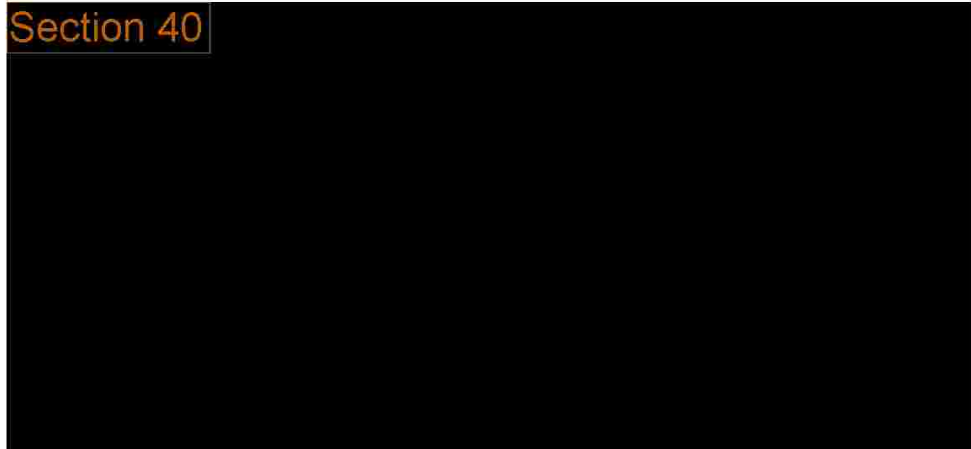
1. Your E-mail message dated 5 June 1997 sought a few lines covering the retention/deletion of sensitive material not available to the public at the normal release point.

2. The following may be helpful:

"A great majority of records selected for permanent preservation are transferred to the Public Record Office for release under the "30 year rule". For the few where continuing sensitivity precludes release at the normal point the Lord Chancellor's agreement is sought for closure. It is our custom to periodically review closed records. On this latter point I can advise the Ministry of Defence has released more than 9,200 records over the last few years that had previously been closed for more than 30 years."

3. Just in case Mr Bradshaw follows up Ministers' reply with a supplementary records question I would welcome a copy of your submission to the Parliamentary Branch.

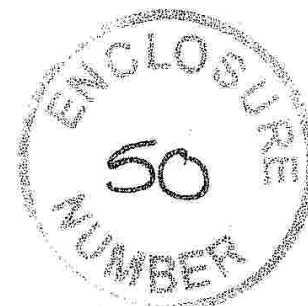
Section 40



This didn't answer the question (misunderstanding between us). Spoke to **Section 40** again and agreed following

" It was the practice in the past to sanitise some information on files prior to release to the PRO. However this is no longer the case and MOD info reports files are now being released without no extractions or deletions. "

Thu 5 Jun, 1997 14:01 mailbox log Page 1



DATE	TO	SUBJECT	CODES
05/06/97	Hd of CS(RM)1	PE - BEN BRADSHAW	[]

Sent: 05/06/97 at 14:00
 To: Hd of CS(RM)1
 CC:

Ref: 1196
 Subject: PE - BEN BRADSHAW

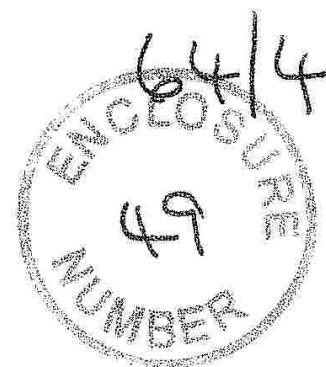
Text: **Section 40** Sorry to bother you again. Do you have a standard paragraph which explains why sometimes documents may be released to the PRO with paragraphs or sections blanked out. You know the sort of thing, "retained in the Department under section 3(4) ??? of the Code of Practise or Public Records Act???" etc.

Section 40

Priority: Normal
 Reply Request []

View Acknowledge [*]
 Delivery Acknowledge [*]

Attachments []
 Codes []



Thu 5 Jun, 1997 10:13 mailbox standard Page 1

DATE	FROM	SUBJECT	CODES
05/06/97	Hd of CS(RM)1	PE - BEN BRADSHAW - RELEASE OF UFO	[]

Intended:

Sent: 05/06/97 at 10:05

Delivered: 05/06/97 at 10:08

To: SEC(AS)2A (2)

CC:

Ref: 306

From: Hd of CS(RM)1

Auth by:

Subject: PE - BEN BRADSHAW - RELEASE OF UFO FILES

Text: **Section 40** hope this is helpful!

Section 40

Priority: Normal
Reply Request []

SEE PAGE
View Acknowledge [*]

Attachments [1]
Codes []

LOOSE MINUTE

CS(RM)/4/6/37

5 June 1997

Sec(AS)2a1 *

* CHOTS only

PE: US 1983/97: BEN BRADSHAW MP

Reference; D/Sec(AS)/64/1 dated 3 June 1997

1. Your standard line, paragraph 3 of the reference, accurately reflects MOD's current position in respect of the Public Records Act (PRA).

2. The Act of course goes further. Under Section 5(1) not only can records selected for preservation be closed for periods in excess of 30 years but records can be released much earlier. During the last 6/7 years we have released perhaps 80 records ahead of time.

3. The vagaries of the Act are generally lost on the public ie the frequent assertion that records are closed under the Official Secrets Act, rather than the PRA, but you should also be aware the White Paper on Open Government (published July 1993) highlighted, to a wider and arguably more clued-up public (if only based on the numerous requests I receive to review closed records) a number of additional measures aimed at releasing more records including "give consideration to [the release of] blocks of records which, although not 30 years old, may be releasable".

4. You may wish to consider whether records relating to UFOs constitutes a block of records. If you decide they do, be sure that you can defend any (arbitrary!) date you use as a cut off ie release the 50 or so files due for release between 1999 and 2003 that just happen to have been reviewed and prepared for the PRO, but why not accelerate the review programme and release similar records at the 20/15/10 year point. The ufo fan would no doubt be ecstatic but "serious" researchers would question why such trivia receives favourable treatment.

5. On the general question of a Freedom of Information Act I understand a White (or perhaps more accurately a Green/White) Paper is due either later this year or early next. With legislation in place 1999. FOI will presumably target current and historic data held by departments. It follows branches that have regular dealings with the public, such as ours, should expect the new legislation to have an effect on current level of staffing. Also expect an associated charging regime.

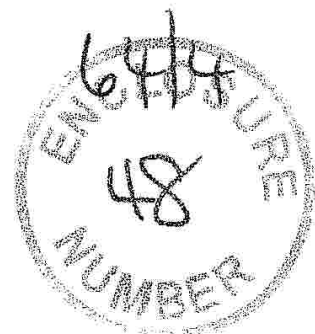
6. As a side issue to FOI is the continuance of the 30 year rule. The Departmental Record Officer/PRO network suspect that this is in jeopardy (the US introduced automatic declassification at the 25th year in 1995, albeit not effective until 2000 and with a significant number of exemptions to protect certain information, and I understand a number of European countries are starting to drift down to 25 or even 20 years).

7. I hope the above is helpful, we can speak further if you wish.

Section 40

Head CS(RM)1

MT D8/2 Section 40



Fri 6 Jun, 1997 11:31 mailbox standard Page 1

DATE	FROM	SUBJECT	CODES
04/06/97	OMD/AD(Management)	Freedom of Information Act	[]

Intended:

Sent: 04/06/97 at 14:09

Delivered: 04/06/97 at 14:11

To: SEC(AS)2A (2)

CC:

Ref: 1309

From: OMD/AD(Management)

Auth by:

Subject: Freedom of Information Act

Text: Advice from DOMD attached. Regards, **Section 40**

Priority: Normal
Reply Request []

SEE PAGE
View Acknowledge []

Attachments [1]
Codes []

LOOSE MINUTE

D/DOMD/2/3/4

4 Jun 97

Sec(AS)2a1

PROPOSED FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT

Reference:

A. D/Sec(AS)/64/1 dated 3 Jun 97

1. You asked at Ref A for advice on the line to take in a response to a PE concerning a Freedom of Information Act. Having consulted the Cabinet Office, I suggest that you respond along the following lines:

"The Cabinet Office is the lead Department for implementing the Government's manifesto pledge to introduce a Freedom of Information Act. The timetable currently envisaged involves the publication of a White Paper before this year's summer recess. This would be followed by a period of open consultation leading to a draft Bill early next year and further consultation. Whilst I cannot prejudge the contents of the Queen's Speech, it would be a likely candidate for enactment in the 1998/99 Parliamentary Session. In the meantime, Ministers have emphasised the need for all Departments to be as open as possible under the terms of the existing Code of Practice on Access to Government Information."

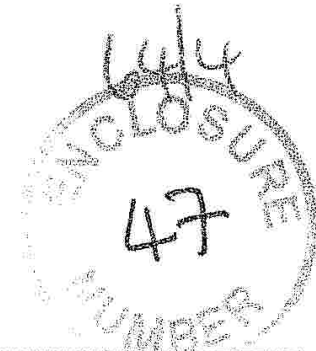
2. I trust that this meets your needs. I assume that you are currently responding to requests for information on UFOs and related matters in accordance with the requirements of the Open Government Code. The MOD policy on this is set out in DCI GEN 48/97. PUS has recently reminded the Department of the importance he attaches to this and, pending the introduction of a Freedom of Information Act, Ministers are making it clear that the requirements of the Code should be applied with the presumption in favour of openness and disclosure. You can get specific advice on the application of the Code from Sam Keayes, OMD 14, on x84814MB.

<Signed>

Section 40

DOMD

NH619 Section 40



Wed 4 Jun, 1997 9:58

mailbox log Page 1

DATE	TO	SUBJECT	CODES
04/06/97	SEC(AS) REGISTRY 1	PE US 1963/97	[]

Sent: 04/06/97 at 9:57
 To: SEC(AS) REGISTRY 1
 CC:

Ref: 1189
 Subject: PE US 1963/97

Text: **Section 40**

Just to let you know the a/m PE has been actioned and is with the PE Branch.

Section 40

Priority: Normal
 Reply Request []

View Acknowledge [*]
 Delivery Acknowledge [*]

Attachments []
 Codes []



Tue 3 Jun, 1997 15:58 mailbox log Page 1

DATE	TO	SUBJECT	CODES
03/06/97	DOMD	LINES TO TAKE ON NEW FREEDOM OF	[]

Sent: 03/06/97 at 15:58
 To: DOMD
 CC:

Ref: 1184
 Subject: LINES TO TAKE ON NEW FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT

Text:

Priority: Urgent
 Reply Request []

View Acknowledge [*]
 Delivery Acknowledge [*]

Attachments [1]
 Codes []

LOOSE MINUTE

D/Sec(AS)/64/1

3 Jun 97

DOMD

PROPOSED FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT

1. One of the much wider ranging responsibilities of Sec(AS)2 is to act as MOD (and effectively HMG) focal point for correspondence from members of the public on the so-called "UFO" phenomenon. The subject attracts significant public interest and claims of "Government cover-ups", and with a change of Government we have started to receive letters from the "UFO" fraternity asking when the Government intends to bring in a new Freedom of Information Act.

2. In addition we have just received a Parliamentary Enquiry, due for answer by Tue 10 Jun, which touches upon this question. Although I would imagine that responsibility for guiding in such a new piece of legislation would rest with the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster's Department, I would welcome the current MOD line for inclusion in our draft reply for USofS' signature.

3. It would be most helpful if you could let me have something by **COP Mon 9 Jun.**

[original signed]

Section 40

Sec(AS)2a1

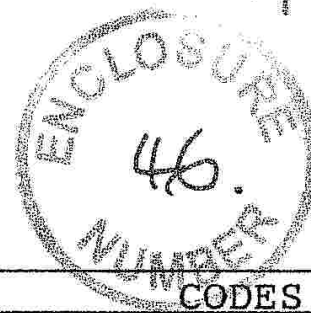
MB8245 Section 40

CHOTS: SEC(AS)2A (2)

UNCLASSIFIED

~~RESTRICTED~~

64/4



Wed 4 Jun, 1997 9:44

mailbox log Page 1

DATE	TO	SUBJECT	CODES
04/06/97	Parliamentary Enqu	PE US 1963/97	[Background Note []]

Sent: 04/06/97 at 9:40
 To: Parliamentary Enquiries
 CC:

Ref: 1187
 Subject: PE US 1963/97 [Background Note only]

Text: The attached background note has been seen and signed off by
 Section 40

The draft reply has been sent down separately by UNCLASSIFIED
 E-mail.

Priority: Urgent
 Reply Request []

View Acknowledge [*]
 Delivery Acknowledge [*]

Attachments [1]
 Codes []

UNCLASSIFIED

~~RESTRICTED~~

UNCLASSIFIED
RESTRICTED

LOOSE MINUTE

D/Sec(AS)/64/4

3 Jun 97

PE Unit(thro **Section 40**)**LETTER FROM KEVIN HUGHES MP - US 1963/97**

1. It is part of Sec(AS)2's much wider responsibilities to act as the MOD (and effectively HMG) focal point for handling requests for information and dealing with queries in relation to the so-called "unidentified flying object" phenomenon. The "UFO" phenomenon attracts a significant and increasing amount of public interest, much of it prompted by media coverage of fictitious events. In 1996 the Department received 609 reports alleging sightings of "UFOs" as well as 343 letters on a variety of "UFO" related issues, including 22 from MPs on behalf of their constituents.

2. The MOD examines any reports of "unidentified flying objects" it receives solely to establish whether what was alleged to have been seen might have some defence significance, namely, whether there was any evidence that the UK Air Defence Region might have been compromised by hostile or unauthorized foreign military activity.

3. The integrity of British airspace in peacetime is maintained through a continuous Recognised Air Picture and air policing of the United Kingdom Air Defence Region. Unless there is evidence of a potential military threat, and no alleged "UFO" sighting or report to date has revealed such evidence, no attempt is made to identify the precise nature of what is reported to us. It is the considered view that most "UFO" reports have rational and mundane explanations such as normal air traffic activity (the majority are received from centres of population or near airports and airfields) or balloons, or are related to weather conditions etc. And providing an aerial identification service for the public in these circumstances would inappropriately tie up resources allocated for defence purposes.

4. It is therefore current policy for Sec(AS)2a to consult Departmental Air Defence experts for advice only in the following circumstances:

- a. Documented sightings: where reports are supported by evidence such as photographs, video recordings or radar traces, where they cannot be readily explained and are provided by reliable sources, ie. pilots (servicemen and civilian), servicemen in general, members of the emergency services etc.

UNCLASSIFIED
RESTRICTED

UNCLASSIFIED

~~RESTRICTED~~

b. Corroborated sightings: where a series of reports apparently describing the same phenomenon and provided by separate and independent sources, and cannot be readily explained.

c. Timely sightings: where reports are of a phenomenon currently being observed which might, therefore, be capable of detection by air defence or other assets such as military aircraft or radar observers.

5. **Section 40** has not previously written seeking information about "UFOs" and the draft reply therefore provides the standard line on the MOD's interest.

6. I am satisfied that the draft is in accordance with the Government's policy on answering Parliamentary Enquiries and the Open Government Code (DCI Gen 48/97).

[original signed]

Section 40

Sec(AS)2a1

MB8245 **Section 40**

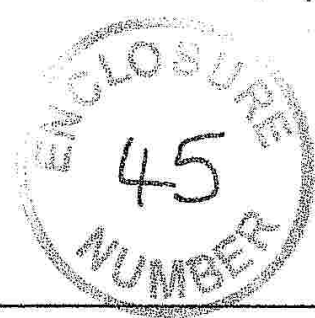
CHOTS: SEC(AS)2A (2)

Enc.

UNCLASSIFIED

~~RESTRICTED~~

64/4



Wed 4 Jun, 1997 9:46

mailbox log Page 1

DATE	TO	SUBJECT	CODES
04/06/97	Parliamentary Enqu	PE US 1963/97 [Draft reply only]	[]

Sent: 04/06/97 at 9:46
 To: Parliamentary Enquiries
 CC:

Ref: 1188
 Subject: PE US 1963/97 [Draft reply only]

Text: PLEASE CONNECT WITH BACKGROUND NOTE (WHICH IS CLASSIFIED RESTRICTED) AND HAS BEEN SENT DOWN BY RESTRICTED E-MAIL

The attached draft has been seen and signed off by **Section 40** .

Priority: Urgent
 Reply Request []

View Acknowledge [*]
 Delivery Acknowledge [*]

Attachments [1]
 Codes []

D/US/1963/97

June 1997

Thank you for your letter to George Robertson of 20 May, enclosing one from Section 40 of Section 40 Section 40 Doncaster, about "unidentified flying objects". I am replying as this matter falls within my area of responsibility.

My Department examines any reports of 'UFO sightings' sent to us solely to establish whether what was seen might have some defence significance, namely, whether there was any evidence that the UK Air Defence Region might have been breached by hostile or unauthorized foreign military activity. Unless there are defence implications, and to date no 'UFO sighting' reported to us has revealed such evidence, we do not attempt to identify what might have been seen. We believe that down to earth explanations such as aircraft lights or natural phenomena could be found for these reports if resources were diverted for this purpose, but it would be an inappropriate use of defence resources to provide this kind of aerial identification service.

I should wish to assure Mr Fawcett that the integrity of the United Kingdom's airspace in peacetime is maintained through continuous policing of the UK Air Defence Region by the Royal Air Force which remains vigilant for any potential military threat.

I can confirm that it is part of Secretariat (Air Staff) 2a's much wider responsibilities to act as MOD focal point for handling queries and correspondence relating to reports of "unidentified flying objects", consulting the Department's air defence experts as required.

Finally, **Section 40** asks about the number of reports my Department has received during the last 12 months. From June 1996 - May 1997 we received 531 reports of aerial observations which the witness was not able to identify. None revealed any evidence of an unauthorized military incursion of the United Kingdom's airspace.

I hope this explains our position.

JOHN SPELLAR

Kevin Hughes MP

UNCLASSIFIED**RESTRICTED**

LOOSE MINUTE



D/Sec(AS)/64/4

3 Jun 97

PE Uni
(thro

Section 40

3/6

LETTER FROM KEVIN HUGHES MP - US 1963/97

1. It is part of Sec(AS)2's much wider responsibilities to act as the MOD (and effectively HMG) focal point for handling requests for information and dealing with queries in relation to the so-called "unidentified flying object" phenomenon. The "UFO" phenomenon attracts a significant and increasing amount of public interest, much of it prompted by media coverage of fictitious events. In 1996 the Department received 609 reports alleging sightings of "UFOs" as well as 343 letters on a variety of "UFO" related issues, including 22 from MPs on behalf of their constituents.

2. The MOD examines any reports of "unidentified flying objects" it receives solely to establish whether what was alleged to have been seen might have some defence significance, namely, whether there was any evidence that the UK Air Defence Region might have been compromised by hostile or unauthorized foreign military activity.

3. The integrity of British airspace in peacetime is maintained through a continuous Recognised Air Picture and air policing of the United Kingdom Air Defence Region. Unless there is evidence of a potential military threat, and no alleged "UFO" sighting or report to date has revealed such evidence, no attempt is made to identify the precise nature of what is reported to us. It is the considered view that most "UFO" reports have rational and mundane explanations such as normal air traffic activity (the majority are received from centres of population or near airports and airfields) or balloons, or are related to weather conditions etc. And, providing an aerial identification service for the public in these circumstances would inappropriately tie up resources allocated for defence purposes.

4. It is therefore current policy for Sec(AS)2a to consult Departmental Air Defence experts for advice only in the following circumstances:

- a. Documented sightings: where reports are supported by evidence such as photographs, video recordings or radar traces, where they cannot be readily explained and are provided by reliable sources, ie. pilots (servicemen and civilian), servicemen in general, members of the emergency services etc.

UNCLASSIFIED**RESTRICTED**

UNCLASSIFIED
RESTRICTED

b. Corroborated sightings: where a series of reports apparently describing the same phenomenon and provided by separate and independent sources, and cannot be readily explained.

c. Timely sightings: where reports are of a phenomenon currently being observed which might, therefore, be capable of detection by air defence or other assets such as military aircraft or radar observers.

5. **Section 40** has not previously written seeking information about "UFOs" and the draft reply therefore provides the standard line on the MOD's interest.

6. I am satisfied that the draft is in accordance with the Government's policy on answering Parliamentary Enquiries and the Open Government Code (DCI Gen 48/97).

Section 40

Sec(AS)2a1

MB8245 **Section 40**

CHOTS: SEC(AS)2A (2)

Enc.

UNCLASSIFIED
RESTRICTED

D/US/1963/97

June 1997

Thank you for your letter to George Robertson of 20 May, enclosing one from **Section 40** of **Section 40** **Section 40** Doncaster, about "unidentified flying objects". I am replying as this matter falls within my area of responsibility.

My Department examines any reports of 'UFO sightings' sent to us solely to establish whether what was seen might have some defence significance, namely, whether there was any evidence that the UK Air Defence Region might have been breached by hostile or unauthorized foreign military activity. Unless there are defence implications, and to date no 'UFO sighting' reported to us has revealed such evidence, we do not attempt to identify what might have been seen. We believe that down to earth explanations such as aircraft lights or natural phenomena could be found for these reports if resources were diverted for this purpose, but it would be an inappropriate use of defence resources to provide this kind of aerial identification service.

I should wish to assure Mr Fawcett that the integrity of the United Kingdom's airspace in peacetime is maintained through continuous policing of the UK Air Defence Region by the Royal Air Force which remains vigilant for any potential military threat.

I can confirm that it is part of Secretariat (Air Staff) 2a's much wider responsibilities to act as MOD focal point for handling queries and correspondence relating to reports of "unidentified flying objects", consulting the Department's air defence experts as required.

Finally, **Section 40** asks about the number of reports my Department has received during the last 12 months. From June 1996 - May 1997 we received 531 reports of aerial observations which the witness was not able to identify. None revealed any evidence of an unauthorized military incursion of the United Kingdom's airspace.

I hope this explains our position.

JOHN SPELLAR

Kevin Hughes MP

64/4
ENCLOSURE
43/2
NUMBER

Tue 3 Jun, 1997 15:32 mailbox log Page 1

DATE	TO	SUBJECT	CODES
03/06/97	Hd of CS(RM)1	PE - BEN BRADSHAW - RELEASE OF UFO	[]

Sent: 03/06/97 at 15:31
To: Hd of CS(RM)1
CC:

Ref: 1183
Subject: PE - BEN BRADSHAW - RELEASE OF UFO FILES

Text: **Section 40**

I mentioned this on the phone yesterday. Grateful for any guidance.

Section 40

Priority: Urgent
Reply Request []

View Acknowledge [*]
Delivery Acknowledge [*]

Attachments [1]
Codes []

LOOSE MINUTE

D/Sec(AS)/64/1

3 Jun 97

Head of CS(RM)1

PE: US 1983/97: BEN BRADSHAW MP

1. As discussed, in a recent PE the above mentioned MP asked, amongst other things, the following question in relation to the subject of "UFO" files:

"Will the law relating to the release of documents on "UFOs" be changed?"

2. At this stage we propose to respond with our lines setting out the current legal position for the release of all MOD and government files. I am also writing separately to DOMD to get any MOD line on the introduction of a Freedom of Information Act, as this is cropping up in many of the "UFO" letters we are now receiving following the change of Government.

3. The following reflects our standard lines relating to current legislation:

"You ask about the law relating to the release of MOD "UFO" report files. As is the case with other government files, all MOD files are subject to the provisions of the Public Records Act of 1958 and 1967. This Act of Parliament states that official files selected for preservation generally remain closed from public viewing for 30 years after the last action has been taken. At the 30 year point the files are then transferred to the Public Record Office for release into the public domain.

It was generally the case that before 1967 all "UFO" files were destroyed after five years, as there was insufficient public interest in the subject to merit their permanent retention. However since 1967, following an increase in public interest in this subject "UFO" report files are now routinely preserved. A few files from the fifties and sixties did, however, survive and are available for examination by members of the public. They may be viewed at the Public Record Office, Ruskin Avenue, Kew, Richmond, Surrey, TW9 4DU. The references of these files are as follows:

AIR 16/1199 AIR 2/16918
AIR 20/7390 AIR 2/17318
AIR 20/9320 AIR 2/17526
AIR 20/9321 AIR 2/17527
AIR 20/9322 AIR 2/17982
AIR 20/9994 AIR 2/17983
PREM 11/855"

3. Although we have not finally decided how we are going to approach this question yet, in the meantime I should be grateful for any comments or suggestions you may have on the above paragraphs. A response by COP Fri 6 June would be appreciated.

[original signed]

Section 40 [REDACTED]
Sec(AS)2a1
MB8245 Section 40
CHOTS: SEC(AS)2A (2)



PARLIAMENTARY ENQUIRY - FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION

THE GUIDANCE IS NEW : YOU MUST READ IT

TO: SEC(AS)20PE REF NUMBER: US 1983 /97MINISTER REPLYING: USASDRAFT REQUIRED BY: 10/6 /97DATE: 29 / 5 /97FROM: **Section 40**PE Unit TEL: **Section 40**

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

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

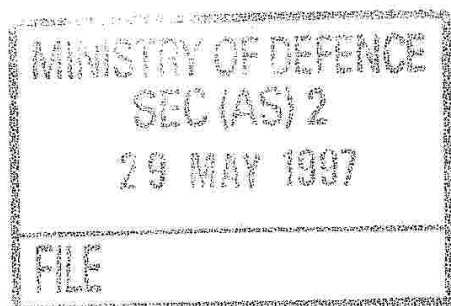
ALL DRAFTS MUST BE CLEARED BY A NAMED OFFICIAL AT GRADE 7 LEVEL OR ABOVE.

GUIDANCE NOTE

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

1. *Ministerial responsibilities have stayed the same.*
2. *Revised guidance on the style Ministers wish to use for opening and closing correspondence will be issued as soon as possible.*
3. *Open Government A revised Code of Practice on Access to Government Information came into effect in 1997. It is set out in DCI GEN 48/1997.*

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

USQs
Sec (A1)
UFOs



HOUSE OF COMMONS

George Robertson
Secretary of State for Defence
Main Building
Whitehall
London SW1A 2HB

LONDON SW1A 0AA

May 27th

Dear George,

I have a number of questions from a constituent which I would be grateful if your Department could answer. They regard what are commonly known as "UFOs".

1. Will the law relating to the release of documents on "UFOs" be changed?
2. If papers are released, will they be blanked out? (I'm not quite sure what she means by this)
3. Are there on-going discussions on the "UFO phenomenon"?
4. Are any policies in connection with "UFO" going to change with a new Government?

With very best wishes,

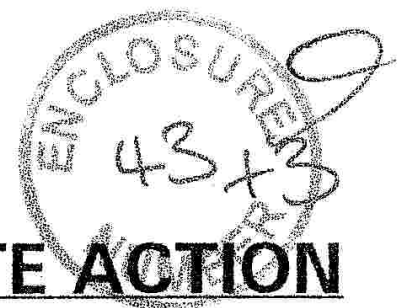
Section 40



Ben Bradshaw
MP for Exeter

PARLIAMENTARY
BRANCH
28 MAY 1997





PARLIAMENTARY ENQUIRY - FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION

THE GUIDANCE IS NEW : YOU MUST READ IT

TO: SEC(AS)20PE REF NUMBER: US 1963 /97MINISTER REPLYING: USASDRAFT REQUIRED BY: 9/8 /97DATE: 28/5 /97FROM: **Section 40**PE Unit TEL: **Section 40**

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

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

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

GUIDANCE NOTE

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

1. *Ministerial responsibilities have stayed the same.*
2. *Revised guidance on the style Ministers wish to use for opening and closing correspondence will be issued as soon as possible.*
3. **Open Government** *A revised Code of Practice on Access to Government Information came into effect in 1997. It is set out in DCI GEN 48/1997.*

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



KEVIN HUGHES MP
Doncaster North

*When replying to this correspondence
please reply to:*

4 Jossey Lane
Bentley
Doncaster DN5 0BS
Tel: 01302 873974
Fax: 01302 876176

US/S
Sec(AS)2
UFOs

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

20 May 1997

Dear George,

Please find enclosed a copy of a letter I have received from one of my constituents, the contents of which are self explanatory.

I would be grateful for your comments.

Yours Sincerely

Section 40

Kevin Hughes MP
Doncaster North



Section 40

DONCASTER

Section 40

18 May 1997

Dear Kevin ,

congratulations on your recent election success.

Now down to business .

Please could you tell me if it is the new Governments intention to keep Secretariat (Air Staff) 2a at the Ministry Of Defence, as the official U.F.O desk, and is this the only department concerned with U.F.O reports and investigations.

Also , could you tell me how many reports of unidentified flying objects have been made to the M.o.D. in the last 12 months , how many were not eventually identified and what were the result of any investigations carried out.

Yours sincerely

Section 40

From 09/06/97

to 09/06/97

SIR reports

to 29/05/97

Section 40



PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE
FOR DEFENCE

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

MAIN BUILDING WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2HB

Telephone 0171-21.....(Direct Dialling)

0171-21 89000 (Switchboard)



D/US of S/FH 1334/97/P

2nd April 1997

Dear Mr. Canavan,

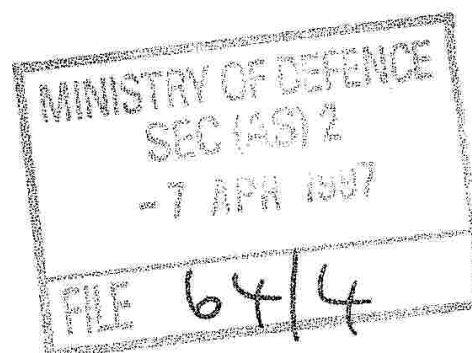
Thank you for your letter of 10 March (reference: DC/AT) to Michael Portillo enclosing one from Councillor William Buchanan of Municipal Buildings, Falkirk, about unexplained lights over Falkirk and Bonnybridge. I am replying as this matter falls within my area of responsibility.

As you will recall from Oliver Henley's letter of 1 February 1995, my Department examines any reports of 'UFO sightings' sent to us solely to establish whether what has been seen might have some defence significance, namely, whether there is any evidence that the UK Air Defence Region might have been breached.

I should wish to assure Councillor Buchanan that the integrity of the UK's airspace in peacetime is maintained through continuous policing of the UK Air Defence Region by the Royal Air Force and we remain vigilant for any potential military threat. However, unless there are defence implications we do not attempt to identify the precise nature of every "UFO" sighting reported to us. We believe that rational explanations, such as aircraft lights or natural phenomena, could be found for them if resources were diverted for this purpose, but I am afraid that it is not the function of my Department to provide this kind of aerial identification service. It would be an inappropriate use of defence resources if we were to do so.

As we have said previously, if Councillor Buchanan has information to support his concerns that Falkirk and Bonnybridge are experiencing phenomena of defence significance then my officials would be happy to examine this further.

Dennis Canavan Esq MP



Recycled Paper



In the absence of such evidence we remain satisfied that there are no phenomena in the Falkirk area which are of defence concern.

I hope this explains the position.

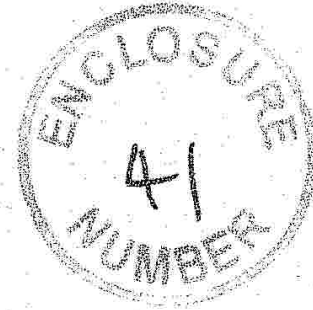
Yours sincerely,

Section 40

THE EARL HOWE



Recycled Paper



LOOSE MINUTE

D/Sec(AS)/64/4

2 Apr 97

Section 40
PE Uni
(thro

PETITION TO PARLIAMENT - UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS

1. This Petition is likely to have been orchestrated by Section 40, a resident of Llanfaes, Anglesey, who over the last year has initiated three Parliamentary Enquiries on the subject of "UFOs" through the MP for Anglesey, Ieuan Wyn Jones, and has been responsible for numerous letters to the Department, on the same subject, requiring official action replies. Section 40 has previously solicited the Department's support in his attempt to encourage the Royal Society of Chemistry to establish a scientific division to investigate "Anomalous Aerial Phenomena". The Department declined to support his request.

2. In responding to the Petition we have another opportunity to state the Government's position with respect to the unidentified flying object phenomenon. This was given by the Prime Minister in response to a PQ tabled by the late Martin Redmond (Official Report, Col 1082, 17 Oct 96 attached) and is repeated in the draft observations.

Section 40

Sec(AS)2a1
MB8245 Section 40
CHOTS: SEC(AS)2A (2)

Enc.

**OBSERVATIONS OF THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE ON THE PETITION FROM
THE RESIDENTS OF ANGLESEY AND ELSEWHERE PRESENTED TO THE HOUSE ON
17 MARCH 1997**

The air defence and air traffic implications of "unidentified" flying objects are the responsibility of the Ministry of Defence and the Civil Aviation Authority respectively. The Government have no plans to allocate resources to researching extraterrestrial phenomena.

The MOD is satisfied that there are no phenomena in the Anglesey area which warrant further investigation.

ENVIRONMENT

Radioactive Scale (Disposal)

Mr. Meacher: To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment what provisions exist for the offshore disposal of radioactive scale arising from oil exploration and drilling in the North sea and Atlantic. [41251]

Mr. Clappison: Discharge of naturally radioactive scale from oil exploration and drilling in UK waters is regulated under the Radioactive Substances Act 1993, as amended. The Environment Agency is the regulator for the English and Welsh sectors. The Scottish Environment Protection Agency is the regulator for the Scottish sector.

World Conservation Congress

Mr. Meacher: To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment what contribution his Department made to the World Conservation Congress held in Montreal this month; if his Department was represented at the congress; and what plans he has to assess the conclusions of the congress. [41252]

Mr. Clappison: The UK is a state member of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources. Officials from my Department are leading the UK delegation at the World Conservation Congress which began on 13 October and will finish on 23 October. My Department contributed towards the costs of the UK IUCN committee's report on the UK's contribution to IUCN 1994 to 1996, which will be launched during the congress.

PRIME MINISTER

Government Policies

Mr. Meacher: To ask the Prime Minister what new policy proposals were announced by Ministers of Her Majesty's Government in the week beginning 7 October; and if he will indicate which of them will be subject to compliance cost assessments. [40801]

The Prime Minister: The Government prepare a compliance cost assessment for all new legislation likely to have an impact on business and the voluntary sector. The Government's legislative programme will be presented to the House on 23 October. Compliance costs assessments will be presented in due course for the Bills in the programme.

Consultants

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Prime Minister what are his latest estimates of the expenditure on all external consultants, including management consultants, for each year since 1992, in 1996 prices, for his Department and its agencies; and what are the quantified annual cost savings which such expenditure has resulted in. [41173]

The Prime Minister: For these purposes my Office is part of the Cabinet Office, Office of Public Service. My right hon. Friend the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster will write to the hon. Member.

Unidentified Flying Objects

Mr. Redmond: To ask the Prime Minister if he will allocate to a department the assessments of the non-air defence implications associated with unidentified flying objects; and if he will make a statement. [40822]

The Prime Minister: The air defence and air traffic implications of unidentified flying objects are the responsibility of the Ministry of Defence and the Civil Aviation Authority respectively. The Government have no plans to allocate resources to researching extraterrestrial phenomena.

Terrorist Damage

Mr. Soley: To ask the Prime Minister if he will extend the Northern Ireland compensation scheme for terrorist attacks to mainland Britain. [40934]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the reply given to the hon. Member for Manchester, Blackley (Mr. Eastham), by my hon. Friend the Minister for Trade on 27 June 1996, *Official Report*, column 202.

New Buildings and Premises

Mrs. Bridget Prentice: To ask the Prime Minister what was the total expenditure on new buildings and premises by his Department and its agencies; and if he will indicate the square footage of new office space purchased or newly rented in each of the last five years. [41148]

The Prime Minister: For the purposes of this question, my Office is part of the Cabinet Office, Office of Public Service. I refer the hon. Member to the reply given today by my right hon. Friend, the Paymaster General.

British Beef

Mr. Hanson: To ask the Prime Minister what steps he is taking to encourage the purchase and use of British Beef by Government Departments. [41308]

The Prime Minister: The best way to encourage use of British Beef is to restore confidence in the product. The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food has launched an initiative to reassure consumers and those responsible for procurement about the rigorous enforcement of the control measures introduced to protect public health. The Meat and Livestock Commission is continuing with its successful campaign to promote consumption.

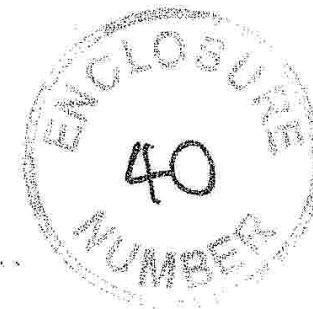
WALES

GP Salaries

Mr. Morgan: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what proposals he has and what consultations he has set up on the introduction of a salaried status scheme for general practice. [40668]

Mr. Hague [holding answer 14 October 1996]: Proposals for the development of primary care health services, including a salaried option for general practitioners, are set out in the White Paper "Choice and Opportunity", Cm 3390, published on 15 October. This issue is also addressed in the document "Primary Care: The Way Forward in Wales", also published on

64/4



LOOSE MINUTE

D/Parliamentary/3/9

24 March 1997

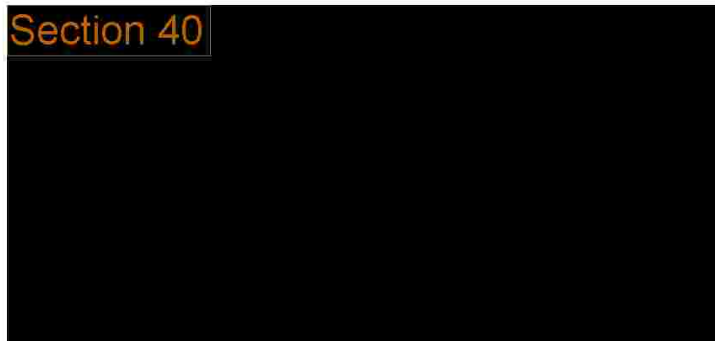


Sec(AS)

PETITION TO PARLIAMENT - UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS

1. I attach a copy of a Petition on the above subject which was recently presented to Parliament from residents of Anglesey and elsewhere.
2. Ministers are under no absolute obligation to respond formally to a Petition but it is normally Ministers' practice to do so, especially where there is a need to put the records straight.
3. I should be grateful therefore if you would let me have either draft "Observations by the Secretary of State" responding to the points made, or, exceptionally a submission outlining the reasons why Observations are not considered necessary.
4. Attached are two recent examples and responses to petitions. As you will see they have much the tone of an expanded PQ answer.
5. Please could I have your draft response by close of play on **3 April 1997**. Should you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact me.

Section 40



Asst Parliamentary Clerk 1
MB6134 Section 40

SUPPLEMENT TO THE VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

PETITION FROM RESIDENTS OF ANGLESEY AND ELSEWHERE

17th March 1997

To the House of Commons.

The Petition of a number of the residents of the County of Anglesey and elsewhere

Declares that there are a number of sightings of aircraft or unexplained objects in the sky in or around the said county and elsewhere.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons pass legislation to facilitate the setting up of an independant civilian commission to investigate and establish the full relevance of the unidentified flying object phenomenon in the U.K.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.

**OBSERVATIONS OF THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE ON THE PETITION
FROM THE RESIDENTS OF NORTH LONDON AND ELSEWHERE
PRESENTED TO THE HOUSE ON 30 APRIL 1996**

No decision has been made about the scrambling of the television service broadcast in Cyprus. This is one of the options under consideration which would allow the reinstatement of programmes which have been withdrawn from the Services Sound and Vision Corporation TV (SSVC TV) service for MOD personnel and dependants posted to the island. MOD has the right to broadcast only to this entitled audience.

The right to broadcast some programmes on SSVC TV was withdrawn following representation by a Cypriot TV company. It objected, for commercial reasons, to the transmission of programmes in a way which allowed non-entitled viewers (including expatriates, other British passport holders and Cypriot nationals) to watch SSVC TV if they had access to a suitable TV set and aerial within range of the transmitter.

In deciding which option to implement on a permanent basis, MOD's aim will be to provide the best possible service to the maximum number of entitled viewers at least cost.

SUPPLEMENT TO THE VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

PETITION FROM RESIDENTS OF NORTH LONDON AND ELSEWHERE

30th April 1996

To the House of Commons.

The Petition of Mr Andreas Karaolis of 30 Hamilton Way, London N3, Mr Anthony Mitsides of 30 Cissbury Ring South, London N12, Mr Chrisanthou Sauvakis of 32 Totteridge Common, London N20 and Mr Jimmy Apostolou of 30 North Crescent, London N3 and 10,000 others,

Declares that they are against the decision of the Ministry of Defence to fund in full the estimated £500,000 minimal costs associated with the scrambling of television pictures broadcast in Cyprus via Sight and Sound Vision Corporation for servicemen and women posted to the island.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons do not introduce such costly restrictions which would not be in the UK's interest in Cyprus nor is wanted amongst the large British ex-patriate community, other British passport holders and the majority of Cypriots who speak the English language.

And the Petitioners as in duty bound, will ever pray, &c.

OBSERVATIONS OF THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE ON THE PETITION FROM THE RESIDENTS OF PLYMOUTH AND DEVON PRESENTED TO THE HOUSE BY DAVID JAMIESON ESQ MP ON 7/11/95

Service personnel exposed to asbestos prior to 1987 are subject to the provisions of Section 10 of the Crown Proceedings Act 1947. This means that they may be eligible for an award of war pension but would be precluded from suing for common law damages.

Whilst the repeal of Section 10 enabled damages to be awarded on common law principles for Service Personnel exposed to asbestos after 1987, this duplicates, to some extent, what is available on a no-fault basis through the war pension scheme.

The possibility of making the repeal retrospective was debated in the House in 1987 and it was decided that it could not be made retrospective without causing further injustices and anomalies.

Former Service personnel can claim War Disablement Pensions or Gratuities from the War Pensions Agency of the Department of Social Security irrespective of when exposure to asbestos dust took place, although an award of war pension depends on the degree of disablement. These entitlements are tax free, index-linked and periodically reviewed. The benefits are not just the entitlement award but also lead to supplements depending on need. eg: war pension mobility supplement or the constant care allowance. The capital value of these entitlements can be substantial.