

REDACTION ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT

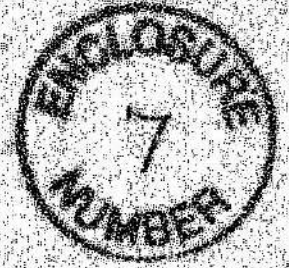
- i) The object appeared to move fast and then stop - it stopped and started on a couple of occasions and repeatedly changed its colour/shape, fading and also becoming brighter at times
- j) Meteorological conditions - weather fine and dry with no cloud initially and no other objects nearby to obstruct the view.
- k) A chemical plant is nearby and also the River Humber with industrial/chemical plants on the south bank at Killingholme/Immingham
- l) The Humberside Police Helicopter attended the area and perceived the object to be a star or satellite and the colour changes being an optical effect due to possible gasses emitted from the nearby industrial plants. It has to be said however that the above officers were not convinced of this explanation.

This report is submitted for your information and attention. If further details or clarification are required please contact the Humberside Police Northern Command Centre

Inspector 

REDACTION ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT

REDACTION ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT



D UK/270/L/13

18 Nov 03

DAS Sec 3CREDIBLE WITNESS 'UFO' REPORT - 17 NOV 03

Reference:

A. D/Sec(AS)/64/2 dated 17 Nov 03.

At Reference, you asked whether the report submitted by Sgt [REDACTED] from New Scotland Yard, through Plt Off [REDACTED] at CRC Neatishead, regarding "20-30 red flashing lights in the sky accompanied by a whirring noise" at 0225hrs on 17 Nov 03 at Bromley in Kent, represented anything of air defence interest. CRC Neatishead have reviewed the radar tapes for the time period specified and other than routine air traffic in the area, nothing additional was detected in the area despite good radar coverage. Therefore, I can now confirm that the incident does not represent anything of air defence interest.

Signed on CHOS

[REDACTED]
Wg Cdr
DUK SOL Air Ops 2
[REDACTED]

Action:

Sgt [REDACTED] at New Scotland Yard not on duty. Message of outcome passed to control room. No details of the people reporting this sighting so unable to reply direct. Police given my telephone number in case Sgt [REDACTED] wanted to contact me or pass us the address of those reporting the sighting.

19/11/03.

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REDACTION ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT

LOOSE MINUTE

D/Sec(AS)/64/2

17 November 2003

D UK-SO1 AIR

17 Nov 03

CREDIBLE WITNESS REPORT DATED 3 NOVEMBER 1999.

1. In line with our current policy, please find below a 'UFO' report which you may wish to be aware of. Although the report was originally from a member of the public, these lights were also seen by Police Officers and a Police helicopter crew. Swanwick and RAF Neatishead have also become involved. I would be grateful if you could let me know if the report represents anything of air defence interest.



DAS-Sec3



REDACTION ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT

REDACTION ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT

Follow-up UFO Report - 170612z Nov 03

UFO report relayed to STCDO from the Duty Surveillance Officer Fg Off [REDACTED] at RAF Neatishead who had received the report from F/Sgt [REDACTED] at Swanwick Mil ext [REDACTED] Fg Off [REDACTED] has also passed this report to MOD Sec (AS) 2a and to CAOC 9 - FI LIAI [REDACTED]

F/Sgt [REDACTED] had received the report from Sgt [REDACTED] of New Scotland Yard Ref. No CAD 625
contact Tel No [REDACTED]

'At 2.25am 17 Nov 03 2 adults and 1 child in Bromley, Kent saw 20-30 red flashing lights in the sky accompanied by a whirring noise and they recorded the occurrence on video tape. The family called the police who confirmed the sighting. The policeman using a lamppost as a marker concluded the lights were zigzagging / turning across the sky at a speeds faster than any man-made aircraft.

A crew of a police helicopter airborne at the time also confirmed the lights but they thought they might be lights of aircraft on the approach in to LHR. However Swanwick Mil declared that there were no aircraft in the approach pattern at that time all aircraft on their radar were at high level.'

S/L FO [REDACTED]
STCDO-C
[REDACTED]

Message left on DAS answerphone at 05.34 Monday 17th Nov by Pilot Officer [REDACTED] of RAF Neatishead. UFO sighting details as above reported to Neatishead at 04.00 by Swanwick ATC. The sighting was confirmed by the Police and Scotland Yard reported it to Swanwick Mil. Police helicopter in the area thought they were aircraft approaching Heathrow but Swanwick say there were no such aircraft in the area.

Pilot Officer [REDACTED] is on Neatishead Crew Room [REDACTED] or mobile number [REDACTED]

REDACTION ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT

Section 40

03-09-2008 - 124 135-001
EXP 30 Sep 08

From: Section 40
 Sent: 02 September 2008 11:32
 To: Section 40
 Subject: FOIA Request

To: Section 40 DAS MoD -- FOIA Enquiry 020908 .

Hi Section 40

Please treat this as a FOI request.

1. Would you please provide copies from the Operations Record Book entries for 2 Squadron, Laarbruch, from 1 to 8 of November 1990 and particularly covering 5 November 1990.
2. Would you please provide copies of all MoD papers on the following UFO sightings, which are recorded in the DAS sighting logs --
 - ✓ a) 25 July 1997 Humber Bridge, Hessle - silver shaped cigar shaped object. *F 3411*
 - ✓ b) 16 November 1999, Whitby North Yorkshire - RAF Pilot reports red light. *I 164*
 - ✓ c) 12 August 2002 Hull, East Yorkshire - Purple and white pulsating jelly-fish like object. *N 63/1*
 - ✓ d) 17 October 2002 Hull East Yorkshire - Two police officers see star-like object showing different colours. *N 72*
 - ✓ e) 17 November 2003, Bromley Kent - Police Officers and helicopter crew see 20 -30 red flashing lights. *P 7*

Also, would the MoD be interested in learning of any mundane explanations for any of the above sightings?

Sincerely

Section 40

Hessle.

East Yorkshire.

Section 40

03/09/2008

Catalogue Reference: defe/24/2449/1

Section 40

From: AHB-AHB 2A
Sent: 03 September 2008 11:59
To: DAS-FOI
Cc: AHB-Hd; AHB-PCB
Subject: 2 Sqn Operational Record Book

Section 40

You requested a few lines.

"I regret that, as 2 Squadron were not on operational duty during November 1990 the Operations Record Book entry for this month is not date specific but is merely a summary of Squadron activities. The Freedom of Information Act entitles individuals to have access to information not documentation per se. As the 2 Squadron Operations Record Book for November 1990 contains information which is likely to be irrelevant to you I should be grateful if you would specify what information you are seeking from this document."

Hope this helps. We do not have to supply copies of documents under FOIA and therefore do not need to stipulate an exemption. The Nov entry would also be subject to redaction of names etc in the normal way under DPA provisions.

Regards

Section 40

AHB2RAF1

Section 40



AUTHORISATION FOR THE RELEASE OF INFORMATION

Applicant: **Section 40**

Case Number: 18-09-2008-072702-004

Expiry: 16 Oct 08

The Applicant has made the following request for information:

Information on FOI case 06-01-2006-090714-001

Case for release of information

Other than names which are not relevant to the information requested, there is no reason to withhold this 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: 18/9/08

Section 40

From: Section 40
 Sent: 18 September 2008 15:59
 To: Section 40
 Subject: Release-authorized: FREEDOM OF INFORMAYTION REQUEST 18-09-2008-072702-004
 Attachments: Caldbeck.pdf

Dear Section 40

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request of 18 September 2008 asking for information regarding FOI case number 16-01-2008-090714-001.

I enclose a copy of our response to the request. You will note that names of individuals have been withheld as they are not relevant to the information 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 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>.

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

18/09/2008

Catalogue Reference:de fe/24/2449/1

20 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.

18/09/2008

Catalogue Reference: defe/24/2449/1

REDACTION ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT



Case Number: 16-01-2006-090714-001

Dear [REDACTED]

I am writing regarding your request for information concerning an alleged recovery of an unknown object that crash landed near Caldbeck in Cumbria on 4 March 1954. Your request has been treated in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000. I have been asked to reply because this department is the focal point within the Ministry of Defence for correspondence concerning unidentified flying objects.

It was generally the case that before 1967 all "UFO" files were destroyed after five years, as there was insufficient public interest in the subject to merit their permanent retention. Since 1967, following an increase in public interest in this subject "UFO" report files are now routinely preserved. Any files from the 1950s and early 1960s which did survive are available for examination by members of the public at The National Archives, Ruskin Avenue, Kew, Richmond, Surrey, TW9 4DU.

Details of what information is available (including an on line catalogue) and how to access information at The National Archives can be found on their website at www.nationalarchives.gov.uk. I have viewed the catalogue on your behalf and have been unable to locate any UFO files specifically for 1954. It is therefore likely that if there was any information about this event contained in these early files it has not survived the earlier destruction policy.

I have also made some enquiries regarding RAF aircraft accidents and can confirm that there were no RAF crashes in Cumbria on this date.

I hope this is helpful. 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>.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

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

e-mail: das-ufo-office@mod.uk31st January 2006

REDACTION ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT

From: Section 40
Sent: 18 September 2008 03:59
To: Info-Access-Office
Subject: Request PS 18-09-2008-072702-004 Section 40 EXP 16 OCT 08

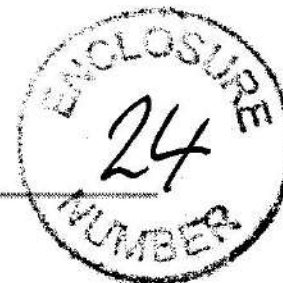
Dear Sir or Madam,

Under the freedom of information act can you send me all the information you have on Case Number: 16-01-2006-090714-001

Yours faithfully

Section 40

AOL Email goes Mobile! You can now read your AOL Emails whilst on the move.
Sign up for a free AOL Email account with unlimited storage today.

**Section 40****From:** **Section 40****Sent:** 18 September 2008 14:28**To:** 'request-3095-4b8fe574@whatdotheyknow.com'**Subject:** Release-authorized: FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST 18-09-2008-101325-002Dear **Section 40**

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request of 18 September 2008 asking for information regarding the recovery of an object that crashed near Caldbeck in Cumbria on 4 March 1954.

Given the length of time since the alleged incident, (over half a century) the Ministry of Defence no longer holds "UFO" files for the year in question. Before 1967 all "UFO" files were destroyed after five years, as there was insufficient public interest in the subject to merit their permanent retention. However since 1967, following an increase in public interest in this subject, "UFO" report files are now routinely preserved. Files for 1967 to 1984, and any files prior to 1967 which did survive, are now available for examination at The National Archives, Ruskin Avenue, Kew, Richmond, Surrey, TW9 4DU, Telephone: 0208 876 3444. Details of how to access these records and The National Archives on line catalogue can be found on their website at <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk>.

You may also wish to know that in answer to a previous enquiry on the same subject, we were able to determine that we had no record of any RAF aircraft crashing in Cumbria on 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>.

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

18/09/2008

Catalogue Reference:defe/24/2449/1

● *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.

18/09/2008

Catalogue Reference: defe/24/2449/1

EXP 16 OCT 08

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

From: **Section 40** [mailto:request-3095-4b8fe574@whatdotheyknow.com]
Sent: 18 September 2008 04:01
To: Info-Access-Office
Subject: Freedom of Information request - Crash PS 18-09-2008-101325-002 **Section 40**

Dear Sir or Madam,

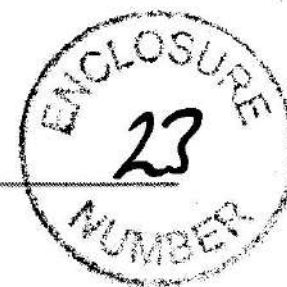
Info on the recovery of an object which crashed near Caldbeck in Cumbria March 4th 1954

Yours faithfully,

Disclaimer: This message and any reply that you make will be published on the internet. Our privacy and copyright policies: <http://www.whatdotheyknow.com/help/about#officers>

Is info-access-office@mod.uk the wrong address for Freedom of Information requests to Ministry of Defence? If so please let us know by emailing team@whatdotheyknow.com - we'll make sure future ones go to the right place.

Section 40



From: Section 40

Sent: 08 September 2008 14:41

To: Section 40

Subject: Release-authorized: FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST 08-09-2008-140010-018

Dear Section 40

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request of 14 August 2008 asking for the number of UFO reports made over North Yorkshire during the period August 2007-August 2008. Additionally, you asked whether any had been made by members of the North Yorkshire Police Force or members of the county, district or city councils within the area.

Three reports were made during this time on 11th, 12th and 14th July 2008. All three reports were made by the same individual. They did not give their occupation.

You may be interested to know that details of UFO sightings for the period 1997-07 can be found on our website www.mod.uk by searching under UFO reports. Details of reports for 2008 will be published in January 2009.

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

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08/09/2008

Catalogue Reference: defe/24/2449/1

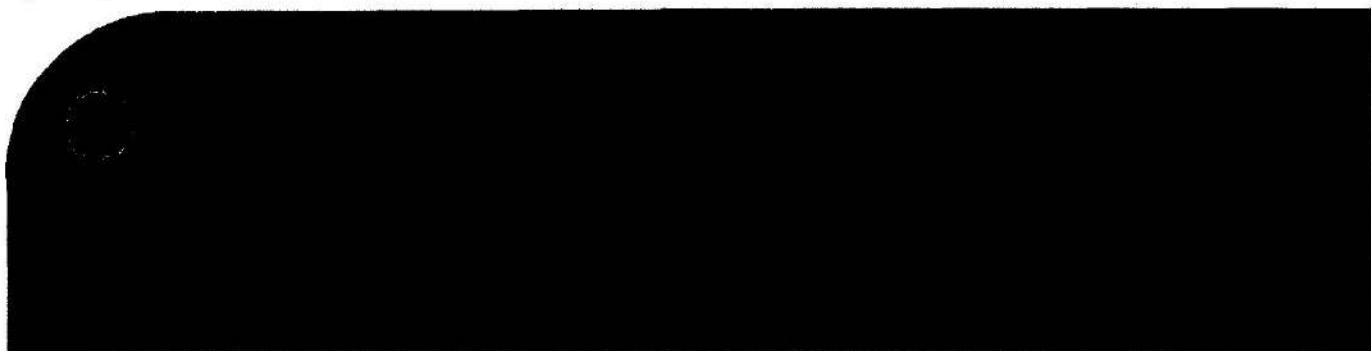
Explained in the survey. The Ministry of Defence will only see the published results: no individual responses will be visible to us and your participation will have no effect on your future dealings with the Ministry.

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.

08/09/2008

Catalogue Reference: defe/24/2449/1



Minster FM PO Box 123 York YO19 5ZX T: 01904 488888 F: 01904 481088
E: mail@minsterfm.com W: www.minsterfm.com

Info Access
6th Floor, Zone E
Main Building
Whitehall
London, SW1A 2HB
United Kingdom

DB INFO
4 - SEP 2008
POST-

Minster FM,
4 Chessingham Park,
Dunnington Industrial Estate,
Dunnington,
York,
YO19 5SE

14th August 2008

Dear Sir/Madam,

I'm making a request using the Freedom of Information Act to find out many reported UFO sighting there have been in North Yorkshire in the last 12 months (August 2007 to August 2008).

Specifically we're interested if any of these sighting have been made by members of the North Yorkshire Police Force or members of the county, city or district councils within the area?

If this is the case, we request details of how many members of each organization has reported a sighting and on what dates.

Please send the records through, address to myself, to the address stated at to top of this letter.

Your Sincerely,

Section 40
Senior News Editor (Yorkshire)
Minster FM, York
TEL: Section 40
EMAIL: Section 40

08-09-2008-142010-018

Registered Office: Minster Sound Radio (York) Limited. 11 Duke Street, High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire HP13 6EE Registered in England No: 3092759





AUTHORISATION FOR THE RELEASE OF INFORMATION

Applicant: **Section 40**

Case Number: 05-09-2008-065646-001 Expiry: 3 Oct 08

The Applicant has made the following request for information:

Information on Peter Horsey and Janus

Information on Rendlesham

Unreleased UFO cases

Copies of Rendlesham File and Cosford docs previously published on MoD website.

Case for release of information

The accurate answering of this request would require the manual checking of some 150 files.

Even by restricting checks to those files most likely to hold the information ie correspondence, PQ's and policy, the costs would be far in excess of the £600 limit;

1 file = 1 hour to read
90 files = 90 hours to read
90 hours @ £25 per hour = £2250

Authorisation

I hereby give authorisation to withhold the aforementioned information subject to cost.

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

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

Date: **5/9/08**

Section 40**From:** **Section 40****Sent:** 05 September 2008 13:43**To:** **Section 40****Subject:** Release-authorized: FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST 05-09-2008-092345-002Dear **Section 40**

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request of 4 September 2008 asking for details of how the Ministry of Defence (MOD) answers Freedom of Information (FOI) requests. Additionally, you asked for information relating to Peter Horseley and Janus, the Rendlesham incident and any more UFO reports we have refrained from releasing. Finally, you asked for copies of two files removed from the MoD publication scheme earlier this year. I assume that you are referring to the file on Rendlesham and documentation on Cosford. If this is incorrect, please let me know.

This e-mail covers the UFO related elements of your request. The FOI related elements will be dealt with as a separate FOI request by another branch

The cost of fully answering the UFO elements of your request is likely to 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. However, that having been said, I am able to provide you with copies of the documents removed from the MoD website with minimal cost to the MoD. My preferred option would be to provide you with a CD as this would save a considerable amount of paper and the electronic files are too large for me to e-mail to you. If you are content with this please let me know.

The Rendlesham incident continues to be of interest to the public. The MoD has a considerable amount of correspondence from members of the public such as yourself asking for information or our opinion of the incident and separating it out from other letters on our correspondence files would be a major task, which we would not be prepared to undertake due to cost. However, the information is due for publication at The National Archives as part of the release programme I mentioned in my e-mail of 5 March 2008, which is already underway. Since I am providing you with a copy of the single dedicated file on the subject, this should provide you with relevant, original, information.

Locating information relating to Peter Horseley and Janus would also require a search of a great many files. However, if you would narrow the time period of two years, I will see if I can find anything.

Details of UFO sightings for the period 1997-2007 can be found on the MoD website by searching under "UFO Reports". Details of sightings for the year 2008 will be placed on the website in January 2009.

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

05/09/2008

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>.

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.

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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.

05/09/2008

Catalogue Reference: defe/24/2449/1

Section 40

From: Section 40
Sent: 05 September 2008 09:31
To: Section 40
Subject: RE: FOI written request PS 05-09-2008-092345-002 Section 40

Section 40

We are happy with your proposal. The UFOs part of the request allocated as 05-09-2008-092345-002 and assigned to you.

Regards

Section 40
FOI Helpdesk
Section 40
06-E-Section 40

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

From: Section 40
Sent: 05 September 2008 09:17
To: Section 40
Subject: RE: FOI written request PS 05-09-2008-092345-002 Section 40

Section 40

Since this is in effect two separate FOI requests under the same number, can I suggest that I write separately or, even better, you actually record it as two separate requests.

Perhaps we can discuss.

Section 40

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

From: Section 40
Sent: 05 September 2008 06:58
To: Section 40
Cc: Section 40
Subject: FW: FOI written request PS 05-09-2008-065646-001 Section 40

Section 40

Can I interest you with this FOI request and obtain some input from DAS.

Regards

Section 40
FOI Helpdesk
Section 40
06-E-02

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

From: no-reply@feedback.mod.uk [mailto:no-reply@feedback.mod.uk]
Sent: 04 September 2008 16:23
To: Info-Access-Office
Subject: FOI written request PS 05-09-2008-065646-001 Section 40

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

txttitle: Section 40
txtfirstname: Section 40
txtlastname: Section 40
txtoccupation: School

txtaddress1: Section 40
txtaddress2: [REDACTED]
towncity: Maidstone
txtstatecountry: Kent
txtzipcodepostcode: Section 40
txtcountry: UK
txtemailAddress: Section 40
txtinforequest: I would like to request information on how FOI requests are dealt with by the MOD.

this would include information on:

- locating the information
- retrieving the information
- why requests may be turned down

I would also like to request information on the "Peter Horseley and Janus" case aswell as information on the "Rendlesham Forest Incident" and possible causes aswell as any more UFO cases that you have refrained from releasing

i would also like to request for UFO files that have been retracted from the publication scheme between 28 December 2008 and 28 February 2008 which i was able to view before 28 February 2008

thank you



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

Maidstone

Section 40

Our Reference
05-09-2008-092345-002
Date
9 September 2008

Dear **Section 40**

Please find enclosed copies of the Cosford documents and Rendlesham file that had previously been on the MoD website.

They have been slightly amended to bring them in line with current MoD practice and therefore they do not exactly match the documents that had been on the website. However, I do not believe these amendments substantially alter the documents. The Rendlesham file contains a number of documents that had not originally appeared on the website. Some personal information such as names addresses etc has been withheld.

You may be interested to know that the file the Cosford documents are taken from is due for transfer The National Archives as part of our transfer programme.

Yours sincerely

Section 40



Section 40

From: Section 40

Sent: 05 September 2008 10:34

To: Section 40

Subject: Release-authorized: FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST 03-09-2008-070604-003

Dear Section 40

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request of 2 September 2008 asking for the release of a file previously on the Ministry of Defence (MoD) website with a title along the lines of "working report". Additionally, you also asked for information on the amount of control the UK government has over people's computers and what they can monitor.

It is not altogether clear from your e-mail what document you were looking for on the MoD website. However, there are two that may fit the bill. The first is entitled "*Unidentified Aerial Phenomena (UAP) in the UK Air Defence Region*" and the second "*Unidentified Flying Objects (UFO) Flying Saucer Working Party Report No 7*". Both are still available on the MoD website www.mod.uk by searching under those titles in the Publication Scheme.

Turning to the matter of government control of people's computers, this is a matter for the Home Office to answer. They can be contacted at their website www.homeoffice.gov.uk.

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>.

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

05/09/2008

Catalogue Reference:de/24/2449/1

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.

05/09/2008

Catalogue Reference: defe/24/2449/1

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

From: no-reply@feedback.mod.uk [mailto:no-reply@feedback.mod.uk]
Sent: 02 September 2008 21:45
To: Info-Access-Office
Subject: FOI written request PS 03-09-2008-070604-003 **Section 40**

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

txttitle: **Section 40**
txtfirstname: **Section 40**
txtlastname: **Section 40**
txtoccupation: School
txtaddress1: **Section 40**
txtaddress2: **Section 40**
txttowncity: Maidstone
txtstatecountry: Kent
txtzipcodepostcode: **Section 40**
txtcountry: UK
txtemailAddress: **Section 40**
txtinforequest: hi, i have seen on this website before a large collection of files which made up a very large report (i think it may have been titled something along the lines of "working report" or something similar.) it must have been about well over 200 or 300 pages long.

however i cannot find these documents on your website when i search for it.

it was a full investigation into flying phenomena and i saved all of these files as PDFs.
i now cannot find them on my computer, and there is no way i would have deleted them (even accidentally) as i saved them in two separate folders and they would still be in the recycle bin if i had accidentally deleted them.

My FOI request is for the release of the UFO report that was previously available on your website.

I would also like information on the amount of control the MOD and the UK government have over peoples computers and what they can monitor and do on them remotely (deleting documents etc.)



Direct Communications Unit
2 Marsham Street, London SW1P 4DF
Switchboard 020 7035 4848 Fax: 020 7035 4745 Textphone: 020 7035 4742
E-mail: public.enquiries@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk Website: www.homeoffice.gov.uk

Section 40 [REDACTED]

Section 40 [REDACTED]

FOI written request PS 03-09-2008-070604-003

Reference: T19752/8

4 September 2008

Dear **Section 40** [REDACTED]

Thank you for your e-mail of 3 September about a contribution for a Freedom of Information (FOI) request.

As this is an FOI request, please reply to the correspondent stating that in relation to the control government has over citizens' computers, we do not hold the information and you may wish to try the Home Office.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40 [REDACTED]

Section 40

From: Section 40
Sent: 03 September 2008 10:27
To: 'public.enquiries@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk'
Subject: Release-authorized: FOI written request PS 03-09-2008-070604-003

I have received an FOI request from a member of the public which is shown below. I have removed the individuals name and address for data protection reasons.

The gentleman is asking for copies of UFO material that he had previously downloaded from our website, but is now unable to locate. Whilst his request is not clear, I believe I have a fairly good idea what documents he is talking about and can answer this part of his request quite easily.

I suspect that the inference from the second half of his request, is that the government has hacked into his computer to delete these UFO documents. Since the MoD put the documents on its website in the first place, I think the logic is slightly awry.

I am, however, not in a position to answer his query regarding the amount of control the government has over citizens computers.

Are you able to provide a draft paragraph or two that I can add to my response.

Section 40

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

txtinforequest: hi, i have seen on this website before a large collection of files which made up a very large report (i think it may have been titled something along the lines of "working report" or something similar.) it must have been about well over 200 or 300 pages long.

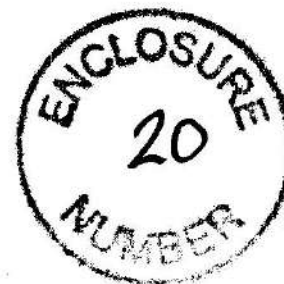
however i cannot find these documents on your website when i search for it.

it was a full investigation into flying phenomena and i saved all of these files as PDFs.

i now cannot find them on my computer, and there is no way i would have deleted them (even accidentally) as i saved them in two separate folders and they would still be in the recycle bin if i had accidentally deleted them.

My FOI request is for the release of the UFO report that was previously available on your website.

I would also like information on the amount of control the MOD and the UK government have over peoples computers and what they can monitor and do on them remotely (deleting documents etc.)



AUTHORISATION FOR THE RELEASE OF INFORMATION

Applicant: **Section 40**

Case Number: 06-08-2008-150240-005

Expiry: 2 Sep 08

The Applicant has made the following request for information:

Have MoD received sighting report similar to requesters own sighting

Have there been instances of military aircraft being wrongly identified as UFOs

Case for release of information

The accurate answering of this request would require the manual checking of some 150 files.

Even by restricting checks to those files most likely to hold the information, the costs would be far in excess of the £600 limit;

1 file = 1 hour to read
77 files = 77 hours to read
77 hours @ £25 per hour = £1925

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: **6/8/08**

Section 40

From: Section 40

Sent: 06 August 2008 15:20

To: Section 40

Subject: Release-authorized: FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST

Dear Section 40

Thank you for your e-mail of 4 August 2008 asking whether the MoD had any instances of a UFO sighting similar to the one experienced by yourself. Additionally, you asked whether there had been instances of misidentified military aircraft being taken for UFOs. As you are asking for specific data, your e-mail is being treated as a Freedom of information request.

The MoD holds some 150 files on the subject of UFOs covering the period 1987 to the present day. Accurately answering both parts of your question would involve manually checking them, the cost of which would far exceed the £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.

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.

You may also wish to know that MoD files were routinely destroyed after five years 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, 020 8876 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: <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk>. Further, the MoD has recently started a 3 year programme to transfer files covering the period 1979-2007 to The National Archives where they will be available for viewing on their website. The Ministry of Defence Freedom of Information website also contains some released information on UFOs. This can be accessed the internet at: www.mod.uk, by searching under 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 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 must however, correct the impression I inadvertently gave you that the MoD in anyway confirms the statistic that 95% of UFO sightings can be adequately explained. We simply do not attempt to explain the vast majority of UFO reports and therefore for the MoD, the figure has no basis in statistical fact. Clearly we are unable to comment on statistics produced by organisations outside the

06/08/2008

Catalogue Reference: defe/24/2449/1

MoD.

I am sorry I was unable to be more helpful.

Section 40

DAS-FOI

05-H-**Section 40**

MoD Main Building

Whitehall

London

SW1A 2HB

06/08/2008

Catalogue Reference: defe/24/2449/1

Section 40

06-08-2008-15240-005
Exl 2 Sep 08

From: Section 40
 Sent: 04 August 2008 20:12
 To: Section 40
 Subject: RE: Unidentified Aerial Phenomena

Dear Section 40

Thank you for your prompt reply and for addressing my questions; specifically the MoD appears to not consider UAPs a threat to national security unless an external 'military' source can be evidenced, your responses were indeed helpful.

You indicated that it would be helpful for me to identify where I got the 95% statistic from, you mentioned that you have heard this statistic in the media and on the Internet and I can confirm that this is indeed where I was drawing the statistics from, as I believed it was common knowledge. I have not been privy to any form of statistical analysis from the MoD themselves and would therefore apologise if my questions led you to believe otherwise. However, you state with a degree of certainty that based on experience this figure would appear to be reasonably accurate so I would ask that of the 5% that may have been investigated by the MoD, is there any instances of similarity between them and my own account and, if so, would there be any evidence of misidentified 'military' craft that appear so unusual as to provoke wild claims but which may have a distinctly terrestrial source?

With regard to my second question, you asked if the sighting mentioned in my initial email was hypothetical. May I take this opportunity to state that this was an actual sighting witnessed by myself and my son in July/August 2005 in East Kilbride, Glasgow, Scotland. I did consider this sighting highly unusual and given the nature of the craft, metallic and able to hover against the wind, I assumed, maybe incorrectly, that it was military in nature although there was absolutely no sound of engines or any other form of propulsion. I was unable to capture any evidence of the craft such as photographs, although I am a reasonably intelligent person I was able to reproduce a model of the craft with 3D modelling software, and should such an image be helpful in identification I can, if required, forward you a copy of the image.

Since the sighting I had conducted my own rudimentary investigation, querying blimp and balloon suppliers in the UK, however in conclusion I was overwhelmingly left with the impression by these businesses that noiseless blimps are not capable of hovering un-tethered in the wind, although only 2 out of 3 of the suppliers I contacted responded to my queries.

Given the above account I'm not sure as to whether I should consider the incident a threat, and given that the MoD may not be able to control the behaviour of this and other similar types of unknown craft it may be prudent to consider it a threat and it is from this point of view I was initially seeking clarification from the MoD.

Kindest Regards,

Section 40

From: Section 40 [mailto:Section 40@mod.uk]
 Sent: 04 August 2008 11:36 AM
 To: Section 40
 Subject: Unidentified Aerial Phenomena

Dear Section 40

Thank you for your e-mail of 3 August 2008. You raised a number of issues that I will deal with in order.

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

05/08/2008

Catalogue Reference: defe/24/2449/1

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.

It would be helpful if you would identify where the statistic that "95% of sightings are mundane misidentifications" came from. Although I have seen this statistic mentioned in the media and on the internet, I am unaware of any MoD survey or statistical analysis that came to this conclusion. It would however, be reasonable to state, albeit based on experience rather than statistical analysis, that something in the region of 95% of UFO sightings reported to the MoD are simply never investigated and therefore no conclusions can be drawn from them.

Turning to your second question regarding (I assume a hypothetical?) sighting of a "metallic UAP" some 500ft in the air with associated missing time and memories of strange beings, is that given the above policy, it is not necessarily the MoD's function to investigate the matter or, indeed, to make any conclusion as to whether it was a threat to the individual that saw it.

Finally, you asked what specifically would constitute a threat to UK national security from a UAP. It is not possible to provide you with an all encompassing definition of what constitutes a threat to national security from a UAP. If we were to investigate an incident, it would have to be judged on a case by case basis.

I am sorry I could not be more helpful.

Section 40

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

05/08/2008

Catalogue Reference: defe/24/2449/1



AUTHORISATION FOR THE RELEASE OF INFORMATION

Applicant: **Section 40**

Case Number: 09-07-2008-092845-001 Expiry: 6 Aug 08

The Applicant has made the following request for information:

Details of UFO sightings over last 12 months or since Dec 06

Case for release of information

The information requested is due for release in January 2009 and therefore should be withheld under exemption s.22 (Information intended for future publication).

PIT is included with response

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: **6/8/08**

Section 40

From: Section 40

Sent: 06 August 2008 09:24

To: Section 40

Subject: Release-authorized: FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST 09-07-2008-092845-001

Dear Section 40

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request of 8 July 2008 asking for details of all UFO reports in the past 12 months or since December 2006.

Firstly, it may be helpful if I explain that the Ministry of Defence has no expertise or role in respect of 'UFO/flying saucer' matters or to the question of the existence or otherwise of extraterrestrial life forms, about which it remains totally open-minded. The MOD examines any reports of sightings solely to establish whether what was seen might have some defence significance. The MOD's only concern therefore, is to establish 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.

Details of UFO sightings reported to the MoD for the period 1997-2007 are available for viewing on the MoD website at www.mod.uk 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 2009, all interested parties receive the information at the same time, which ensures no one has any particular advantage over their competitors.

However, you may be interested to know that so far this year, the MoD has received some 150 reports of UFOs.

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.

06/08/2008

Catalogue Reference: defe/24/2449/1

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>.

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.

06/08/2008

Catalogue Reference:defe/24/2449/1

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

From: feedback@www.mod.uk [mailto:feedback@www.mod.uk]

Sent: 08 July 2008 19:03

To: Info-Access-Office

Subject: FOI Written Request 09-07-2008-092845-001 **Section 40**

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted on Tuesday, July 8, 2008 at 19:02:48

firstname: **Section 40**

lastname: **Section 40**

occupation: Journalist

org/company: The Sun

address1: 1 Virginia Street

towncity: London

postzipcode: E98 1SN

country: UK

e-mail: **Section 40**

telephone: **Section 40**

informationrequest: Dear Sirs,
Please could you provide details (eg, dates, locations, descriptions) of all UFO (Unidentified Flying Objects) reported to the MOD in the past 12 months. Or since December 2006.

Thank you.

Section 40

The Sun

submit: Send Form

Section 40**From:** **Section 40****Sent:** 04 August 2008 16:04**To:** **Section 40****Subject:** Release-authorized: FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST 04-08-2008-145454-005Dear **Section 40**

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request of 4 August 2008 asking for any files and documents on the alleged UFO sighting by a Vulcan aircraft over the Bay of Biscay on 26 May 1977.

Any documents pertaining to this incident would be contained in our UFO files for that period which have now been passed to The National Archives who can be contacted at Ruskin Avenue, Richmond, Kew, Surrey TW9 4DU or telephone, 020 8876 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: <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk>.

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>.

Section 40

DAS-FOI

05-I **Section 40**

MoD Main Building

Whitehall

London

SW1A 2HB

04/08/2008

Catalogue Reference: defe/24/2449/1

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

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

Sent: 04 August 2008 10:17

To: Info-Access-Office

Subject: FOI written request PS 04-08-2008-145454-005 **Section 40**

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

txttitle: **Section 40**

txtfirstname: **Section 40**

txtlastname:

txtaddress1: Lincolnshire Echo

txtaddress2: Brayford Wharf East

txttowncity: Lincoln

txtstatecountry: Lincolnshire

txtzipcodepostcode: LN5 7AT

txtcountry: United Kingdom

txtemailAddress: **Section 40**

txttelephone: **Section 40**

txtinforequest: Please can I have all files and documents relating to reports of sightings sent to RAF Scampton by the crew of a Vulcan bomber on exercise over the Bay of Biscay early on 26 May 1977?

The reports have already been released to the Observer, but the press office have failed to hand these on to my paper despite them already being in the public domain.



AUTHORISATION FOR THE RELEASE OF INFORMATION

Applicant: **Section 40**

Case Number: 30-07-2008-114223-003

Expiry: 28 Aug 08

The Applicant has made the following request for information:

- 1. Details of UFO sightings over Co Tyrone 1958-2008
- 2. Is there a department and experts dealing with UFOs

Case for release of information

The cost of checking files for sighting reports likely to exceed £600

A full search would require checking all files. A search of the files most likely to contain the information would still involve half the MoD files on the subject.

1 file = 1 hour to read
 77 files = 77 hours to read
 77 hrs @ £25 = £1925

However, MoD position on UFOs can be released.

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:..... **31/7/08**

Section 40

From: Section 40

Sent: 31 July 2008 15:10

To: Section 40

Subject: Release-authorized: FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST 30-07-2008-114223-003

Dear Section 40

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request of 29 July 2008 asking for details of UFO sightings in Co Tyrone for the period 1958-2008. Additionally, you asked whether the MoD had a specific department or set of experts on UFOs.

The MoD holds some 150 files on the subject of UFOs covering the period 1987 to the present day. Accurately answering your question regarding UFO sightings would involve manually checking them, the cost of which would far exceed the £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.

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.

You may also wish to know that MoD files were routinely destroyed after five years 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, 020 8876 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: <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk>. Further, the MoD has recently started a 3 year programme to transfer files covering the period 1979-2007 to The National Archives where they will be available for viewing on their website. The Ministry of Defence Freedom of Information website also contains some released information on UFOs. This can be accessed the internet at: www.mod.uk, by searching under UFO reports.

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 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.

To describe the MoD as having a department that deals with UFOs is rather misleading as I suspect it gives the impression of a large organisation within the MoD dedicated to research into UFO matters and extra-terrestrials. There are only two posts within the MoD (including mine) that are dedicated to UFO matters. 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

31/07/2008

Catalogue Reference: defe/24/2449/1

sightings made by aircrew, members of the armed forces or the police. We do not do field investigations.

You have asked if the MoD has experts on UFO matters. We have a great many specialists on air defence and scientific matters who can be consulted if we decide to investigate a UFO report. However, whilst incumbents of the two posts to which I referred will by default gain a level of knowledge on the subject of UFOs and Ufology, "*UFO expert*" is a term I would wish to avoid. We have no official definition for the term and to use it in any but the loosest manner might be to overstate our position.

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 am sorry I was unable to be more helpful.

Section 40

DAS-FOI

05-H-**Section 40**

MoD Main Building

Whitehall

London

SW1A 2HB

31/07/2008

Catalogue Reference: defe/24/2449/1

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

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

Sent: 29 July 2008 12:49

To: Info-Access-Office

Subject: FOI written request 30-07-2008-114223-003 **Section 40**

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

txttitle: **Section 40**

txtfirstname: **Section 40**

txtlastname:

txtaddress1:

txtaddress2:

txttowncity: Dungannon

txtstatecountry: Tyrone

txtzipcodepostcode: **Section 40**

txtcountry: UK

txtemailAddress: **Section 40**

txtinforequest: Recently I have become greatly concerned about the possible presence of UFOs in Co Tyrone, where I live. I therefore wish to apply for the following information, in line with the 2000 Freedom of Information Act:

- A full list of all sightings of UFOs recorded by the MoD in Co Tyrone during the last 50 years (ie 1958-2008), including the time, date, location, and description of each object.
- The MoD's protocol for dealing with reports of UFOs.

You can contact me through email on: **Section 40**

This enquirer wishes to thank the MoD for considering this request.

Section 40

From: Section 40
Sent: 31 July 2008 12:37
To: Section 40
Subject: RE: FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST 30-07-2008-114223-003

Dear Section 40
Thank you for your prompt reply and apologies for the confusion my request has caused.
I was enquiring about how the MoD deals with sightings of UFOs, for example is there a specific department or set of experts on this matter, or does the MoD even agree that UFOs may exist?
Regards,

Section 40

Subject: FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST 30-07-2008-114223-003
Date: Thu, 31 Jul 2008 11:12:00 +0100
From: Section 40 @mod.uk
To: Section 40

Dear Section 40

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request of 29 July 2008.

You have asked for the MoD protocol for dealing with reports of UFOs. I am not certain exactly what you mean by this. Are you looking for a formal set of regulations or a description of how we deal with UFO reports?

If you could clarify this element of your request, I should be able to respond to you in full quite quickly.

Yours sincerely,

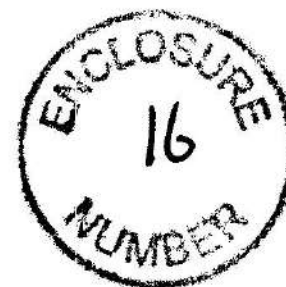
Section 40

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

Get fish-slapping on Messenger! [Play Now](#)

31/07/2008

Catalogue Reference: defe/24/2449/1



AUTHORISATION FOR THE RELEASE OF INFORMATION

Applicant: **Section 40**

Case Number: 24-07-2008-092121-001

Expiry: 22 Aug 08

The Applicant has made the following request for information:

All documentation on Cosford Incident

Case for release of information

File is due for release later this year to TNA. Therefore exemption s.22 applies.

PIT included in response

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:..... *30/7/08*

Section 40

From: Section 40

Sent: 30 July 2008 10:12

To: Section 40

Subject: Release-authorized: FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST 24-07-2008-092121-001

Dear Section 40

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request of 23 July 2008 asking for documents on the sightings over RAF Cosford on 30-31 March 1993.

The MoD file on this matter, D/Sec(AS)/12/7 Part A, is one of the files the MoD will be transferring to The National Archives as part of a programme to transfer some 160 files covering the period 1978-2007. It is not possible to state when the file will actually be transferred, but it is expected it will be within the next 12 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 file being released to the public as it will enable them to have a more informed view of the MoD's role in this incident, there is no overriding reason why the public should have the information immediately. Indeed it could be argued, that by releasing files in chronological order, the public will be able to follow the role of the MoD in a more logical and orderly fashion, and to view actions in their correct historical perspective.

It is part of effective administration of government that the publication of information is planned and managed within the department responsible. The release of this file will undermine this release process, and delay the release of other files (which other members of the public may be waiting for) as work on them would necessarily have to be put off.

Finally, the release programme itself is complicated and the release of files out of sequence will result in unnecessary confusion for the MoD, The National Archives and, indeed, the public when they are attempting to track files once they are transferred.

It is for these reasons that we do not believe it would be in the public interest to release this file at this moment. That having been said, I can provide you with a great many of the documents that have appeared on the file as they have previously been placed on the MoD internet sight, although for copyright reasons, they have now been withdrawn. If you would like to see these documents, I can arrange for them to be forwarded to you, although it would be helpful if you would indicate whether you require a paper or electronic version.

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 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 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

30/07/2008

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

I am sorry I could not be of more assistance.

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.

30/07/2008

Catalogue Reference: defe/24/2449/1

Section 40

24-07-2008-092121-001
EXP 22 AUG 08

From: Section 40
Sent: 23 July 2008 21:53
To: DAS-UFO-Office
Subject: ufo cosford incident march 1993 publication documents

please can you send me all documentation available on this incident under the freedom of information act. i witnessed an event a few hours prior to this just north of shrewsbury which is linked with this, and im about to go public with it.
i appreciate your time, many thanks.

Section 40

shrewsbury,
shropshire,

Section 40

[Click here SEEK New Zealand's #1 jobsite](#)

24/07/2008

Catalogue Reference: defe/24/2449/1



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

Shrewsbury
Shropshire

Section 40

Our Reference
24-07-2008-092121-001

Date

30 July 2008

Dear **Section 40**

Further to your e-mail of 30 July 2008, I enclose a disk containing the Cosford documents that had previously appeared on the MoD website.

Some personal information such as names, addresses, telephone numbers etc was withheld. You will notice that whilst most of the information withheld has been blacked out manually with a marker pen, some has clearly been blacked out electronically. These are amendments to bring the documents into line with current MoD practice and therefore the documents do not exactly match those that appeared on the website. That having been said, I do not believe that these amendments substantially alter the documents.

I hope they are helpful to you.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

Section 40

From: Section 40
Sent: 30 July 2008 11:36
To: Section 40
Subject: RE: FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST 24-07-2008-092121-001

Thank you for your response and i would be grateful if you could forward the mentioned documents in paper form. I fully understand the situation as my report is yet unreported officially and would shed more light on the incident considerably. Thanks for your time.

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

From: Section 40 @mod.uk>
Sent: 7/30/2008 9:12:26 AM
To: Section 40
Subject: FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST 24-07-2008-092121-001

Dear Section 40

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request of 23 July 2008 asking for documents on the sightings over RAF Cosford on 30-31 March 1993.

The MoD file on this matter, D/Sec(AS)/12/7 Part A, is one of the files the MoD will be transferring to The National Archives as part of a programme to transfer some 160 files covering the period 1978-2007. It is not possible to state when the file will actually be transferred, but it is expected it will be within the next 12 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 file being released to the public as it will enable them to have a more informed view of the MoD's role in this incident, there is no overriding reason why the public should have the information immediately. Indeed it could be argued, that by releasing files in chronological order, the public will be able to follow the role of the MoD in a more logical and orderly fashion, and to view actions in their correct historical perspective.

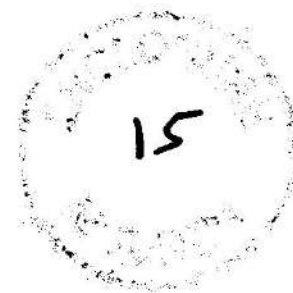
It is part of effective administration of government that the publication of information is planned and managed within the department responsible. The release of this file will undermine this release process, and delay the release of other files (which other members of the public may be waiting for) as work on them would necessarily have to be put off.

Finally, the release programme itself is complicated and the release of files out of sequence will result in unnecessary confusion for the MoD, The National Archives and, indeed, the public when they are attempting to track files once they are transferred.

It is for these reasons that we do not believe it would be in the public interest to release this file at this moment. That having been said, I can provide you with a



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

90-336 Lodz,
 Poland

Our Reference
 28-07-2008-113105-002

Date

28 July 2008

Dear **Section 40**

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request of 26 July 2008 asking for a copy of documents on the Cosford Incident that had previously been available on the MoD website. They are enclosed. You also asked for copies of UFO documents or reports.

Some personal information such as names, addresses, telephone numbers etc has been withheld from the Cosford documents as they are not directly relevant to your request. You will notice that whilst most of the information withheld has been blacked out manually with a marker pen, some has clearly been blacked out electronically. These are amendments to bring the documents into line with current MoD practice and therefore the documents do not exactly match those that appeared on the website. That having been said, I do not believe that these amendments substantially alter the documents.

You may wish to know that the original file that these documents were drawn from is one of 160 due for transfer to The National Archives as part of the three year programme that has recently been featured in the UK media. It is not possible to give a date for when it will be transferred, but I hope it will be before the end of the year.

The MOD has already released a great deal of information about UFOs which is available for public viewing. MOD files were routinely destroyed after five years 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, 020 8876 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: <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk>. The Ministry of Defence Freedom of Information website also contains some released information on UFOs. This can be accessed the internet at: <http://www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/FreedomOfInformation/PublicationScheme>, by searching under UFO reports.

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 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 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,

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.

COPY OF JISK
HELJ AT JAS-FOL

Section 40

From: Section 40
Sent: 28 July 2008 11:49
To: Section 40
Subject: Re: COSFORD DOCUMENTS

Dear Sir,

Thank you very much. My mailbox is quite big and I think it would handle a big file. But a "traditional" way of delivering is fine for me as well. My address is:

Section 40

90-336 Lodz
Poland

I'm writing a thesis about British security and UFO (based on documents and facts only) so if you have any documents or reports related UFO issue (or what would be the best - some drawings or photographs taken for example by MoD) please send it as well.

Kindly regards

Section 40
University of Lodz

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

From: Section 40
To: Section 40
Sent: Monday, July 28, 2008 12:38 PM
Subject: COSFORD DOCUMENTS

Dear Section 40

Thank you for your e-mail of 26 July 2008 asking for the documents on the so called Cosford incident.

I am happy to provide these, but am unable to e-mail them to you as they are too big. If you provide me with your postal address, I can forward you a disk. Alternatively, you are entitled to a paper copy.

Section 40

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

28/07/2008

Catalogue Reference: defe/24/2449/1

Section 40

28.07.2008-107105-002
EX/ 27 AUG 08

From: Section 40
Sent: 26 July 2008 23:27
To: DAS-UFO-Office
Subject: Document request

Dear Sirs,

I found an information about document titled "Unidentified Flying Objects (UFO) Cosford Incident 1993":

<http://www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/FreedomOfInformation/PublicationScheme/SearchPublicationScheme/UnidentifiedFlyingObjectsufoCosfordIncident1993.htm>

As it is stated, document is available on request. If it is possible, I would like to kindly request it for my academic research at University of Lodz.

Thank you very much in advance.

Section 40

University of Lodz



AUTHORISATION FOR THE RELEASE OF INFORMATION

Applicant: **Section 40**

Case Number: 15-07-2008-080805-001 Expiry: 13 Aug 08

The Applicant has made the following request for information:

- 1. Details of UFO sightings over last 12 months
- 2. Details of paranormal incidents over last 12 months

Case for release of information

UFO details for 2008 to date are withheld under exemption s.22 (Information intended for future publication). A PTI is included in the letter as no major principles are involved.

Applicant has been asked to define "paranormal"

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: 23/7/08

NOTE: CLARIFICATION NOT RECEIVED. THEREFORE CLOSED ON 10 NOV 08

Section 40 *JAS-GE*