

[REDACTED] UNCLASSIFIED

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

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

F6208A

Date opened (Date of first enclosure)

10 JUL 08

Registered file reference

D/DAS/64/6

Part No.

C

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

DIVISION/ESTABLISHMENT/UNIT/BRANCH

DAS-FOI
MOD

[FULL ADDRESS & TELEPHONE NUMBER]

SUBJECT

UFO's -

FOI REQUESTS

[BLOCK CAPITALS]

RECORD OF KEYWORDS:

20/10/08

2014

Referred to	Date	Min/Encl	Referred to	Date	Min/Encl	Referred to	Date	Min/Encl	Referred to	Date	Min/Encl
CLOSED											
20 OCT 08											

FOR DRO USE ONLY

1st Review date

2nd Review date

PA ACTION

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



RCU001741544



Registered File Disposal Form

FILE TITLE: (Main Heading - Secondary Heading - Tertiary Heading etc) <p style="font-size: 2em; text-align: center;">UFO's - FBI REQUESTS</p>	Reference: (Prefix and Number): <p style="font-size: 1.5em; text-align: center;">D/DAS/64/6</p> Part: C
--	--

PROTECTIVE MARKING (including caveats & descriptors): UNCLASSIFIED

Date of last enclosure: 20 OCT 08	Date closed: 20 OCT 08
--	---

PART 1. DISPOSAL SCHEDULE RECOMMENDATION (To be completed when the file is closed) <div style="text-align: right; margin-top: 20px;"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> </div> Destroy after _____ years <input type="checkbox"/> Forward to INFO(EXP)-R after _____ years <input type="checkbox"/> No recommendation <input type="checkbox"/>	<p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">FOR DEFENCE INFO(EXP)-R USE ONLY</p> <table style="width:100%"> <tr> <td style="border: 1px solid black; height: 30px; width: 33%;"></td> <td style="border: 1px solid black; height: 30px; width: 33%;"></td> <td style="border: 1px solid black; height: 30px; width: 33%;"></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">Date of 1st review</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Date of 2nd review</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Forward Destruction Date</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Reviewer's Signature: _____</td> <td colspan="2">Reviewer's Signature: _____</td> </tr> </table>				Date of 1st review	Date of 2nd review	Forward Destruction Date	Reviewer's Signature: _____	Reviewer's Signature: _____	
Date of 1st review	Date of 2nd review	Forward Destruction Date								
Reviewer's Signature: _____	Reviewer's Signature: _____									

PART 2. BRANCH REVIEW (To be fully completed at time of file closure) (Delete as appropriate) <div style="margin-top: 20px;"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> </div> a. Of no further administrative value and not worthy of permanent preservation. DESTROY IMMEDIATELY (Remember that TOP SECRET and Codeword material cannot be destroyed locally and must be forwarded to INFO(EXP)-R. <div style="margin-top: 20px;"> <input type="checkbox"/> </div> b. (i) To be retained until the end of the year _____ for the following reason(s): <table style="width:100%; margin-top: 10px;"> <tr> <td style="width:50%"> LEGAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CONTRACTUAL <input type="checkbox"/> FINANCE/AUDIT <input type="checkbox"/> DIRECTORATE POLICY <input type="checkbox"/> </td> <td style="width:50%"> DEFENCE POLICY + OPERATIONS <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL COMMITTEE PAPERS <input type="checkbox"/> MAJOR EQUIPMENT PROJECT <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (Specify) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> </td> </tr> </table>	LEGAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CONTRACTUAL <input type="checkbox"/> FINANCE/AUDIT <input type="checkbox"/> DIRECTORATE POLICY <input type="checkbox"/>	DEFENCE POLICY + OPERATIONS <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL COMMITTEE PAPERS <input type="checkbox"/> MAJOR EQUIPMENT PROJECT <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (Specify) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
LEGAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CONTRACTUAL <input type="checkbox"/> FINANCE/AUDIT <input type="checkbox"/> DIRECTORATE POLICY <input type="checkbox"/>	DEFENCE POLICY + OPERATIONS <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL COMMITTEE PAPERS <input type="checkbox"/> MAJOR EQUIPMENT PROJECT <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (Specify) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

PPQ = 100

(ii) Key enclosures which support the recommendation are:

Four horizontal lines for listing key enclosures.

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

Destroyed

Considered by DR for permanent preservation

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

PART 3 BRANCH REVIEWING OFFICER (not below GS/Equivalent)

Section 40

Name: Section 40 (Block Capitals)

Grade/Rank: C1 Date: 20 OCT 08

Branch Title and Full Address:

DAS-Sec
05-H-16
MAIN BUILDING
WHITEHALL
LONDON
SW1A 2HS

Tel No:

PART 4 DESTRUCTION CERTIFICATE

It is certified that the specified file has been destroyed.

Signature: _____

Name: _____ (Block Capitals)

Grade/Rank: _____ Date: _____

Witnessed by (TOP SECRET* and SECRET only)

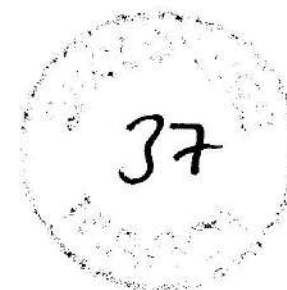
Signature: _____

Name: _____ (Block Capitals)

Grade/Rank: _____ Date: _____

*(FOR DR USE ONLY)

Applicant	1st name	FOI No	Enc
Section 40		01-07-2008-131609-002	1
		20-06-2008-093132-003	2
		10-07-2008-144623-005	3
		07-07-2008-162830-003	4
		30-06-2008-132308-006	5
		30-06-2008-133333-007	5
		30-06-2008-131554-005	5
		09-06-2008-111316-002	6
		30-06-2008-134023-008	7
		01-07-2008-161311-003	8
		21-07-2008-092511-001	9
		22-07-2008-175323-005	10
		09-07-2008-153423-008	11
		06-03-2008-152201-006	12
		05-03-2008-111346-001	13
		15-07-2008-080805-001	14
		28-07-2008-113105-002	15
		24-07-2008-092121-001	16
		30-07-2008-114223-003	17
		04-08-2008-145454-005	18
		09-07-2008-092845-001	19
		06-08-2008-150240-005	20
		03-09-2008-070604-003	21
		05-09-2008-092345-002	22
		08-09-2008-140010-018	23
		19-09-2008-101325-002	24
		18-09-2008-072702-004	25
		03-09-2008-104135-001	26
		01-09-2008-064539-001	27
		01-09-2008-065632-005	28
		08-09-2008-070638-005	29
		26-09-2008-094212-001	30
		26-09-2008-131945-001	31
		06-10-2008-070657-001	32
		02-10-2008-172521-003	33
		07-10-2008-064811-002	34
		07-10-2008-064556-001	35
	20-10-2008-134112-008	36	
	30-09-2008-150028-004	37	



AUTHORISATION FOR THE RELEASE OF INFORMATION

Applicant: **Section 40**

Case Number: 30-09-2008-150028-004

Expiry: 24 Oct 08

The Applicant has made the following request for information:

Copies of FOI requests mentioning **Section 40**

Case for release of information

Names addresses, telephone numbers are withheld as they are not relevant to the request.

Otherwise there is no requirement to withhold information.

Authorisation

I hereby give authorisation to withhold the aforementioned information subject to the above exemption

Grade/Rank: **B2** Name: **Section 40**

Authorisation Reference Number: DAS-FOI 08/05..... **Section 40**

Date: **20/10/08**

Section 40

From: Section 40
Sent: 20 October 2008 14:07
To: Section 40@freereserve.co.uk
Subject: Release-authorized: FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST 30-09-2008-150028-004
Attachments: Section 40.pdf, Section 40.pdf, Section 40.pdf

Dear Section 40

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request of 30 September 2008 asking for copies of any FOI requests, together with responses, that mention Section 40 that have not already been supplied to you.

There have been three further FOI requests mentioning Section 40 which I attach. You will note that names, addresses and other personal information have been withheld as it is not relevant to the information you have requested. Redactions made by hand are on the original responses. Those made electronically were made in answer to this request.

If you are unhappy with this response or you wish to complain about any aspect of the handling of this request, then you should contact me in the first instance. If informal resolution is not possible and you are still dissatisfied then you may apply for an independent internal review by contacting the Director of Information Exploitation, 6th Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB (e-mail InfoXD@mod.uk). Please note that any request for an internal review must be made within 40 days of the date on which the attempt to reach informal resolution has come to an end.

If you remain unhappy following an internal review, you may wish to take your complaint to the Information Commissioner under the provisions of Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act. Please note that the Information Commissioner will not investigate your case until the internal review process has been completed. Further details of the role and powers of the Information Commissioner can be found on the Commissioner's website, <http://www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk>.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

DAS-FOI
 05-H Section 40
 MoD Main Building
 Whitehall
 London
 SW1A 2HB

The Constitution Unit, a research body at University College London, is carrying out an independent evaluative study of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 in co-operation with a number of public authorities, including the Ministry of Defence. An important part of the evaluation process is gathering the experiences and opinions of FOI requesters like you. Any information you provide will only be seen by the Constitution Unit and will be handled in accordance with its privacy policy

20/10/2008

Catalogue Reference: defe/24/2449/1

explained in the survey. The Ministry of Defence will only see the published results: no individual responses will be visible to us and your participation will have no effect on your future dealings with the Ministry.

If you would like to take part in this study, please visit the following link to be taken directly to the survey: <http://tinyurl.com/6prff8>. Or, if you prefer, contact Ben Worthy at b.worthy@ucl.ac.uk or on 020 7679 4974 to ask more about the study.

If you have filled this survey out before, we invite you to fill it out again in light of the recent response to your request.

20/10/2008

Catalogue Reference: defe/24/2449/1

REDACTION ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT



From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 06 August 2007 08:28
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Release-authorized: FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST 23-07-2007-143005-004

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request of 17 July 2007 asking for a copy of any letters written by Mr Nick Pope to the MoD on the subject of an alleged MoD file on the subject of crop circles. Additionally, you asked me to speculate as to why Mr Pope had stated that he had opened a file and that it had recently been located by the MoD. Finally, you asked me to reconsider my response to your Freedom of Information request reference number 16-07-2007-074214-001.

Any correspondence between a named member of the public such as Mr Pope, or indeed yourself, remains a confidential matter between the individual and the MoD and is withheld under exemption s.40 (Personal Information). I would point out, that if Mr Pope were to ask for copies of any correspondence between yourself and the MoD, the same would apply. However, a disclosure of information under FOI terms is considered a disclosure to the wider public, if you require copies of the response to specific FOI requests or recorded information held by MOD, please let me know.

It would not be appropriate for me to speculate on the motives of a member of the public in any statement that they make during the course of their private or business life. If you are curious as to the motives behind any comments he has made, I suggest that you contact Mr Pope himself.

You have asked me to review my response to Freedom of Information request 16-07-2007-074214-001 in light of comments made by Mr Pope in a recent magazine article. I can only state that the MoD has no record of a file on crop circles having been opened either prior to, during, or after, the period 1993-94.

If you are unhappy with this response or you wish to complain about any aspect of the handling of this request, then you should contact me in the first instance. If informal resolution is not possible and you are still dissatisfied then you may apply for an internal review by contacting the Director of Information Exploitation, 6th Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall SW1A 2HB (e-mail InfoXD@mod.uk). Please note that any request for an internal review must be made within 40 days of the date on which the attempt to reach informal resolution has come to an end.

If you remain unhappy following an internal review, you may take your complaint to the Information Commissioner under the provisions 50 of the Freedom of Information Act. Please note that the Information Commissioner will not investigate the case until the internal review process has been completed. Further details of the role and powers of the Information Commissioner can be found on the Commissioner's website, <http://www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk>.

I am sorry I was unable to be of more assistance.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]
 DAS-FOI
 05-H **Section 40**

06/08/2007

REDACTION ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT

1. D Main Building
Whitehall
London
SW1A 2HB

06/08/2007

Catalogue Reference: defe/24/2449/1

REDACTION ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT

23-07-2007-143055-004

EXP 14 AUG 07

From: [REDACTED]
 Sent: 17 July 2007 16:23
 To: [REDACTED]
 Subject: FOI request - reply

Dear [REDACTED]

Many thanks for your quick response to my FOI request of 15 July. I would like to expand on the request and offer the following comments and questions.

My request was based on information given in an article written by a previous incumbent of the MOD's 'UFO Desk, Nick Pope.

In his most recent column in BEYOND magazine, (Issue No 7 (July 2007), pg 13) Mr Pope writes:

> "...in an amusing postscript to this column...I was contacted a few
 >months ago by someone who had made a request under the Freedom of
 >Information Act asking the MoD to release itas X File on Crop Circles.
 >The MoD replied saying that no file had ever been opened on the
 >subject. As I'd opened it, I know this was incorrect, so I wrote to the
 >MoD and set them straight. I have a good memory and was even able to
 >help them by recalling the file's reference number! Happily, following
 >my intervention, the file was located."

As Mr Pope is claiming direct knowledge of an MOD file he claims exists because he opened it and could recall the file number, I am now somewhat confused.

To clarify my confusion may I now request:

- * That you reconsider my original FOI request about the MOD Crop Circle file, in view of Mr Pope's comments
- * If you still maintain no such file exists could you offer any thoughts as to why Mr Pope claims to have opened a file and has recently informed the MOD of its existence to enable them to locate it, which he claims they now have done
- * I would also like to request a copy of any letter/s written by Mr Pope to the MOD in which he refers to a crop circle file or to any files containing information about crop circles

Thanks

Regards
 [REDACTED]

REDACTION ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT

REDACTION ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT



[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 20 May 2008 14:58
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Release-authorized: FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST 20-05-20058-134956-007

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request dated 20 May 2008 asking whether Mr Nick Pope (UFO author) was ever a Minister at the UK Ministry of Defence.

Mr Pope was not a Minister at the Ministry of Defence.

If you are unhappy with this response or you wish to complain about any aspect of the handling of this request, then you should contact me in the first instance. If informal resolution is not possible and you are still dissatisfied then you may apply for an independent internal review by contacting the Director of Information Exploitation, 6th Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall SW1A 2HB (e-mail InfoXD@mod.uk). Please note that any request for an internal review must be made within 40 working days of the date on which the attempt to reach informal resolution has come to an end.

If you remain unhappy following an internal review, you may wish to take your complaint to the Information Commissioner under the provisions 50 of the Freedom of Information Act. Please note that the Information Commissioner will not investigate the case until the internal review process has been completed. Further details of the role and powers of the Information Commissioner can be found on the Commissioner's website, <http://www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk>.

[REDACTED]
DAS-FOI
05-H [REDACTED] Section 40
MoD Main Building
Whitehall
London
SW1A 2HB

REDACTION ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT

20/05/2008

REDACTION ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 20 May 2008 13:51
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: foi email request PS 20-05-2008-134956-007 [REDACTED]
Categories: FOI Information Request

[REDACTED]

Can I interest you with this FOI request or do you feel it would be best answered by DGCP.

Regards

[REDACTED]
FOI Helpdesk
[REDACTED]

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

From: feedback@www.mod.uk [mailto:feedback@www.mod.uk]
Sent: 20 May 2008 09:44
To: Info-Access-Office
Subject: foi email request PS 20-05-2008-134956-007 [REDACTED]

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted on Tuesday, May 20, 2008 at 09:43:49

txttitle: [REDACTED]

txtfirstname: [REDACTED]

txtlastname: [REDACTED]

txtemailAddress: [REDACTED]

txtinforequest: Hi,

I am an [REDACTED] wondering if anyone there could confirm if Nick Pope (UFO author) was ever a Minister at the Ministry of Defence, UK as he claims?

Thanks,
[REDACTED]

REDACTION ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT

REDACTION ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT

Page 1 of 2

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 21 May 2008 10:47
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST 20-05-20058-134956-007

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you soo much for your prompt response! I thought it was a scam just wanted to make sure. He is getting alot of publicity online, on UTube and at so called 'National Press conferences' lately. Alot of people are convinced he is for real...very frustrating to watch.

Regards,
[REDACTED]

Quoting [REDACTED]:

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request dated 20 May 2008 asking whether Mr Nick Pope (UFO author) was ever a Minister at the UK Ministry of Defence.

Mr Pope was not a Minister at the Ministry of Defence.

If you are unhappy with this response or you wish to complain about any aspect of the handling of this request, then you should contact me in the first instance. If informal resolution is not possible and you are still dissatisfied then you may apply for an independent internal review by contacting the Director of Information Exploitation, 6th Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall SW1A 2HB (e-mail InfoXD@mod.uk). Please note that any request for an internal review must be made within 40 working days of the date on which the attempt to reach informal resolution has come to an end.

If you remain unhappy following an internal review, you may wish to take your complaint to the Information Commissioner under the provisions 50 of the Freedom of Information Act. Please note that the Information Commissioner will not investigate the case until the internal review process has been completed. Further details of the role and powers of the Information Commissioner can be found on the Commissioner's website,

<http://www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk>.

[REDACTED]
DAS-FOI

05-H [REDACTED] Section 40

MoD Main Building

Whitehall

London

REDACTION ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT

21/05/2008

SW1A 2HB

21/05/2008

Catalogue Reference: defe/24/2449/1

REDACTION ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT

Page 1 of 1

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]**Sent:** 21 May 2008 11:42**To:** [REDACTED]**Subject:** Release-authorized: FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST 20-05-2008-134956-007

Dear [REDACTED]

Whilst it is not MoD policy to provide personal details regarding employees (which, with more junior employees, would include career details) in fairness to Mr Pope, I feel I should point out that during the period 1991-1994 he was the desk officer with responsibility for UFO matters within the MoD. The post he held during this period (and which I now hold) was a civil service post at what was known then as *Executive Officer*. This is a junior management grade.

In the context of your FOI request, *Ministers* are all members of the UK parliament, whether in the upper or lower chambers, and therefore are at the very highest level of government.

I hope this clarifies matters.

[REDACTED]
DAS-FOI
05-H-Section 40
MoD Main Building
Whitehall
London
SW1A 2HB

REDACTION ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT

21/05/2008

Catalogue Reference: defe/24/2449/1

REDACTION ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT

Page 1 of 2

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 23 June 2008 16:07
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Release-authorized: FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST 30-05-2008-093801-001

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request of 29 May 2008 asking why information in paragraph 6 of the background briefing note to PQ0047 and PQ0048 had been redacted and for the background note to be released to you without that redaction. Additionally, you asked whether there was any correspondence between the MoD and the Defence Radiological Protection Service (DRPS) regarding the Rendlesham Incident during the period 1991-94. I assume by MoD, that you mean Sec(AS), as the DRPS was itself an integral part of the MoD. If this is incorrect, please let me know.

Firstly, the information redacted from paragraph 6 of the background note was withheld under exemption s.40 (Personal Information) as it related to an official's private activities outside their duties at the MoD. This remains the case and therefore I can see no grounds for releasing the information. I should point out for future reference that I believe the relevant PQ numbers were actually 0861i and 0862i.

The DAS and DIS UFO files for this period are due for transfer to The National Archives and therefore, as provided by exemption s.22 (Information intended for future publication) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the MoD is not obliged to comply with this part of your request. However, I have checked with the Defence Science and Technology Laboratory, who now hold the relevant DRPS files, but they can find no correspondence between them and Sec(AS) during the period 1991-94 on the subject of Rendlesham. They were approached by a member of Sec(AS), but this was by telephone only, although they believe that a note of the conversation was made by Sec (AS).

If you are unhappy with this response or you wish to complain about any aspect of the handling of this request, then you should contact me in the first instance. If informal resolution is not possible and you are still dissatisfied then you may apply for an independent internal review by contacting the Director of Information Exploitation, 6th Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall SW1A 2HB (e-mail InfoXD@mod.uk). Please note that any request for an internal review must be made within 40 working days of the date on which the attempt to reach informal resolution has come to an end.

If you remain unhappy following an internal review, you may wish to take your complaint to the Information Commissioner under the provisions 50 of the Freedom of Information Act. Please note that the Information Commissioner will not investigate the case until the internal review process has been completed. Further details of the role and powers of the Information Commissioner can be found on the Commissioner's website, <http://www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk>.

I hope this is helpful.

[REDACTED]
 DAS-FOI
 05-H Section 40
 MoD Main Building
 Whitehall

REDACTION ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT

23/06/2008

London
SW1A 2HB

23/06/2008

Catalogue Reference: defe/24/2449/1

REDACTION ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 29 May 2008 16:11
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Lord Hill Norton PQs FOIA - Background Note Follow Up & Enquiry
Attachments: HillNortonPQs0047.JPG; HillNortonPQs0048.JPG; OSCMNickPope.JPG

30-05-2008-093821-02
EXP 26 JUN 08

Hi [REDACTED]

On 10 August 2007, you sent me a substantive response to an FOIA enquiry that I submitted on various Parliamentary Questions by Lord Hill Norton on UFOs? Please treat this as a separate follow up to that enquiry and kindly note various attachments, scanned jpeg images for your reference.

Attached there are two pages from a background note that you sent to me via post and there is a scan of a page from 'Open Skies Closed Minds' a book by Nick Pope former MoD UFO desk officer.

In the attached scan HillNortonPQs0048, one of the papers you sent there are redacted sections at paragraph 6. If you examine the first redaction, it is plain to see that this information is already in the public domain and refers to Nick Pope, as evidenced in attached scan OSCMNickPope and marked with red underline and arrow, showing it was Nick Pope who made the enquiry to the Defence Radiological Protection Service.

Here's my questions and request relevant to these papers.

In paragraph 6 of HillNortonPQs0048 (attached) there is another redaction concerning explanations offered by the Defence Radiological Protection Service.

1. a) Why was this information redacted, what exemption was applied? b) May I ask for the re-release of this background note paper without the latter redactions and that offer alternate explanations for the higher than normal radiation levels involved in the Rendlesham Forest alleged UFO of December 1980. The grounds upon which I make this request are primarily because this information concerns an event which happened nearly 30 years ago, at an American USAF air force base that has long since closed down. I cannot see what exemption currently within the use of the FOIA should prevent the release of this information, if put to a public interest test, there's a strong chance it would be released, unless you can inform of some other reason why it should not?

2. Could you please determine if there's any correspondence between the MoD and Defence Radiological Protection Service concerning radiation readings connected with the Rendlesham Forest UFO of December 1980 but from the period 1991-1994 (Nick Pope's tenure)

Section 40 please find attached another scan of the background note paper which preceded the one in question, it might help to identify and relocate these papers. (HillNortonPQs0047).

Looking forward to your reply, either by email at [REDACTED] or by post at [REDACTED]

Thanks, yours sincerely
[REDACTED]

REDACTION ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT

30/05/2008

OPEN SKIES, CLOSED MINDS

148

frizzy.' Someone on the recording says, 'All the backyard animals have gotten quiet now.' Other witnesses remembered the same agitation. Was this caused by the low-frequency hum of an aircraft, or, more sinister still, does it have some connection with animal mutilations?

Despite some high-level pressure brought to bear by Lord Hill-Norton, who, it will be remembered, was a chief of defence staff and chairman of the NATO Military Committee, and from Sir Patrick Wall MP and Ralph Noyes, who was a former head of DSE himself, nothing concrete was done. When Halt's report became public in 1983, the media took a field day. 'UFO LANDS IN SURFOLK' trumpeted the *New York Times* on its front page on 2 October. 'And the official...

There has been a steady stream of letters from the press over the years, but inevitably, fact and fiction intertwined. Rendlesham Forest became a myth. Rendlesham Forest is British Roswell — we know that something happened, but I don't know what. I believe the Ministry of Defence squandered a major opportunity by not investigating the incident in detail at the time. The trail has now gone cold: the airbase has gone, personnel have gone; even a great swathe of the forest has been cut down — on account, some say, of the massive radiation trees. Brenda Butler was unable to discover who had felled the trees or what had happened to them.

One aspect of Rendlesham has been consistently ignored by ufologists and yet, to me, it is the most tangible proof of something extraordinary happening there, and that is the night readings. I contacted the Defence Radiological Protection Centre, attached to Haslar, the Institute of Naval Medicine, Gosport, Hampshire. Contrary to the claim made in *Strange But True?*, the readings were in fact ten times higher than...

THE REAL UFOs

149

and the military Geiger counters used were probably designed to measure much higher levels of radiation, so the scale at the lower end might have been less sensitive, making accurate readings difficult. It is also possible that the night hours were not the best time to take readings, although Halt's careful figures — 0.05 and 0.07 rather than the average of 0.06 — suggest that a great deal of precision was involved. Most ufologists have concentrated on the bizarre non-human shapes in the craft and their meeting with senior personnel. It is human nature to focus on the most dramatic and exciting aspects, and this is a snuff of contactee legend, the closest of close encounters. In comparison the actual physical proof of the radiation readings is but into relative insignificance. Yet this does not say much for the general standard of scientific research among ufologists, and a little to enhance their credibility.

What did happen in Rendlesham Forest? There have been some quite extraordinary attempts to explain away the events described in Col Halt's report. One comes from science writer Ian Ridpath, whose theory is that the flashing, pulsating lights in the trees were actually the rotating beams from Orford Ness lighthouse six miles away. A timing of the tape, he says, fits the beam of the lighthouse's circuit. He also claims that the six-mile distance would seem like only a few hundred yards at night, and that men were moving about in the trees, the fixed light would be an impression of moving independently of them. Ian Ridpath put forward this explanation in *Strange But True?* Col Halt was, I felt, very restrained, in his rebuttal. 'The lighthouse doesn't move through a forest, doesn't explode, doesn't change shape, doesn't send down beams of light.' He also has added that the Orford Ness Lighthouse had...

REDACTION ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT

DRAFTED BY : [REDACTED] TEL: [REDACTED]
 AUTHORISED BY : [REDACTED] TEL: [REDACTED]
 GRADE/RANK : Grade 7
 AUTHORISED BY : [REDACTED] TEL: [REDACTED]
 GRADE/RANK : SCS

DECLARATION: I have satisfied myself that the following answer and background note are in accordance with the Government's policy on answering PQs, Departmental instructions (DCI (To Be Confirmed)), and the Open Government Code (DCI GEN 48/97).

[REDACTED]

BACKGROUND NOTE:

1. Lord Hill-Norton has a long-standing interest in "UFOs", was a member of the (now defunct) House of Lords All-Party "UFO" Study Group, and has written forewords for two books on the subject. He has previously written to Ministers supporting individual "ufologist" causes.
 2. The MOD position on "UFO" sightings is that we examine any reports 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, and to date no "unidentified flying object" sighting has revealed such evidence, we do not attempt to identify the precise nature of each reported incident.
 3. The alleged incidents referred to in the 1981 memorandum occurred between 27-29 December 1980 when unusual lights were seen by USAF personnel, including the Deputy Base Commander, outside RAF Woodbridge. A report of the sighting written some two weeks after the events (copy attached) was forwarded to the MOD by the RAF Liaison Officer at RAF Bentwaters. The report was examined by the Department at the time and no evidence of any matter of defence significance was found. This is of course the Department's only interest in such sightings.
 4. This incident is regularly quoted by the media and 'ufologists' as evidence of "UFOs" penetrating the UK Air Defence Region. However, all available evidence was examined at the time and nothing of defence concern was judged to have occurred in the location on the nights in question. No additional information has come to light over the last 16 1/2 years which calls the original judgement into question.
- [REDACTED]

REDACTION ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT

REDACTION ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT

[REDACTED]

5. It was then, and continues to be the case that witnesses are not routinely contacted following receipt of a "UFO" report. It would only have been necessary to contact Lt Col Halt (or any other witness) had there been any indication that the sighting was of defence relevance and further information was required.

6. The PQs may have been prompted by the publication of two books, one on "UFOs" and the other on "Alien Abductions" by a former member of Sec(AS), Mr Nicholas Pope. The incident is discussed in Mr Pope's first book. He states that the radiation readings taken by USAF personnel at the site were unusually high. There is, however, no evidence that any analysis of the radiation readings reported at the site was undertaken at the time. It can only be assumed now that in view of the assessment made at the time by the relevant air defence experts that the UK air defence region had not been compromised, no analysis of the reported readings was judged necessary.

[REDACTED]

approached the Defence Radiological Protection Service in 1994 for their views. Their advice was that the readings were higher than normal but that there could be a number of explanations for this.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

REDACTION ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT

REDACTION ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 23 June 2008 14:01
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Release-authorised: FOI REQUEST RENDLESHAM FOREST 30-05-2008-093801-001
Attachments: scan.pdf

[REDACTED]

The Defence Science and Technology Laboratory (Dstl) is the custodian of the files created by what was the Defence Radiological Protection Service (DRPS) and later became known as the Defence Evaluation and Research Agency Radiation Protection Services. Dstl have searched the files for the period mentioned and can confirm that there are no records of the type requested.

The above finding is not unexpected, as DRPS received many ah-hoc radiation-related enquiries. These enquiries covered a wide range of topics and the nature of any records maintained related to their apparent significance to DRPS's role, which was to provide radiation-related health and safety advice to Ministry of Defence civilians and the UK Armed Forces. In this context, and given the nature of Mr Pope's enquiry and the lack of health risk associated with the doserates mentioned, it is not surprising that there are no records of what seems to have been a purely informal telephone conversation. Conversely, when it became apparent that this topic was attracting public interest, records of related correspondence were kept and an example from 1998 which summarises the DRPS position is attached for your information.

It is hoped this is helpful.

[REDACTED]

Dstl search report:

1. Records/documents related to this type of incident are usually recorded in the pack for unusual occurrences (pack no. 175/015). Searching this pack between the period 1991 – 1994 yielded no documents related to the radiation monitoring incident at RAF Bentwaters/Woodbridge.
2. A further search for files related to RAF Bentwaters/Woodbridge over this period has been conducted, but no such files exist.
3. A DRPS health physicist, [REDACTED] was contacted by Nick Pope (who for the period 1991 – 1994 was Sec(AS) 2a with responsibility for conducting UFO investigations). There are no DRPS files relating to this meeting, the only evidence being a note (figure 1) written by Nick Pope on 15/04/1994[1]², which has been commented on in the public domain by ufologists[2]. [REDACTED] confirms he considered the conversation as a privileged conversation the significance of which required no formal record.
3. [REDACTED] has previously commented on this conversation with [REDACTED] (ref: 150/17/11511/DRPS) on several occasions in 1996 and 1998 where he has reiterated his view on the conversation he had with Nick Pope in 1994.

REDACTION ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT

23/06/2008

REDACTION ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT

Page 2 of 2

[1] <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/foi>

[2] [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 20 June 2008 11:37
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Release-authorized: FOI REQUEST RENDLESHAM FOREST 30-05-2008-093801-001

[REDACTED]

Have you had any success in finding any correspondence relating to Rendlesham Forest and radiation?

[REDACTED]
DAS-FOI
[REDACTED]

"The Information contained in this E-Mail and any subsequent correspondence"
"is private and is intended solely for the intended recipient(s)."
"For those other than the recipient any disclosure, copying, distribution, "
"or any action taken or omitted to be taken in reliance on such information is"
"prohibited and may be unlawful."

REDACTION ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT

23/06/2008

REDACTION ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT

MP 2

DERA

Radiation Protection Services
c/o Institute of Naval Medicine
Crescent Road
Alverstoke
Gosport
Hants PO12 2DL



Ref: 150/17/11511/DRPS ✓



21 August 1998

Dear Mr

References:

- A. Letter dated 19 Aug 1998
- B. 150/17/5817/DRPS dated 27 Sept 1996
- C. 150/17/5767/DRPS dated 19 Sept 1996

Thank you for your letter of 19 August (ref A). You will recall from our previous correspondence (Refs B and C) that in my original discussions with Mr Pope I did indeed state that the readings were around 10 times normal background levels, provided that the instrument was appropriate for measuring background radiation (at the time of our discussions he could not state what the instrument was), calibrated and being used/interpreted correctly.

I share the NRPB view that the use of a high-range survey instrument to measure (accurately) environmental levels of radiation is somewhat questionable and this must throw some doubt on the validity of the data reported.

I hope this is of use to you.



for DRPS Corporate RPA

Information

DERA Company Secretary (with references)



955699



Testing
No. 1305



Calibration
No. 0477

REDACTION ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT

30-09-2008-150028-004

EXP: 28 OCT 08

Section 40

From: Section 40

Sent: 30 September 2008 13:55

To: Section 40

Subject: FOIA Request

Section 40

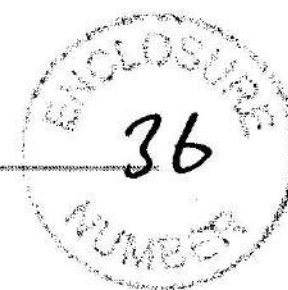
I'd be grateful for copies of any FOIA requests that mention ~~Sec(og-4)~~ (together with the responses) that you haven't already sent me in response to previous FOIA requests.

Best wishes,

Section 40

30/09/2008

Catalogue Reference: defe/24/2449/1

Section 40

From: **Section 40**
Sent: 20 October 2008 13:59
To: **Section 40** @msn.com'
Subject: Release-authorized: FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST

Dear **Section 40**

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request asking for details of UFO sightings over Biddenden in Kent.

The Ministry of Defence (MoD) has no record of receiving a UFO sighting over Biddenden in 2008. Details for UFO sightings reported to the MoD for the period 1997-2007 are available on our website www.mod.uk by searching the Publication Scheme section for the phrase "UFO Reports".

If you are unhappy with this response or you wish to complain about any aspect of the handling of this request, then you should contact me in the first instance. If informal resolution is not possible and you are still dissatisfied then you may apply for an independent internal review by contacting the Director of Information Exploitation, 6th Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB (e-mail InfoXD@mod.uk). Please note that any request for an internal review must be made within 40 days of the date on which the attempt to reach informal resolution has come to an end.

If you remain unhappy following an internal review, you may wish to take your complaint to the Information Commissioner under the provisions of Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act. Please note that the Information Commissioner will not investigate your case until the internal review process has been completed. Further details of the role and powers of the Information Commissioner can be found on the Commissioner's website, <http://www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk>.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

DAS-FOI
05-H-**Section 40**
MoD Main Building
Whitehall
London
SW1A 2HB

The Constitution Unit, a research body at University College London, is carrying out an independent evaluative study of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 in co-operation with a number of public authorities, including the Ministry of Defence. An important part of the evaluation process is gathering the experiences and opinions of FOI requesters like you. Any information you provide will only be seen by the Constitution Unit and will be handled in accordance with its privacy policy explained in the survey. The Ministry of Defence will only see the published results: no individual responses will be visible to us and your participation will have no effect on your future dealings with the Ministry.

20/10/2008

Catalogue Reference: defe/24/2449/1

If you would like to take part in this study, please visit the following link to be taken directly to the survey: <http://tinyurl.com/6prff8>. Or, if you prefer, contact Ben Worthy at b.worthy@ucl.ac.uk or on 020 7679 4974 to ask more about the study.

If you have filled this survey out before, we invite you to fill it out again in light of the recent response to your request.

20/10/2008

Catalogue Reference: defe/24/2449/1

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

From: no-reply@feedback.mod.uk [mailto:no-reply@feedback.mod.uk]

Sent: 20 October 2008 10:56

To: Info-Access-Office

Subject: foi email request PS 20-10-2008-134112-008 **Section 40**

This request has been received via www.mod.uk.

txttitle: **Section 40**

txtfirstname: **Section 40**

txtlastname: **Section 40**

txtemailAddress: **Section 40**

txtinforequest: ufo sightings over biddenden kent



AUTHORISATION FOR THE RELEASE OF INFORMATION

Applicant: **Section 40**

Case Number: 07-10-2008-064556-001

Expiry: 24 Jul 08

The Applicant has made the following request for information:

Copies of photographs for 1995,

Case for release of information

Files containing this information are due for release in the next 12 months and therefore exemption s.22 (Information intended for future publication) applies

A PIT is included in the response letter.

Authorisation

I hereby give authorisation to withhold the aforementioned information subject to the above exemption

Grade/Rank: **B2** Name: **Section 40**

Authorisation Reference Number: DAS-FOI 08/05..... **Section 40**

Date: **7/10/08**

Section 40**From:** **Section 40****Sent:** 07 October 2008 13:46**To:** **Section 40****Subject:** Release-authorized: FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST 07-10-2008-064556-001Dear **Section 40**

Thank you for your Freedom of information request of 6 October 2008 asking for copies of any UFO photographs for the year 1995.

Files covering this period will be transferring to The National Archives as part of a programme to transfer some 160 files covering 1978-2007. It is not possible to state when the files will actually be transferred, but it is expected it will be within the next six months. Therefore, under exemption s.22 (Information Intended for Future Publication) the MoD is not obliged to provide you with the information you requested.

This is not the end of the matter, of course; section 22 is a qualified exemption, meaning that the MOD must assess the balance of public interest in release of the information.

Whilst there is undoubtedly public interest in this information being released to the public as it will enable them to have a more informed view of the MoD's role in the UFO phenomena, there is no overriding reason why the public should have the information immediately. It is part of effective administration of government that the publication of information is planned and managed within the department responsible. Copies of UFO photographs will be of great interest to researchers and writers and, by placing the information requested in The National Archives, all interested parties will have access to the same information at the same time, which ensures no one has any particular advantage over their competitors.

If you are unhappy with this response or you wish to complain about any aspect of the handling of this request, then you should contact me in the first instance. If informal resolution is not possible and you are still dissatisfied then you may apply for an independent internal review by contacting the Director of Information Exploitation, 6th Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB (e-mail InfoXD@mod.uk). Please note that any request for an internal review must be made within 40 days of the date on which the attempt to reach informal resolution has come to an end.

If you remain unhappy following an internal review, you may wish to take your complaint to the Information Commissioner under the provisions of Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act. Please note that the Information Commissioner will not investigate your case until the internal review process has been completed. Further details of the role and powers of the Information Commissioner can be found on the Commissioner's website, <http://www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk>.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

DAS-FOI

05-H-**Section 40**

MoD Main Building

Whitehall

07/10/2008

Catalogue Reference: defe/24/2449/1

London
SW1A 2HB

The Constitution Unit, a research body at University College London, is carrying out an independent evaluative study of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 in co-operation with a number of public authorities, including the Ministry of Defence. An important part of the evaluation process is gathering the experiences and opinions of FOI requesters like you. Any information you provide will only be seen by the Constitution Unit and will be handled in accordance with its privacy policy explained in the survey. The Ministry of Defence will only see the published results: no individual responses will be visible to us and your participation will have no effect on your future dealings with the Ministry.

If you would like to take part in this study, please visit the following link to be taken directly to the survey: <http://tinyurl.com/6prff8>. Or, if you prefer, contact Ben Worthy at b.worthy@ucl.ac.uk or on 020 7679 4974 to ask more about the study.

If you have filled this survey out before, we invite you to fill it out again in light of the recent response to your request.

07/10/2008

Catalogue Reference: defe/24/2449/1

EX 4 NOV 08

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

From: no-reply@feedback.mod.uk [mailto:no-reply@feedback.mod.uk]

Sent: 06 October 2008 21:49

To: Info-Access-Office

Subject: foi email request PS 07-10-2008-064556-001 **Section 40**

This request has been received via www.mod.uk.

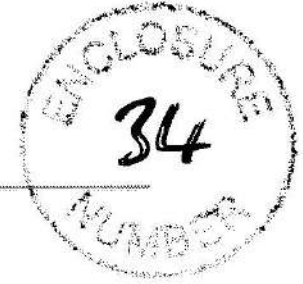
txttitle: **Section 40**

txtfirstname: **Section 40**

txtlastname:

txtemailAddress: **Section 40**

txtinforequest: Can you please send me copies of any UFO photographs you have for the year 1995



Section 40

From: Section 40

Sent: 07 October 2008 10:16

To: Section 40

Subject: Release-authorised: FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST 07-10-2008-064811-002

Dear Section 40

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request of 6 October 2008 asking for any documents the Ministry of Defence (MoD) has pertaining to "Operation Blackbird", which the MoD allegedly helped with. I understand this was an attempt to film the creation of a crop circle.

Other than documents relating to correspondence on the subject from members of the public such as yourself, the MoD has no documents pertaining to this matter and can find no record of the military having assisted in any such event.

I hope this is helpful. If you are unhappy with this response or you wish to complain about any aspect of the handling of this request, then you should contact me in the first instance. If informal resolution is not possible and you are still dissatisfied then you may apply for an independent internal review by contacting the Director of Information Exploitation, 6th Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB (e-mail InfoXD@mod.uk). Please note that any request for an internal review must be made within 40 days of the date on which the attempt to reach informal resolution has come to an end.

If you remain unhappy following an internal review, you may wish to take your complaint to the Information Commissioner under the provisions of Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act. Please note that the Information Commissioner will not investigate your case until the internal review process has been completed. Further details of the role and powers of the Information Commissioner can be found on the Commissioner's website, <http://www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk>.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

DAS-FOI

05-H-Section 40

MoD Main Building

Whitehall

London

SW1A 2HB

The Constitution Unit, a research body at University College London, is carrying out an independent evaluative study of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 in co-operation with a number of public authorities, including the Ministry of Defence. An important part of the evaluation process is gathering the experiences and opinions of FOI requesters like you. Any information you provide will only be seen by the Constitution Unit and will be handled in accordance with its privacy policy explained in the survey. The Ministry of Defence will only see the published results: no individual

07/10/2008

Catalogue Reference: defe/24/2449/1

responses will be visible to us and your participation will have no effect on your future dealings with the Ministry.

If you would like to take part in this study, please visit the following link to be taken directly to the survey: <http://tinyurl.com/6prff8>. Or, if you prefer, contact Ben Worthy at b.worthy@ucl.ac.uk or on 020 7679 4974 to ask more about the study.

If you have filled this survey out before, we invite you to fill it out again in light of the recent response to your request.

07/10/2008

Catalogue Reference: defe/24/2449/1

EXP 4 Nov 08

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

From: no-reply@feedback.mod.uk [mailto:no-reply@feedback.mod.uk]

Sent: 06 October 2008 21:44

To: Info-Access-Office

Subject: foi email request PS 07-10-2008-064811-002 **Section 40**

This request has been received via www.mod.uk.

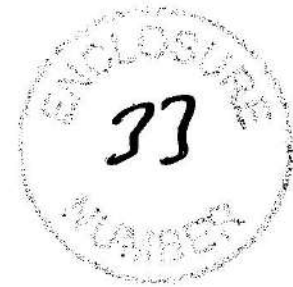
txttitle: **Section 40**

txtfirstname: **Section 40**

txtlastname:

txtemailAddress: **Section 40**

txtinforequest: Could you please send me any documents you have pertaining to 'Operation Blackbird' which the MoD assisted with in attempting to film the creation of a crop circle.



AUTHORISATION FOR THE RELEASE OF INFORMATION

Applicant: **Section 40**

Case Number: 02-10-2008-172521-003

Expiry: 30 Oct 08

The Applicant has made the following request for information:

Details of UFO sightings over Bromley 2003 onwards

Number of UFO sightings and locations

Case for release of information

Details for 2003-07 are available on the MoD website.

Details for 2008 will be published in Jan 2009 and therefore should be withheld under exemption s.22 (Information Intended for Future Publication)

A PIT is included in the response.

Authorisation

I hereby give authorisation to release the aforementioned information subject to the above exemption

Grade/Rank: **B2** Name: **Section 40**

Authorisation Reference Number: DAS-FOI 08/05..... **Section 40** ..

Date: **6/10/08**

Section 40**From:** **Section 40****Sent:** 06 October 2008 11:51**To:** **Section 40****Subject:** Release-authorized: FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST 02-10-2008-172521-003Dear **Section 40**

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request of 2 October 2008 asking for details of UFO sighting reports in the London Borough of Bromley in the last five years. You also asked for the number of UFO sightings each year and their location. Your request has been passed to this Department as we are the focal point within the Ministry of Defence for correspondence relating to UFOs.

Firstly, it may be helpful if I explain that the Ministry of Defence examines any reports of 'unidentified flying objects' it receives solely to establish whether what was seen might have some defence significance; namely, whether there is any evidence that the United Kingdom's airspace might have been compromised by hostile or unauthorised air activity.

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

The Ministry of Defence Information website has a database which contains information on UFO sighting reports from the year 1997 up to 2007. This can be accessed via the internet at: <http://www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/FreedomofInformation/PublicationScheme>, by searching under "UFO Reports". Reports for the year 2008 will be published in the same place in January 2009 and therefore, as provided by exemption s.22 (Information intended for future publication) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the MoD are not obliged to comply with this part of your request.

This is not the end of the matter however, of course; exemption 22 is a qualified exemption, meaning that the MoD must assess the balance of the public interest in release of the information which is outlined below.

Whilst there is undoubtedly public interest in details of sightings being released to the public, there is no overriding reason why the public should have that information immediately. It is part of the effective administration of government that the publication of information is planned and managed within the department responsible. Details of UFO sightings are of great interest to researchers and writers. By placing the information on the MoD website in January, all interested parties receive the information at the same time, which ensures no one has any particular advantage over their competitors.

You may also wish to be aware that the MOD has already released a great deal of information about UFOs which is available for public viewing. MOD files were routinely destroyed until 1967, when they were generally preserved for The National Archives. A few have survived before 1967 and these together with records up to 1987 are now available for public viewing. The National Archives can be contacted at Ruskin Avenue, Richmond, Kew, Surrey TW9 4DU, or telephone 0208 876 3444. The National Archives also have a website giving information about the records they hold and how to access them. This can be found on the internet at:

06/10/2008

Catalogue Reference: defe/24/2449/1

<http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk>.

I hope this is helpful. If you are unhappy with this response or you wish to complain about any aspect of the handling of this request, then you should contact me in the first instance. If informal resolution is not possible and you are still dissatisfied then you may apply for an independent internal review by contacting the Director of Information Exploitation, 6th Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB (e-mail InfoXD@mod.uk). Please note that any request for an internal review must be made within 40 days of the date on which the attempt to reach informal resolution has come to an end.

If you remain unhappy following an internal review, you may wish to take your complaint to the Information Commissioner under the provisions of Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act. Please note that the Information Commissioner will not investigate your case until the internal review process has been completed. Further details of the role and powers of the Information Commissioner can be found on the Commissioner's website, <http://www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk>.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

DAS-FOI
05-H-**Section 40**
MoD Main Building
Whitehall
London
SW1A 2HB

The Constitution Unit, a research body at University College London, is carrying out an independent evaluative study of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 in co-operation with a number of public authorities, including the Ministry of Defence. An important part of the evaluation process is gathering the experiences and opinions of FOI requesters like you. Any information you provide will only be seen by the Constitution Unit and will be handled in accordance with its privacy policy explained in the survey. The Ministry of Defence will only see the published results: no individual responses will be visible to us and your participation will have no effect on your future dealings with the Ministry.

If you would like to take part in this study, please visit the following link to be taken directly to the survey: <http://tinyurl.com/6prff8>. Or, if you prefer, contact Ben Worthy at b.worthy@ucl.ac.uk or on 020 7679 4974 to ask more about the study.

If you have filled this survey out before, we invite you to fill it out again in light of the recent response to your request.

06/10/2008

Catalogue Reference: defe/24/2449/1

EX 30 OCT 08

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

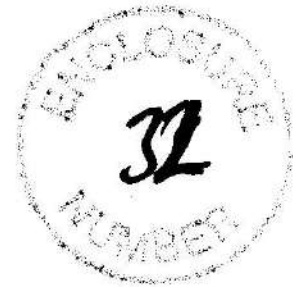
From: no-reply@feedback.mod.uk [mailto:no-reply@feedback.mod.uk]
Sent: 02 October 2008 16:48
To: Info-Access-Office
Subject: FOI written request PF 02-10-2008-172521-003 **Section 40**

This request has been received via www.mod.uk.

txttitle: **Section 40**
txtfirstname: **Section 40**
txtlastname: **Section 40**
txtoccupation: Journalist
txtorganisation: **Section 40**
txtaddress1: **Section 40**
txtaddress2: **Section 40**
txttowncity: Petts Wood
txtstatecountry: London
txtzipcodepostcode: **Section 40**
txtcountry: UK
txtemailAddress: **Section 40**
txttelephone: **Section 40**
txtinforequest: I would like to find out information you have on UFO sightings in the London borough of Bromley in the last five years (since 2003).

Could I get the number of UFO sightings each year and locations, as well as any details as to what was actually seen?

Many thanks.



AUTHORISATION FOR THE RELEASE OF INFORMATION

Applicant: **Section 40**

Case Number: 06-10-2008-070657-001

Expiry: 31 Oct 08

The Applicant has made the following request for information:

Details of unexplained or explained very flashes of light from the sky since 2000 reported by military, civil servants or the public.

Case for release of information

Assuming this is a UFO question, answering will entail checking 18 sighting report files, 30 correspondence files and 4 PQ files which will far exceed the £600 limit set for answering PQs.

1 file = 1 hour
42 files = 42 hours
42 @ £25 = £1050

Authorisation

I hereby give authorisation to withhold the aforementioned information subject to the above exemption

Grade/Rank: **B2** Name: **Section 40**

Authorisation Reference Number: DAS-FOI 08/05..... **Section 40**

Date: **6/10/08**



From: **Section 40**
Directorate of Air Staff - Freedom of Information
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
5th Floor, Zone H, Main Building, Whitehall, London SW1A 2HB

Telephone (Direct dial) 020 7218 2140
 (Switchboard) 020 7218 9000
 (Fax) **Section 40**
 e-mail das-ufo-office@mod.uk

Section 40

Felixstowe
 Suffolk

Section 40

Our Reference
 06-10-2008-070657-001

Date

6 October 2008

Dear **Section 40**

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request of 3 October 2008 asking for any information, reports or sightings from the public, military or civil servants of unexplained, and explained, very quick flashes of light from the sky or space since 2000. Your question is very broad, but has been passed to this branch to answer as we have responsibility for UFO matters within the MoD and we are the most likely repository of the information you request.

Answering your request would far exceed the permitted £600 limit set for compliance with the Freedom of Information Act and, as provided by Section 12 of the Act, the Ministry of Defence is not obliged to comply with your request. Your request covers a number of different topics. If you could limit your request to one specific item, I may be able to help. I would also advise you to limit the scope of your request to a specific and shorter time period such as two years.

That having been said, details of UFO sightings reported to the MoD for the period 1997-2007 are available via our website www.mod.uk by searching under "UFO reports" and this may provide you with much of the information you request.

If you are unhappy with this response or you wish to complain about any aspect of the handling of this request, then you should contact me in the first instance. If informal resolution is not possible and you are still dissatisfied then you may apply for an independent internal review by contacting the Director of Information Exploitation, 6th Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall SW1A 2HB (e-mail InfoXD@mod.uk). Please note that any request for an internal review must be made within 40 working days of the date on which the attempt to reach informal resolution has come to an end.

If you remain unhappy following an internal review, you may wish to take your complaint to the Information Commissioner under the provisions 50 of the Freedom of Information Act. Please note that the Information Commissioner will not investigate the case until the internal review process has been completed. Further details of the role and powers of the Information Commissioner can be found on the Commissioner's website, <http://www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk>.

Tom [unclear]

Section 40

The Constitution Unit, a research body at University College London, is carrying out an independent evaluative study of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 in co-operation with a number of public authorities, including the Ministry of Defence. An important part of the evaluation process is gathering the experiences and opinions of FOI requesters like you. Any information you provide will only be seen by the Constitution Unit and will be handled in accordance with its privacy policy explained in the survey. The Ministry of Defence will only see the published results: no individual responses will be visible to us and your participation will have no effect on your future dealings with the Ministry.

If you would like to take part in this study, please visit the following link to be taken directly to the survey: <http://tinyurl.com/6prff8>. Or, if you prefer, contact Ben Worthy at b.worthy@ucl.ac.uk or on 020 7679 4974 to ask more about the study.

If you have filled this survey out before, we invite you to fill it out again in light of the recent response to your request.

EX 31 OCT 08

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

From: no-reply@feedback.mod.uk [mailto:no-reply@feedback.mod.uk]

Sent: 03 October 2008 20:45

To: Info-Access-Office

Subject: FOI written request PS 06-10-2008-070657-001 **Section 40**

This request has been received via www.mod.uk.

txttitle: **Section 40**

txtfirstname: **Section 40**

txtlastname: **Section 40**

txtaddress1: **Section 40**

txtaddress2: Felixstowe

txttowncity: Felixstowe

txtstatecountry: Suffolk

txtzipcodepostcode: **Section 40**

txtcountry: United Kingdom

txtinforequest: Any information, reports or sightings from the public, military or civil servants. Of unexplained, and explained, very quick flashes of light from the sky or space from the year 2000 onwards.



From: **Section 40**
 Directorate of Air Staff - Freedom of Information
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
 5th Floor, Zone H, Main Building, Whitehall, London SW1A 2HB



Telephone (Direct dial) 020 7218 2140
 (Switchboard) 020 7218 9000
 (Fax) **Section 40**
 e-mail das-ufo-office@mod.uk

Section 40

Liverpool
 Merseyside
Section 40

Our Reference
 26-09-2008-131945-001

Date

26 September 2008

Dear **Section 40**

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request of 26 September 2008 asking for the title and details of the unit or team within the Ministry of Defence (MoD) that deals with UFO sightings. Additionally you wanted to know what they did.

The MoD examines any reports of 'unidentified flying objects' it receives solely to establish whether what was seen might have some defence significance; namely, whether there is any evidence that the United Kingdom's airspace might have been compromised by hostile or unauthorized foreign military activity.

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

Many members of the public believe the MoD has a whole department or branch that deals with UFOs, and, I suspect, have the impression of a large organisation within the MoD dedicated to research into UFO matters and extra-terrestrials. Actually, there are only two posts within the MoD (including mine) that are dedicated to UFO matters. Both posts (DAS-FOI and DAS-FOI1) are part of the Directorate of Air Staff (DAS), that deals with a wide range of air defence matters, of which UFOs is a minor part. DAS-FOI is at D Grade, which is the most junior management grade within the MoD, whilst DAS-FOI1 is at E1 Grade, which is at clerical level. Although the overwhelming majority of the UFO work in these two posts involves (and has for decades) answering correspondence from the public or recording sightings reported to the MoD, we do on occasion investigate reports. This usually involves liaising with air defence specialists (e.g. radar specialists) on perhaps half a dozen reports per year. These will generally be sightings made by aircrew, members of the armed forces or the police. We do not do field investigations. The notion that the MoD has ever maintained a dedicated team of UFO investigators along the lines of *The X-Files* is, I am afraid, a fiction. Both posts also have a responsibility for advising other DAS staff on Freedom of Information matters - hence the *FOI* in the post titles.

If you are unhappy with this response or you wish to complain about any aspect of the handling of this request, then you should contact me in the first instance. If informal resolution is not possible and you are still dissatisfied then you may apply for an independent internal review by contacting the Director of Information Exploitation, 6th Floor, MoD Main Building, Whitehall SW1A 2HB (e-mail InfoXD@mod.uk). Please note that any request for an internal review must be made within 40 working days of the date on which the attempt to reach informal resolution has come to an end.

If you remain unhappy following an internal review, you may wish to take your complaint to the Information Commissioner under the provisions 50 of the Freedom of Information Act. Please note that the Information Commissioner will not investigate the case until the internal review process has been completed. Further details of the role and powers of the Information Commissioner can be found on the Commissioner's website, <http://www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk>.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40



The Constitution Unit, a research body at University College London, is carrying out an independent evaluative study of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 in co-operation with a number of public authorities, including the Ministry of Defence. An important part of the evaluation process is gathering the experiences and opinions of FOI requesters like you. Any information you provide will only be seen by the Constitution Unit and will be handled in accordance with its privacy policy explained in the survey. The Ministry of Defence will only see the published results: no individual responses will be visible to us and your participation will have no effect on your future dealings with the Ministry.

If you would like to take part in this study, please visit the following link to be taken directly to the survey: <http://tinyurl.com/6prff8>. Or, if you prefer, contact Ben Worthy at b.worthy@ucl.ac.uk or on 020 7679 4974 to ask more about the study.

If you have filled this survey out before, we invite you to fill it out again in light of the recent response to your request.

26-09-2008-131945-001
EX 24 OCT 08

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

From: no-reply@feedback.mod.uk [<mailto:no-reply@feedback.mod.uk>]
Sent: 26 September 2008 00:55
To: Info-Access-Office
Subject: FOI written request

This request has been received via www.mod.uk.

txttitle: Section 40
txtfirstname: Section 40
txtlastname: Section 40
txtoccupation: data entry
txtaddress1: Section 40
txtaddress2: Section 40
txttowncity: liverpool
txtstatecountry: merseyside
txtzipcodepostcode: Section 40
txtcountry: UK
txtinforequest: i would like to know the name of the unit or team that deals with UFO sightings and other such phenomena that is within the ministry of defence> i'd like information on what they do and how they do it, within reason, and how the people involved are involved.

Thanks =]



Section 40

From: Section 40

Sent: 26 September 2008 10:09

To: Section 40

Subject: Release-authorized: FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST 26-09-2008-094212-001

Dear Section 40

Thank you for your follow up e-mail of 23 September 2008 asking for details from the Operations Record Book of 2 Squadron, RAF Laarbruch, concerning an alleged UFO sighting by RAF Tornado aircraft on 5 November 1990. For administrative purposes it is being treated as a new request and has a separate reference number.

At this time, 2 Squadron were stationed in Germany as part of their normal duties and the flying programme for the Squadron in November comprised Op Granby (1st Gulf War) run up and normal flying training exercises. There is no record of any particular event occurring on 5 November 1990, nor of anything around that date.

If you are unhappy with this response or you wish to complain about any aspect of the handling of this request, then you should contact me in the first instance. If informal resolution is not possible and you are still dissatisfied then you may apply for an independent internal review by contacting the Director of Information Exploitation, 6th Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall SW1A 2HB (e-mail InfoXD@mod.uk). Please note that any request for an internal review must be made within 40 working days of the date on which the attempt to reach informal resolution has come to an end.

If you remain unhappy following an internal review, you may wish to take your complaint to the Information Commissioner under the provisions 50 of the Freedom of Information Act. Please note that the Information Commissioner will not investigate the case until the internal review process has been completed. Further details of the role and powers of the Information Commissioner can be found on the Commissioner's website, <http://www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk>.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

DAS-FOI

05-H-Section 40

MoD Main Building

Whitehall

London

SW1A 2HB

The Constitution Unit, a research body at University College London, is carrying out an independent evaluative study of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 in co-operation with a number of public authorities, including the Ministry of Defence. An important part of the evaluation process is gathering the experiences and opinions of FOI requesters like you. Any information you provide will only be seen by the Constitution Unit and will be handled in accordance with its privacy policy explained in the survey. The Ministry of Defence will only see the published results: no individual responses will be visible to us and your participation will have no effect on your future dealings with

26/09/2008

Catalogue Reference:defe/24/2449/1

the Ministry.

If you would like to take part in this study, please visit the following link to be taken directly to the survey: <http://tinyurl.com/6prff8>. Or, if you prefer, contact Ben Worthy at b.worthy@ucl.ac.uk or on 020 7679 4974 to ask more about the study.

If you have filled this survey out before, we invite you to fill it out again in light of the recent response to your request.

26/09/2008

Catalogue Reference:defe/24/2449/1

From: AHB-AHB 2A [mailto:AHB-AHB2A@NORTHOLT.raf.mod.uk]
Sent: 25 September 2008 11:33
To: Section 40
Cc: AHB-PCB
Subject: RE: FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST 03-09-2008-104135-001

Section 40

Have re-visited the 2 Sqn F540. It contains no mention of any particular event on 5 November 1990. 2 Sqn were in Germany because they were stationed there and there is nothing about what happened before or after. The flying programme for the Sqn in November comprised Op Granby run up and normal flying training exercises.

Regards

Section 40



AHB FOIA

Section 40

26-09-2008-094212-001
EXP 21 OCT 08

From: Section 40
Sent: 23 September 2008 12:41
To: Section 40
Subject: Re: FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST 03-09-2008-104135-001

Hi Section 40

Thanks for your prompt reply to my Freedom Of Information request.

Concerning the question about Operations Record Book entry for 2 Squadron RAF Laarbruch, I am specifically interested in the alleged UFO sighting involving UK RAF Tornados on 5 November, 1990 somewhere near Ypenburg. It transpires that this was probably re-entry of a satellite rocket component. The reason for my enquiry is to see whether any mention or details were recorded in the ORBs for that evening of any object sighted, also I am interested to learn why the Tornado's were there i.e. what happened shortly before and after? So any specific additional information you can supply that answers the above would be useful?

Sincerely

Section 40



AUTHORISATION FOR THE RELEASE OF INFORMATION

Applicant: **Section 40**

Case Number: 08-09-2008-070638-005 Expiry: 1 Oct 08

The Applicant has made the following request for information:

Details of UFO related posts in DAS.

Correspondence relating to these two posts for 2007-08

Case for release of information

Other than names, addresses telephone numbers and other such details which are not relevant to the information requested, there is no reason to withhold information.

Authorisation

I hereby give authorisation to release the aforementioned information subject to the above exemption

Grade/Rank: **B2** Name: **Section 40**

Authorisation Reference Number: DAS-FOI 08/05..... **Section 40**

Date: **23/9/08**

Section 40

From: **Section 40**
Sent: 23 September 2008 13:36
To: **Section 40**
Subject: Release-authorized: FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST 08-09-2008-070638-005
Attachments: **Section 40**

Dear **Section 40**

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request of 3 September 2008 asking for details of the two Ministry of Defence (MoD) posts specifically tasked with dealing with UFO matters.

There are currently two posts within the MoD that are dedicated to UFO matters. My own (DAS-FOI) is at D Grade, which is the most junior management level within the Ministry and the second (DAS-FOI1) is at E1 grade which is at non managerial level. Whilst it would be inappropriate to provide individual salary details, the pay range for D grade posts is £19,315-£26,626 and for E1 grade posts £14,271-£23,534. They also attract standard London weightings for the grade. Both these posts are part of a branch based in MoD Main Building in London called the Directorate of Air Staff (DAS). This branch deals with a wide range of air defence related matters of which UFOs is a minor part. Although the overwhelming majority of the UFO work in these two posts involves (and has for decades) answering correspondence from the public or recording sightings reported to the MoD, we do on occasion investigate reports. This usually involves liaising with air defence experts (such as radar specialists) on, perhaps, half a dozen reports per year. These will generally be sightings made by aircrew, members of the armed forces or the police. I think I should make it clear that we do not do field investigations. The notion that the MoD has ever maintained a dedicated team of UFO investigators along the lines of *The X-Files* is, I am afraid, a fiction. Additionally, we answer Freedom of information (FOI) requests such as yours from the public and have responsibility for answering parliamentary correspondence. Both posts also have responsibility for providing advice to other staff within DAS on FOI matters.

The two posts require general office skills, with a preference for strong drafting abilities. When either of them becomes vacant, they are filled by internal competition. There is no requirement for any particular educational qualification beyond those normally required to gain entrance to the civil service. Specifically, there is no requirement for scientific qualifications or for any previous knowledge of, or interest in, UFO matters. Individuals occupying these posts are required to act in accordance with MoD policy on this subject and keep an open mind on UFO matters.

As requested, I enclose copies of correspondence over the last two years regarding these posts. You will note that some personal information such as names, addresses, telephone numbers etc has been withheld as it is not relevant to the information you requested.

If you are unhappy with this response or you wish to complain about any aspect of the handling of this request, then you should contact me in the first instance. If informal resolution is not possible and you are still dissatisfied then you may apply for an independent internal review by contacting the Director of Information Exploitation, 6th Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall SW1A 2HB (e-mail InfoXD@mod.uk). Please note that any request for an internal review must be made within 40 working days of the date on which the attempt to reach informal resolution has come to an end.

If you remain unhappy following an internal review, you may wish to take your complaint to the Information Commissioner under the provisions 50 of the Freedom of Information Act. Please note that the Information Commissioner will not investigate the case until the internal review process has

23/09/2008

Catalogue Reference: defe/24/2449/1

been completed. Further details of the role and powers of the Information Commissioner can be found on the Commissioner's website,
<http://www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk>.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

DAS-FOI

05-H-**Section 40**

MoD Main Building

Whitehall

London

SW1A 2HB

The Constitution Unit, a research body at University College London, is carrying out an independent evaluative study of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 in co-operation with a number of public authorities, including the Ministry of Defence. An important part of the evaluation process is gathering the experiences and opinions of FOI requesters like you. Any information you provide will only be seen by the Constitution Unit and will be handled in accordance with its privacy policy explained in the survey. The Ministry of Defence will only see the published results: no individual responses will be visible to us and your participation will have no effect on your future dealings with the Ministry.

If you would like to take part in this study, please visit the following link to be taken directly to the survey: <http://tinyurl.com/6prff8>. Or, if you prefer, contact Ben Worthy at b.worthy@ucl.ac.uk or on 020 7679 4974 to ask more about the study.

If you have filled this survey out before, we invite you to fill it out again in light of the recent response to your request.

23/09/2008

Catalogue Reference: defe/24/2449/1

REDACTION ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT



From: [REDACTED]
 Sent: 26 February 2007 15:43
 To: [REDACTED]
 Subject: Internet-Authorised: FOI REQUEST 26-02-2007-141448-004 - REPLACEMENT FOR [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your e-mail request of 26 February 2007 asking for copies of Freedom of Information request 21-09-2006-111822-004 together with the response and any subsequent related follow-on requests by the same author. Additionally, you raised a number of questions relating to the recruitment of a replacement for [REDACTED] as DAS-FOI.

The first part of your request will be dealt with by colleagues in DIS, whilst I will address the second part, dealing with the recruitment of a replacement for [REDACTED]

The post was originally advertised in October-November 2006. There were two applicants but they were considered to be unsuitable by a sift panel. The post was then re-advertised in November-December when there were a further four applicants. Interviews were conducted on 11 January following the Christmas break, and I was informed I was the successful candidate on 19th January 2007. I formally took up the post on 5 February 2007, although as I was already undertaking many of [REDACTED] duties whilst her replacement was found, for all practical purposes, I was her replacement from 19th January 2007.

If you are unhappy with this response or you wish to complain about any aspect of the handling of your request, then you should contact me in the first instance. If informal resolution is not possible and you are still dissatisfied then you may apply for an independent internal review by contacting the Director of Information Exploitation, 6th Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB (e-mail Info-XD@mod.uk). Please note that any request for an internal review must be made within two calendar months of the date on which the attempt to reach informal resolution has come to an end.

If you remain unhappy following an internal review, you may take your complaint to the Information Commissioner under the provisions of Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act. Please note that the Information Commissioner will not investigate the case until the internal review process has been completed. Further details of the role and powers of the Information Commissioner can be found on the Commissioner's website, <http://www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk>."

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]
 DAS-FOI
 05-H [Section 40]
 MoD Main Building
 Whitehall
 London
 SW1A 2HB

REDACTION ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT

26/02/2007

REDACTION ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 26 February 2007 09:59
To: DAS-UFO-Office
Subject: FOIA Request

Hello,

there are two parts to this request.

1. Please can I have a copy of the request and response to request 21-09-2006-111822-004 and any related follow-on requests by the same requester.

2. Please can you advise;

- a) If a replacement for [REDACTED] has been appointed yet.
- b) If not, when an appointment is expected to be made.
- c) If so, the name of the person and when they take up the post.
- d) How many applicants there were for the post.
- e) What the cause of the delay in making an appointment is/was.

Regards,

[REDACTED]

NOTE: PART 1 OF THE REQUEST WILL BE ANSWERED BY DIS UNDER A SEPARATE FOI REFERENCE NUMBER.

[REDACTED]

26/2/07

REDACTION ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT

REDACTION ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT



From: [REDACTED]
 Sent: 30 July 2008 13:43
 To: [REDACTED]
 Subject: Release-authorized: EMPLOYMENT WITH UFO BRANCH - TO03474

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your e-mail to Secretary of State for Defence, Des Browne, asking for details of how to apply for positions in the MoD's *UFO department*. It has been passed to this office to deal with as we have responsibility for answering questions relating to UFOs.

Firstly, I think it would be helpful if I gave you some background about the MoD role in UFO matters. Despite what many people think, the Ministry of Defence (MoD) does not have any expertise or role in respect of 'UFO/flying saucer' matters or the question of the existence or otherwise of extraterrestrial lifeforms, about which it remains totally open-minded. I should add that to date the MoD knows of no evidence which substantiates the existence of these alleged phenomena. The MoD examines any reports of 'unidentified flying objects' it receives solely to establish whether what was seen might have some defence significance; namely, whether there is any evidence that the United Kingdom's airspace might have been compromised by hostile or unauthorized foreign military activity.

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

The term UFO "department" is actually rather misleading. I suspect it gives the impression of a large organisation within the MoD dedicated to research into UFO matters and extra-terrestrials. In fact, there are two posts within the MoD that are dedicated to UFO matters. One (DAS-FOI) is at D Grade, which is the most junior management level within the Ministry and the second (DAS-FOI1) is at E1 grade which is at non managerial level. Both these posts are part of a branch based in London called the Directorate of Air Staff. This branch deals with a wide range of air defence related matters of which UFOs is a minor part. Although the overwhelming majority of the UFO work in these two posts involves (and has for decades) answering correspondence from the public or recording sightings reported to the MoD, we do on occasion investigate reports. This usually involves liaising with air defence experts (such as radar specialists) on perhaps half a dozen reports per year. These will generally be sightings made by aircrew, members of the armed forces or the police. I think I should make it clear that we do not do field investigations.

The two posts require general office skills, with a preference for strong drafting abilities. When either of them becomes vacant, they are filled by internal competition. If you wanted to take up one of these posts, you would therefore first need to join the MoD, and then once you had established yourself, apply for the posts as and when they become vacant.

If you were interested in pursuing a career within the MoD, please let me know and I will put you in contact with the relevant recruitment branch or section.



I hope this is helpful.

30/07/2008

REDACTION ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT

REDACTION ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT

Yours sincerely,


DAS-FOI
05-H-Section 40
MoD Main Building
Whitehall
London
SW1A 2HB

REDACTION ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT

30/07/2008

REDACTION ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT

TO03474 2008 - 20080730114251 - [REDACTED]
From: feedback@www.mod.uk
Sent: 24 July 2008 17:56
To: Ministers
Subject: U.F.O's

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted on Thursday, July 24, 2008 at 17:55:48

firstname: [REDACTED]
lastname: [REDACTED]
address1: [REDACTED]
address2: [REDACTED]
towncity: [REDACTED]
statecounty: [REDACTED]
postzipcode: [REDACTED]

country: UK

e-mail: [REDACTED]

informationrequest: I know this may be the most strangest thing to ask, but i would like to know how i would go about finding how to apply for any positions within your U.F.O dept.

Any tel number's or contact name's would be great.

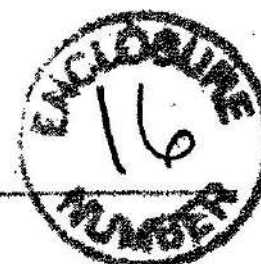
Many Thanks [REDACTED]

submit: Send Form



REDACTION ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT

REDACTION ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT



From: [REDACTED]
 Sent: 31 March 2008 11:23
 To: [REDACTED]
 Subject: Release-authorized: EMPLOYMENT ON UFO RESEARCH

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your e-mail of 19 March 2008 asking for help in your desire for a job with the MoD related to UFO research and enquiries.

There are two posts within the MoD that are directly related to UFO matters. Both these posts, which are civilian rather than military, are within the Directorate of Air Staff (DAS) and form part of its secretariat function. This means that their primary role is the answering of correspondence from both the public and parliament. The two posts dealing with UFO matters are tasked with answering correspondence, and since 2005, Freedom of Information requests. Additionally, they are tasked with recording UFO sightings reported to the MoD, details of which are placed on the MoD internet site at the end of the year. Very occasionally, they receive a UFO sighting report that they believe may justify further follow up and they will liaise with air defence experts. I would estimate that 95% of both jobs are UFO related, with the remainder being related to administering and providing guidance to colleagues within DAS on Freedom of Information matters.

However, despite what many members of the ufology community believe, the MoD examines any reports of 'unidentified flying objects' it receives solely to establish whether what was seen may have some defence significance; namely, whether there is any evidence that the United Kingdom's airspace might have been compromised by hostile or unauthorised air activity. Unless there is evidence of a potential threat to the United Kingdom from an external source, and to date no UFO report has revealed such evidence, we do not attempt to identify the precise nature of each sighting reported to us. We believe that rational explanations, such as aircraft lights or natural phenomena could be found for them if resources were diverted for this purpose, but it is not the function of the MOD to provide this kind of aerial identification service. It would be an inappropriate use of defence resources if we were to do so.

Staff who fill these two posts are recruited from within the MoD amongst its normal administrative staff and despite rumours to the contrary, these posts are not Top Secret and do not require security clearance beyond the norm for civil servants in the MoD. Therefore, if you were interested in undertaking this work, you would need to join the Ministry of Defence and, once you had established yourself, apply for one of them as and when they became vacant.

I hope this is helpful.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]
 DAS-FOI
 05-H Section 40
 Mod Main Building
 Whitehall
 London
 SW1A 2HB

REDACTION ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT

21/03/2008

REDACTION ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 19 March 2008 16:38
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: ufo research & enquires

[REDACTED]
Directorate of Airstaff (Lower Airspace)
Complaints & Enquiries Unit
Floor 5, Zone H
Main Building
Whitehall
London SW1A 2HB



From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 19 March 2008 16:34
To: Low Flying
Subject: ufo research & enquires

hello, my name is [REDACTED] i've been researching ufo's now for 5-6 years and i'm convinced that there are unusual advanced vehicles in our skys today. I am seeking a job related to ufo research and enquires within the mod. Please can somebody help.

Many many thanks.

[REDACTED]
contact tel: [REDACTED]

mobile [REDACTED]

Sounds like? How many syllables? Guess and win prizes with Search Charades!

REDACTION ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT

05/03/2008

REDACTION ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT



From: [REDACTED]
 Directorate of Air Staff - Freedom of Information
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
 5th Floor, Zone H, Main Building, Whitehall, London SW1A 2HB



Telephone [REDACTED] (Direct dial)
 (Switchboard)
 (Fax) [REDACTED]
 e-mail das-ufo-office@mod.uk

Our Reference
 D/DAS/06-11-2006-164110-006
 Date
 21 November 2006

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request of 24 October asking information relating to the advertisement of the vacant post in DAS responsible for dealing with FOI and UFO inquiries.

I attach a copy of the advertisement for the post that has appeared internally within the MoD (it has not been advertised externally) which provides a description of the post. The contact telephone number at the foot of the advert has been redacted as it does not form a substantive part of the information you requested.

I also attach the core competences covering the general skills required of staff at various grades, including the D grade, which is the grade the post is advertised at. The Band D grade is the most junior of the MoD managerial grades.

This post has been advertised on the MoD internal intranet which has effectively done away with the need for paperwork. There is no internal correspondence as such surrounding the advertising of this post.

If this information does not address your requirements or you wish to complain about any aspect of the handling of this request, then you should contact the undersigned in the first instance. Should you remain dissatisfied, then you may apply for an internal review by contacting the Director of Information Exploitation, 6th Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB.

If you are still unhappy following an internal review, you may take your complaint to the Information Commissioner under the provisions of Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act. Please note that the Information Commissioner will not investigate your case until the MOD internal review process has been completed. Further details of the role and powers of the Information Commissioner can be found on the Commissioner's website, <http://www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk>.

You should note that at the moment, the post remains vacant. I am covering the post whilst a replacement is found.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

REDACTION ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT

REDACTION ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT

Job Title: Secretariat & Private Office
Salary Administration Plan: Broad Banding D
Location: Main Building
Reference: 324863
Salary Grade: D

Eligibility:

Staff who hold the substantive grade of this post, or hold promotion passport/ticket to Band D may apply for this post. **IMPORTANT NOTE:** If you apply at a stage when you are ineligible your application will not be considered. Should the requisition proceed to a stage in which you become eligible and still wish to be considered you should submit an offline application to the PSC.

Post Security:

This post is Non Reserved Security Clearance: Security Check

Job Description:

The Directorate of Air Staff is responsible for providing support to the Chief and Assistant Chief of the Air Staff and Ministers in all central policy, political and parliamentary aspects of non-operational RAF activity both at home and overseas. As the Freedom of Information Focal Point you will be responsible for monitoring all FOI requests received by the Air Staff in London. You will provide guidance to staff on the release of information and the use of exemptions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and liaise as necessary with other FOI Focal Points and DG Information staff. You will also be the MOD Focal Point for correspondence with the general public and MPs about unidentified flying objects (UFOs), including researching and writing responses to FOI requests. You will have responsibility for one E1. It would be desirable for the successful applicant to have an FOI Practitioner qualification and an ECDL qualification.

Competences:

Working together, Communicating and Influencing, Analysing and Using Evidence, Improvement and Change, Leadership and Developing People.

Transfer Terms and Allowances:

Tour Length: Minimum 2 years This post is Full-Time but suitable for part-time/job-share Transfer Terms: Permanent

Interview Details:

Interviews for this job will take place Wednesday 14th December 06 in Main Building, London. For further information regarding this post please contact [REDACTED] DAS ADSec [REDACTED]

REDACTED ON ORIGINAL

Equality and Diversity:

The MoD is an Equal Opportunities employer and seeks to reflect the diverse community it serves. Applications are welcome from anyone who meets the stated requirements.

Please apply before:04/12/2006

http://www.job.dii.r.mil.uk/job_details.html

21/11/2006

1. Working Together

Outcome – People work together in a productive, open and supportive way.			
Effective indicators			
Band E – Skill Zones 1 to 3	Band D – Skill Zone 4	Band C	Band B
You promote diversity and fair treatment for everyone. You are open, honest and polite in dealing with other people. You answer questions readily and listen to the views and opinions of others.	You seek information, knowledge and experience of vital assets, readily sharing and learning from others and encouraging others to do the same.	You are aware of, and carry out, your responsibilities in line with legislation and Departmental policies for example, anti-discrimination, Security, Freedom of Information, Health and Safety.	
You understand your own role and that of others in the team, and work together to achieve team goals.	You take account of the contributions, background and experience of others and are aware of how the team works together.	You build an effective team, drawing on the diversity of others.	You build a high performing team by exploiting the diversity within it.
You willingly accept responsibility for your own work while keeping other people informed of progress and possible problems.	You willingly accept responsibility for delivering your own results and those of the team, keeping others informed of progress and possible problems.		
You appreciate shared team goals and work with others to achieve Departmental aims.	You understand and contribute towards team goals and work with others to achieve Departmental aims.	You understand organisational priorities and set and communicate shared team, individual objectives aligned with them.	
	You encourage an environment where team members take responsibility for team goals as well as their own results.	You create a supportive environment in which team members take responsibility for team results as well as their own individual results.	
Ineffective indicators			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You are not aware of the needs and values of others. You work alone, rarely involving others, which frustrates the overall group or team aims. You do not co-operate with other people. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You leave difficult colleagues to struggle. You blame others for your mistakes. You do no more than the minimum amount of work. You constantly check up on your team as you do not trust them to deliver. 	

1. Working Together

2. Leadership and Developing People

Outcomes – People are motivated to achieve success and to inspire others to do so. People develop the necessary skills and experience to perform well and continuously improve.			
Effective indicators			
Band E – Skill Zones 1 to 3	Band D – Skill Zone 4	Band C	Band B
You are committed to continuously developing your skills and those of other people. You recognise your own limitations and learn from experience and feedback.	You understand your role and how what you do links to the business plan.	You set and commit to SMART objectives for freedom linking individual contribution to the business plan through setting SMART objectives.	You set and commit to SMART objectives for freedom linking individual contribution to the business plan through setting SMART objectives.
You set an example by working efficiently with as little supervision as possible.	You are aware of your own leadership style.	You are aware of and can adapt your leadership style to the situation.	You recognise people's potential selecting effectively to provide development opportunities. You coach/mentor other people encouraging them to develop broader skills.
You take opportunities to develop yourself by learning from others and taking on new challenges.	You recognise other people's strengths and weaknesses delegating effectively to provide suitable development opportunities. You coach/mentor other people, encouraging them to develop broader skills.	You recognise and reward good individual and team performance, and celebrate success. You act promptly and positively to deal with poor performance and inappropriate behaviour.	You recognise and reward good individual and team performance, and celebrate success. You act promptly and positively to deal with poor performance and inappropriate behaviour.
You acknowledge good performance by others. You act promptly and positively to deal with inappropriate behaviour.	You monitor people's progress and provide encouragement and constructive feedback without oppressing blame. You ask for and act on feedback and respond constructively to criticism.	You create an environment which gives people the freedom to contribute and deliver. You delegate responsibility to the right level, balancing challenge with support and knowing when to intervene.	You create an environment which gives people the freedom to contribute and deliver. You delegate responsibility to the right level, balancing challenge with support and knowing when to intervene.
You put forward ideas and contribute to business decisions.	You encourage ideas and involve others in making decisions. You delegate responsibility to the right level and offer direct supervision, and you know when to intervene.	You know how and when to engage with your resources experts in solving people's issues.	
Ineffective indicators			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You are strict and arrogant. You introduce objectives and start. You constantly change rules or conditions. You do not accept people's differences. You keep work that should be done by your team. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You are not aware of what the team is doing. You do not consider your development needs or those of other people. You take the credit for achieving results. You do not meet your obligations with the performance management process. 	

2. Leadership and Developing People

3. Communicating and Influencing

Outcome - People share the right information to support agreed courses of action.			
Effective indicators			
Band E - Skill Zones 1 to 3	Band D - Skill Zone 4	Band C	Band B
You provide balanced, impartial advice, presenting information and dealing with people tactfully. You use the most appropriate method, language and style of communication for the situation and people involved.			
You check your own and other people's information for accuracy and consistency.			
You listen, clarifying to check mutual understanding. You take account of other people's views when deciding what action to take.			
You present a case confidently and persuasively.			
You speak and write clearly and accurately, and check that people understand your message.	You speak and write clearly in a well-structured and concise way, checking that your message is understood.	You speak and write in a well-structured, clear and concise way. You draft accurately and concisely to persuade and inform, checking that your message is understood.	You speak and write in a well-structured, clear and concise way. You draft quickly, accurately and concisely under pressure to persuade and inform, checking that your message is understood.
You develop good working relationships, and recognise breakdowns in communication.	You develop good working relationships, and take positive steps to deal with conflict or breakdowns in communication.	You promote good working relationships, and respond quickly to deal with conflict or breakdowns in communication.	You promote good working relationships, dealing, where possible, with communication breakdowns before they arise, defusing tense situations.
You negotiate with colleagues to agree day-to-day activities.	You carry out day-to-day negotiations to agree what action to take.	You negotiate effectively to achieve agreed courses of action with stakeholders, maintaining their buy-in.	You negotiate effectively to achieve agreed courses of action with stakeholders, maintaining their buy-in.
You stick to the point in discussions or meetings.	You intervene in meetings and discussions when relevant and at the right time.	You lead meetings or discussions effectively to achieve clear results and make telling contributions to move business forward.	You provide co-ordinated advice for Ministers which they can rely on without question.
Ineffective indicators			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You talk down to other people. You do not listen. You do not make yourself understood. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You do not make adjustments for other people's needs. You ignore all challenges or criticism and lose objectivity. 	

3. Communicating and Influencing

4. Analysing and Using Evidence

Outcome – People make informed decisions based on clear analysis of relevant evidence and information.			
Effective indicators			
Band E – Skill Zones 1 to 3	Band D – Skill Zone 4	Band C	Band B
You identify and use some basic or the sources of evidence when making decisions.	You identify what sources of evidence and experts are needed for making decisions.	You identify and use key sources of evidence and relevant experts when evaluating evidence to support a point.	You explain the sources of evidence and engage with relevant experts when using evidence to support a point.
You are able to adapt to changing priorities.	You are able to work with changing priorities and uncertainties.	You adapt easily to changing priorities and uncertainties.	You are comfortable with uncertainties. You predict possible outcomes and change priorities as a result.
You are aware of the limits to your own authority when making decisions.	You take decisions at the right time, within the limits of your own authority. You identify the main parts of, and solutions to, a problem.	You take decisions at the right time, based on best available evidence and analysis, within the limits of your own authority.	You seek the facts but when necessary take timely difficult decisions based on limited information.
	You check sources of evidence to make sure they are valid and accurate.	You know which evidence is valid and relevant and can make sense of a range of material to get at the underlying issue and see the links between complex factors.	
	You analyse evidence to support the development of policies, projects and programmes.	You use evidence to evaluate policies, projects and programmes, seeing where the risks lie and thinking through whole-life implications.	
You can collect and summarise information and data relating to your area of work.		You work confidently with information and data, and understand commonly used methods for summarising data.	
Ineffective indicators			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You base decisions on rumours, not facts. You work only from your own point of view or make assumptions about others. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You fail to make connections between wider issues, people or organisations. You accept all evidence without question. 	

4. Analysing and Using Evidence