the national archives

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UNCLASSIFIED

~~RESTRICTED/UNCLASSIFIED~~

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

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

Date opened (Date of first enclosure)
16 Jan 03

Registered file reference
D DAS 64/1/1
Part No. F

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

[FULL ADDRESS & TELEPHONE NUMBER]

SUBJECT "UFOs"

POLICY

[BLOCK CAPITALS]

RECORD OF KEYWORDS:

Referred to	Date	Min/ Encl	Referred to	Date	Min/ Encl	Referred to	Date	Min/ Encl	Referred to	Date	Min/ Encl

CLOSED

FOR DRO USE ONLY

1st Review date

2nd Review date

PA ACTION

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

Produced by Forms Design Section
Design Studio DSD (PC) KY ☎ 0117 9376256

UNCLASSIFIED

~~RESTRICTED/UNCLASSIFIED~~

Registered File Disposal Form

MOD Form 262F
(Revised 9/01)

FILE TITLE: (Main Heading - Secondary Heading - Tertiary Heading etc)
UFOs - Policy

Reference:
(Prefix and Number): DI DAS 16411
Part: F

PROTECTIVE MARKING (including caveats & descriptors): Restricted

Date of last enclosure: 02/12/08

Date closed: 02/12/08

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

	✔
Destroy after _____ years	
Forward to INFO(EXP)-R after _____ years	
No recommendation	

FOR DEFENCE INFO(EXP)-R USE ONLY

Date of 1st review | Date of 2nd review | Forward Destruction Date

Reviewer's

Reviewer's Signature: _____

PART 2. BRANCH REVIEW
(To be fully completed at time of file closure)
(Delete as appropriate)

Permanent Preservation

✔

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.

b. (i) To be retained until the end of the year _____ for the following reason(s):

	✔		✔	
LEGAL		DEFENCE POLICY + OPERATIONS		
CONTRACTUAL		ORIGINAL COMMITTEE PAPERS		
FINANCE/AUDIT		MAJOR EQUIPMENT PROJECT		[_____]
DIRECTORATE POLICY		OTHER (Specify)		

PPQ = 100

(Continued overleaf)

(ii) Key enclosures which support the recommendation are:

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

✔

Destroyed ☐

Considered by 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 C2/equivalent)

Signature: Section 40 [redacted]

Name: [redacted]
(Block Capitals)

Grade/Rank: C2 Date: 15/2/10

Branch Title and Full Address:

RAF BUSINESS SECRETARIAT
AIR COMMAND
RAF HIGH WYCOMBE

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)

Produced by DE&S Graphics and Photography, Bath.

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Section 40

From: Section 40

Sent: 02 December 2008 15:40

To: Section 40

Subject: TRANSFER TO AIR COMMAND - UFO DESK

Section 40

In the event that I win the lottery over Christmas or walk under a bus, I thought it would be helpful if I gave you some details about the role of the UFO desk beyond the daily mechanics of the job, which are really quite simple.

MoD Role and Position on UFOs and Extraterrestrials

The MoD position on UFOs, aliens and extra terrestrials is quite clear. We know of no evidence to confirm the existence of aliens, spaceships, extra terrestrials etc or if they have visited the earth. However, since the universe is a very large place and mankind has only explored a very small corner of it, we cannot rule out the existence of intelligent life on other planets. We therefore remain open minded on the topic. In the absence of proof either way, this position seems a perfectly sensible one. However, as you can probably guess, the above position does not make very interesting headlines nor, I suspect, would it sell many books.

UFO Reports

Sightings of UFO reports come via three sources. The first, and by far the most popular is via the UFO Hotline where people can leave details of what they have seen. These details are then recorded - currently on spreadsheet by my clerk, but when I move to Air Command, I will be using an Access database. If the person leaving the report gives a name and address, we will write back to them, thanking them for the information and explaining the limits of the MoD role in UFO matters. A copy of this letter with a table containing the relevant sighting details is then filed. The second is written reports from the public, sometimes via their nearest military establishment which are dealt with in the same manner. The third source is from other official bodies such as the CAA or the police.

People often see things in the sky that they cannot explain. Sometimes, as concerned citizens, they report them to us since they believe we will be able to identify what they have seen. Although the UFO desk is the focal point for UFO matters within the MoD (and by extension the whole government) it is not our role to attempt to explain every report we receive and nor are we resourced to do so.

That having been said, from time to time, we may receive a report from aircrew, air traffic control or the police that, in our judgement, may deserve a closer look since they are either trained observers or are sufficiently well versed in aviation matters for their reports to carry more weight and detail than usual. Additionally, a sighting by a great many people (particularly if they are in different locations) may also be worth a look. There are no set criteria or regulations stating under what circumstances we should take a closer look at a report. It is a matter of common sense and judgement. If it is not defence related, it is not our job to get involved.

At the end of the year, a spreadsheet containing details such as date, location and description of any sightings received is placed on the MoD website for the public to view.

UFO Investigations

On the very rare occasions we do take a closer look at a sighting report (less than half a dozen a year) our investigation is likely to entail asking whether anything was seen by either military radar or ATC. We usually do this through CT&UK Ops or, depending on circumstances, a colleague in DAS may suggest a suitable branch to contact. The term "investigation" tends to suggest to the public that there are Top Secret teams of specialist scientists scurrying around the country in a real life version of the X-Files. I am sure it will come as no surprise to you that this is total fiction. It is not unusual to get requests for our "file" on a specific incident. We do not keep separate files on each incident (with the exception of a handful from the early 1990s) and in any case, the documentation is likely to be limited to a few e-mails.

UFO Correspondence

The majority of correspondence on UFOs is composed of requests for information about various sightings or

or the MoD documents about a particular UFO incident (rumours abound of crashed UFOs, Top Secret bases or alien remains). Not surprisingly, the majority are now logged as FOI requests and dealt with accordingly. TOs and MCs are not very frequent but do turn up from time to time. A PQ is an extremely rare beast. I do not recall answering any in the past two years.

FOI Requests

I expect to receive at least 100 FOI requests a year on the subject of UFOs. By taking the decision to place details of sightings on the website and later by proactively placing the UFO files in The National Archives, we have been able to reduce the time spent answering requests since much of the information is already in the public domain and people can simply be directed there.

UFO Files

In late 2007 Ministerial approval was given for DAS and DIS to place their closed UFO files in The National Archives. The files are prepared for release in accordance with the principles of the FOI Act. The UFO Desk has transferred some 24 DAS files to date and on only one occasion (a misfiled document) has it been necessary to use a redaction other than s.40. The files are released in roughly chronological order, which is administratively easier and allows the "story" of the MoD's involvement with UFOs to be rolled out in a logical sequence. There are some 60 plus files due for transfer to The National Archives in 2009 and another 70 plus in 2010. As the files are rolled out, the public is getting a better feel for what our interest in UFOs actually is, rather relying on more lurid claims, but this does not, and probably never will, stop rumours of secret research, mysterious organisations or, I was delighted to see, that the files we are releasing are not the "real" files.

Redaction of these files is a very time consuming task, but it is made considerably simpler (and tidier) by the use of redaction software. It is my role to redact files myself, and also to act as quality control on for files redacted by my staff or indeed DIS. Once I am satisfied the files are in a fit state and have been reacted appropriately, I then pass them to Info CMem for double checking and for them to take on the task of formally transferring the files. As stated above, the transfer of the UFO files to The National Archives is already making the task of answering FOI requests much easier.

Ufology and Ufologists

Ufology is a widely accepted term to describe the study of the UFO phenomena. Those that study ufology are often known as ufolgists. Ufology is a broad term that covers a spectrum of opinion that ranges from those that are convinced the earth has been visited by extra terrestrials and that the MoD is covering up the fact, through those that are simply interested in the subject but not certain what to believe, to total sceptics. The subject also attracts attention from individuals who are interested in it as a social phenomenon and carry out research from the perspective of urban myths and beliefs.

Ufology is therefore not uniform in its views and this can give rise to strong passions. The MoD tries to keep clear of any affiliation to any particular lobby or individual, since proactive engagement with UFO groups could simply serve to perpetuate the suspicion that the MoD has a deeper interest in the subject than it actually has. Whilst we are perfectly willing to provide factual information if requested, we try to steer clear of any statement that could be considered as either supporting or criticising any particular individual, theory, book or magazine article. There is a considerable industry surrounding UFOs and the MoD does not want to be drawn into allegations of favouritism or bias which might affect a particular individuals sales in either direction. In particular we do not wish to be drawn into arguments between individuals, which can be quite vitriolic and about which there is no defence interest.

UFO Research and UFO Experts

The MoD is not involved in scientific research into extraterrestrial life. We do not have any experts in UFOs (by which most people that contact us really mean alien spaceships). The closest we have to the post of "UFO Expert" is probably my own, but this has always been a generalist, non-technical, post with the emphasis on correspondence with the public. The MoD does, of course, have experts in a great many subjects from weather, to radar, to missiles and the UFO desk can, if it sees fit, ask their advice.

Press Interest

Press interest tends to be spasmatic, but is usually at its height in the quiet summer months or when The National Archives issue a press release about the latest UFO additions to their collection.

Finally, and somewhat ironically, given the assumed pervasive dark role of the MoD, whilst I have naturally

Built up some degree of knowledge of various UFO cases as part of my tenure in this post, I often find the best source for information is simply to google the internet!

I hope the above helps put my job in perspective.

Section 40
DAS-FOI
Section 40

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Section 40

From: Section 40
Sent: 06 November 2008 14:05
To: Section 40
Subject: RE: Release-authorised: 20081106 Move of DAS Files To HQ Air Cmd_U

Section 40

I currently have 6 files that are open and at some point we will need to decide what to do with them. It may simply be easiest to close them and start new Air Command files with effect from 1 Jan, when the UFO function will officially transfer to Air Command. Although I only have 6 open files, it would be sensible if a separate series is created for them with scope for more files on different topics to be opened if necessary.

I have about 140 files that are closed. These closed files are split between those held with me (about 45 at the moment although I will reduce that before I move) and those in TNT. Over the next 2 years, that overall number will reduce significantly as they are placed in The National Archives, but for the moment we are faced with the problem of where they should be stored. I will continue to need a number in my office. These are a mixture of those I consult more frequently and those (particularly Policy files) that I prefer to keep with me for fear they get lost in the filing system somewhere and give rise to accusations that we are "covering up".

I constantly need to re-call files from TNT to check information and answer FOI requests, which is a cost to the MoD. If High Wycombe has space to store all 140 files internally, and the file retrieval system works satisfactorily, I would suggest that those files I do not immediately require are stored there. Since cataloguing and storing 140 new files would be a large task, I would further suggest that once I arrive at Air Command I start a gradual process of transferring the files from TNT to the local archive.

Happy to discuss at your convenience.

Section 40
DAS-FOI
Section 40

From: Section 40
Sent: 06 November 2008 10:18
To: Section 40
Subject: Release-authorised: 20081106 Move of DAS Files To HQ Air Cmd_U

Hi Section 40

Further to our telecom this morning, attached is the e-mail I received from Section 40 regarding registered files. If you have any concerns/questions regarding Section 40 please give me a call. As we discussed if you could send me an e-mail with the queries you have regarding the open files that would be useful so I can liaise with Section 40 what action needs to be taken. If I can be of any more help please let me know.

Regards

Section 40
Section 40
RAF Bus Sec 10
Air Command
GPTN: Section 40
Tel: Section 40
Fax

This e-mail and any files transmitted with it are confidential and intended solely for the use of the individual or entity to whom it is addressed. If you are not the intended recipient or there are problems please notify the

[redacted]ender and then delete the e-mail (and file(s) if attached) from your system. Recipients should note that e-mail traffic on MOD systems is subject to monitoring, recording and auditing to secure the effective operation of the system and for other lawful purposes. The MOD has taken steps to keep this e-mail and any attachments free from viruses. However it accepts no liability for any loss or damage howsoever caused as a result of any virus being passed on. It is the responsibility of the recipient to perform all necessary checks.

The statements expressed in this e-mail are personal and do not necessarily reflect the opinions or policies of the department.

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Section 40

From: Section 40

Sent: 13 May 2008 12:09

To: Section 40 USofS-APS1

Cc: Section 40 Wg Cdr ; SofS-APS1; Min(DES)-APS1; Min(AF)-APS1; PUS-PS; CAS-PS; ACAS-PSO; CDI-PS; DCDI-MA; CTandUKOps-SO1 Air & Ops Dev-C; DGInfo; DAS; Section 40 Wg Cdr ; DGMC-DNews DirectorPA; DGMC-DNews RAFSO1; SofS-SA-RA; Section 40

Subject: RE: 20080512 Media handling for release of UFO files to National Archive

Thank you for your submission dated 12 May 2008 reference D News Policy.

USofS:

a. agrees the media handling arrangements for the publication of the first 8 of some 160 UFO and UAP files held by DAS and DIS on The National Archives website on 14 May 2008;

b. agrees the press release and newsbrief as submitted

Regards

Section 40

Section 40

USofS-APS1

Section 40

Section 40

Save a tree...please don't print this e-mail *unless you really need to*

PLEASE TREAT THIS AS AN OFFICIAL RESPONSE

From: Section 40

Sent: 12 May 2008 12:13

To: USofS-APS1

Cc: Section 40 Wg Cdr ; SofS-APS1; Min(DES)-APS1; Min(AF)-APS1; PUS-PS; CAS-PS; ACAS-PSO; CDI-PS; DCDI-MA; CTandUKOps-SO1 Air & Ops Dev-C; DGInfo; DAS; Section 40 Wg Cdr ; DGMC-DNews DirectorPA; DGMC-DNews RAFSO1; SofS-SA-RA; Section 40

Section 40

Subject: 20080512 Media handling for release of UFO files to National Archive

See attached. Thanks.

Section 40

MoD Press Office

Tel: Section 40

Mil:

Fax

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D News Policy
12 May 2008

APS/USofS

Copy to:

APS/SofS	PS/CDI
APS/MinDES	MA/DCDI
APS/MinAF	DG Info
PS/PUS	DAS
PS/CAS	D News (RAF)
PSO/ACAS	DNews/PS
Special Advisors	D News Pol 2
	SO1 Air & Ops Dev

RELEASE OF UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECT (UFO) AND UNIDENTIFIED AERIAL PHENOMENA (UAP) FILES

Ref: 20070918 U MINSUB UFO FILES 18 Sep 2007

Issue

1. Proactive transfer to The National Archives (TNA) of MOD files related to UFOs and UAPs.

Recommendation

2. That the Minister:

a. agrees the media handling arrangements for the publication of the first 8 of some 160 UFO and UAP files held by DAS and DIS on The National Archives website on 14 May 2008;

b. agrees the press release and newsbrief at Annex A and B.

Timing

3. Routine. The first batch of files is released on 14 May 2008.

Background

4. Since the end of WW2, MOD has been tasked with recording and, from time to time, investigating reported UFO sightings. Contrary to what many members of the public may believe, MOD has no interest in the subject of extraterrestrial life forms visiting the UK, only in ensuring the integrity and security of UK airspace.

5. DAS and DIS have some 160 files that deal with the subject of UFOs dating back to the 1970s. Of these, the majority contain correspondence with members of the public, and sighting reports. The remainder comprise PQ and policy files and a small number of files that cover peripheral subjects. DAS also holds a considerable number of files covering FOI requests and responses on the subject of UFOs which will also need to be released.

6. The files held by DAS and DIS are of keen interest to a large worldwide group of amateur and professional "ufologists". As a result, MOD receives a large number of, often complex, FOI requests each year for information regarding UFOs (DAS alone receiving 199 in 2005, 140 in 2006 and 158 in 2008. As notified at reference, it is proposed to release these files over a three year period with an initial release of 8 files. A further 20 new files will be created over the same period, which will also require release at a future date.

Presentation

7. Press Office receives weekly calls from the media about UFOs – either reporting sightings or asking when we are releasing papers. Subsequently, any announcement of a more general release of files is likely to attract a great deal of interest from the press and general public. There is a risk that media will overplay the MoD's involvement in these cases, therefore we will need to manage our message and be prepared to deal with a high level of media interest. There is also likely to be frustration that people who want to view files at the TNA will be charged.

8. To explain the transfer, Press Office propose to issue a press release (Annex A), which will also link to examples of the files, in co-ordination with TNA, to give reporters an idea of the material being released. Ministerial and military press interviews will be declined. TNA will also be publicising the transfer.

9. Staff in DGInfo and the Web Bureau have been consulted on the high level of internet traffic expected upon announcement. A dedicated webpage will be created on the FOI side of the Defence Internet, with links to examples of the files on The National Archive website. The Defence News Bureau team will also make the link clear on the website.

10. A defensive newsbrief is attached at Annex B.

Section 40 [redacted]
D News Policy

ANNEX A

xx/2008 14 May 2008

Ministry of Defence releases X-files

The first in a series of UFO files, dating back to the 1970s, have been released on The National Archives' website today. The Ministry of Defence files include descriptions of alleged Unidentified Aerial Phenomenon or "UFO" sightings and subsequent MoD evaluations of the reports.

Independent experts have concluded to date that there are realistic explanations behind alleged UFO reports, such as aircraft lights or natural phenomena. Reports are examined by the Ministry of Defence solely to establish whether UK airspace may have been compromised by hostile or unauthorised military activity. If required, sighting reports are examined with the assistance of the Department's air defence experts. Unless there is evidence of a potential threat, no further work is undertaken to identify the nature of each sighting reported.

The Ministry of Defence has no other interest or role regarding UFO matters. Nor does the Department consider questions regarding the existence or otherwise of extraterrestrial life-forms.

The MoD receives a large number of requests each year for information relating to UFOs, so to meet demand a new system has been introduced to release these files in a structured way. The rest of the files are currently under review and will be added to The National Archives over the next three years.

The MoD already releases information on sightings which is currently on the MoD website, through the FOI Disclosure Log. The Rendlesham file is already available on request.

Notes to Editors

1. Journalists wishing to view the files should visit the MoD's website for details: www.mod.uk/
2. The files will be available to download free for the first month, after which The National Archives will charge for the publication of these files.
3. The MoD will be releasing these documents to The National Archives over a period of three years.
4. The files are compiled by Directorate of Air Staff and Defence Intelligence Staff.
5. For further information, please contact the MoD press office on 020 7218 5903.

ANNEX B

DEFENSIVE PRESS BRIEF

BACKGROUND

Following a written commitment by DIS (following an FOI request) to review its UFO and Unidentified Aerial Phenomena (UAP) files, both the DIS and DAS have now decided to release their UFO and UAP files to the general public.

It is clear from the number of FOI requests the MoD receives for UFO information that many of the public are fascinated by the topic and the MoD has already released much information on the subject. The decision has been made to continue this release of information in a more structured manner.

MOD INTEREST IN "UFO" SIGHTINGS

The only role that the Ministry of Defence has with respect to 'UFO/flying saucer' matters is to examine any reports of 'UFO' sightings that it receives solely to establish whether there is any evidence that the UK's airspace might have been compromised by hostile or unauthorised foreign military activity. The Ministry of Defence has no interest or role in questioning the existence or otherwise of extraterrestrial lifeforms.

The reports are examined, with the assistance of the Department's air defence experts as required. Unless there is evidence of a potential threat to the United Kingdom from an external military source, and to date no "UFO" sighting has revealed such evidence, we do not attempt to identify the precise nature of each sighting reported to us. We believe that down to earth explanations could be found for these reports, such as aircraft lights or natural phenomena. It is not appropriate for defence resources to provide this kind of aerial identification service.

KEY MESSAGES

- The MOD has decided to release its UFO and UAP files.
- Release of the first files will be on 14 May following review and redaction in accordance with the principles of the Freedom of Information Act.
- It will take about three years to release all the UFO and UAP files. They will be released in chronological order starting with the oldest.

- This is another example of the MoD embracing the spirit of open government.

- The MoD does not carry out research into UFO matters.

- The MoD only investigates UFO sightings to see if it believes there may be airspace integrity issues.

- We are open about this subject and the release of these files will prove this.

Q&A

Q. Why hasn't the MoD released these files before?

A. The MoD has already placed a number of its UFO files from the 1970s in the National Archive in recent years but a large number remain to be released.

Q. What are you holding back?

A. The files will be released in accordance with the principles of the Freedom of Information Act. It may be necessary to withhold some information under the usual FOI exemptions. In particular names and addresses of individuals who have reported sightings will be withheld to protect their privacy.

Q. How do you assess whether experts need to be involved in sightings?

A. A handful of sightings each year are considered as worthy of further investigation. This may be due to a large number of reports occurring on a particular day or an unusual pattern of activity or reports. Additionally the reports could come from witnesses such as police officers, pilots or air traffic controllers.

Q. What is the difference between documents/files from Intelligence Staff and Air Staff?

A. The majority of DIS documents/files will be duplicates of sighting reports found on the DAS files.

Q. Are you making money from the release of these files?

A. The MOD is making no money from the release of these files.

RELEASE OF UFO FILES MEETING
ACTION MINUTES

TUESDAY 08 JANUARY 2008
14:00 – 15:00
MOD Main Building 3.2.9

Attendees :

Section 40	Info-CMemRAD	MOD DG Info
	Info-CMemRR	MOD DG Info
	Info-CMemR1	MOD DG Info
	Info-CMemRR10	MOD DG Info
	Info-CMemR2	MOD DG Info
	Info-CMemSR1	MOD DG Info
	DAS-FOI	MOD DAS
	DI ST-GM OMS AD	MOD DIS
	DI CSD-Sec3	MOD DIS
	DI ST-GM OMS4	MOD DIS

ITEM	DISCUSSION	ACTION LEAD
1.0	Welcome & Introductions	
	All present introduced themselves and their involvement.	N / A
2.0	Update On Current State Of Play	
	It was reported that 4no. DIS files and 4no. DAS files had been passed over for Application For Closure action. All extractions are Section 40, except for one Section 26 . This will require an Application For Retention. The electronic files transfer will be processed after receipt of Advisory Council approvals, followed by hard copy files when they are available (which could be at the same time or slightly later than the electronic versions).	Section 40
3.0	Need For Ministerial Note & Press Release	
	A Ministerial Note and Press Release will be required prior to The National Archives, (TNA), opening the first files. These will need to be co-ordinated with DG Info, DI, MOD Public Relations and TNA Public Relations.	Section 40

Section 40

Drafts will be circulated for comment and Info-CMemR will advise Section 40 the Advisory Council has approved the LCI and will also seek a realistic date of the files becoming available to the general public

4.0 Lessons Learnt

A) Redaction Challenges

The quality of the DIS files is not always good once they had been through the redaction procedure. However, Section 40 stated that the quality of the later files will be better than that of the early files.

Section 40 and Section 40 stated that the software is user-friendly but takes time to get used to. A number of comments have been fed back to the supplier.

B) Link DIS & DAS Redactions

There is now a system in place for each unit to check the redactions of the other unit.

C) Need For QA Checks Of Redactions & Scanning

100% QA checks will continue for the next batch of files and the situation will be reviewed at that point.

D) Quality Of Scanning Before & After Redactions

See comments under 4.0 C, above.

E) CMemR Review QA

See comments under 4.0 C, above.

F) Timeframes For Electronic & Paper Files

The spreadsheet is updated by DG Info staff as required but it is not available to DAS & DIS staff. A monthly snapshot was requested by both, (See 5.0, below).

G) TNA Involvement

TNA have confirmed that they are happy with the quality of the submitted electronic files they have seen to date and the paper files will back up the electronic versions in cases where quality might be poor due to the state of the original paper copy.

5.0 Review & Amend Spreadsheet

It was agreed that the spreadsheet was fit-for-purpose The Actual dates would be filled in by the Records Transfer Team, except for the Actual Date To Reviewers which would be filled in by the Records Review Team.

The spreadsheet will be e-mailed to Section 40 and Section 40 on a monthly basis. Section 40

6.0 Any Other Business

It was reported information about the UFO files is circulating on the internet but that there has been little interest from the public to date. N / A

The titles of all DIS files should be "UFO's – Incidents". Section 40

7.0 Date Of Next Meeting

It was suggested that a meeting in the first week of April 2008 might be beneficial as this would allow any emergent problems to be resolved prior to the TNA deadline for submission to the next Advisory Council. Section 40

Section 40
AD Info CMem R
Tel: Section 40
09 January 2008

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Section 40 [redacted]

From: Section 40 [redacted]
Sent: 08 January 2008 09:54
To: Section 40 [redacted]
Subject: Release-authorised: PERSONAL CORRESPONDENCE

Dear Section 40 [redacted]

Thank you for your e-mail of 7 January 2008.

Firstly, I should like to re-affirm my statement previously made to your colleague, Section 40 [redacted] that you should feel free to discuss meetings you had with DAS staff at your own discretion. Your agreement to inform us if you will be publishing details of the meeting is appreciated, but of course, is not actually binding on you. I should also point out that if we were to receive an FOI request asking us if we had ever held a meeting with a ufologist or academic on the subject of UFOs, we would be obliged to confirm it, although of course your names and addresses would be withheld under exemption s.40 (Personal Information). However, given your profile as a researcher, it is quite possible others will guess who you are.

For your information, files D/DAS/64/3/11 Parts A-F contain correspondence to and from yourself and are entitled "*UFOs – Persistent Correspondent* – Section 40 [redacted] I note that you waive your right for your name to be withheld from any documents we release contained on these files. However, as you will appreciate, the release of those files will probably not take place for a couple of years.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40 [redacted]
DAS-FOI
Section 40 [redacted]
MoD Main Building
Whitehall
London
SW1A 2HB

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Section 40

From: Section 40
Sent: 07 January 2008 15:21
To: Section 40
Cc:
Subject: Re: OCTOBER 2004 MEETING

Dear Section 40

Further to your email communication with Section 40 copied to me under today's date, I confirm I have no intention of publishing any details of the meeting we had with your predecessor Section 40 and Section 40 her superior, at the MoD Main Building in 2004, or of the subsequent meeting I had with Section 40 in April 2006 of which you may also be aware. The private meeting in 2004 was arranged on the understanding that we did not make public any account of the discussion, for the same reasons you have cited in your email.

I have honoured that agreement, and intend to continue to do so.
However, with the planned release of the entire MoD UFO archive, questions will of course arise from third parties when the details become part of the public domain. If such a situation obliges us to comment, we will of course keep you informed in advance. My position in such an event would simply be that we wished to have a full and frank discussion of outstanding issues arising from our ongoing correspondence on the subject of the MoD's interest in UFOs. Section 40 and Section 40 provided honest and direct answers to all of our questions, to the best of their knowledge at that time.

I would also like to take this opportunity to raise another matter relevant to this topic. I feel it is important that my personal role in the disclosure of a number of the more important UFO papers - both under the Code of Practice prior to 2005 and the FOIA subsequently -is made clear to those who may in future consult the materials at the National Archives.

During my two meetings, and extensive correspondence with Section 40 between 2002 and 2006, she confirmed that it was my requests that led to the release of both the Rendlesham file and the 'Flying Saucer Working Party' in 2001, and of the DIS report on UAPs in 2006. In that year I asked for written confirmation of these facts because of a series of misleading public statements made by one of your predecessors, Section 40 Section 40 who for reasons of his own, continues to suggest that this was not the case and that credit should go to others such as the late Lord Hill-Norton and others unconnected with the release. I continue to feel aggrieved at this situation and feel it is important that the true facts are made clear as part of this planned wholesale release of UFO related material.

I understand from Section 40 that a set of files in the UFO correspondence series contain details of my own correspondence with MoD, from 2000 to present. These presumably contain copies of my requests and the responses made by MoD during the past seven years. I would appreciate confirmation that these files exist, and that they form part of the planned release.

If so, I wish to put on record that I give my consent under the Data Protection Act 1998 for the full release of these records on the understanding that my identity is not redacted from the correspondence (although my home address should be removed under S.40). I feel this is the most appropriate method of ensuring the historical record is clear concerning my role in the disclosure of these public records.

I would appreciate confirmation of my wishes in this regard, and thankyou for your co-operation. With best wishes for a happy new year,

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

>
> thanks for the response. Section 40 cc:'d) and I will comply with your
> request regarding notice. I should also point out that at this time
> neither of us have any intention to publish the details, though that

> may of course change.
>
> [redacted]ers,
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> Section 40
>
> Section 40 wrote:
> > Dear Section 40
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> >
> > Thank you for your e-mail of 19 December
> > 2007 regarding your undertaking not to reveal that you and Section 40
> > participated in a meeting with the MoD to discuss UFO matters.
> >
> >
> >
> > I can confirm that any documents relating to this meeting that have
> > been retained will be transferred to the National Archive as part of
> > the general release of files. In light of this, you should consider
> > yourself free to discuss the matter at your own discretion. That
> > having been said, it would be helpful if prior to publishing any
> > details of the meeting you let us know, as it may result in a number
> > of FOI applications or requests for similar meetings with other ufolgists.
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> >
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> >
> > Yours sincerely,
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> > Section 40
> >
> > DAS-FOI
> > Section 40
> >
> > MoD Main Building
> >
> > Whitehall
> >
> > London
> >
> > SW1A 2HB
> >
> >
>

Section 40

Section 40

56

From: Section 40
Sent: 07 January 2008 14:09
To: Section 40
Subject: Re: OCTOBER 2004 MEETING

Hi Section 40

thanks for the response. Section 40 'd) and I will comply with your request regarding notice. I should also point out that at this time neither of us have any intention to publish the details, though that may of course change.

Cheers,

Section 40

Section 40 wrote:

> Dear Section 40
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>
> Thank you for your e-mail of 19 December 2007
> regarding your undertaking not to reveal that you and Section 40
> participated in a meeting with the MoD to discuss UFO matters.
>
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>
> I can confirm that any documents relating to this meeting that have
> been retained will be transferred to the National Archive as part of
> the general release of files. In light of this, you should consider
> yourself free to discuss the matter at your own discretion. That
> having been said, it would be helpful if prior to publishing any
> details of the meeting you let us know, as it may result in a number
> of FOI applications or requests for similar meetings with other ufolgists.
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> Yours sincerely,
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> Section 40
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> DAS-FOI
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> Section 40
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> MoD Main Building
>
> Whitehall
>
> London
>
> SW1A 2HB
>
>

55

Section 40 [redacted]

From: Section 40 [redacted]
Sent: 07 January 2008 10:37
To: Section 40 [redacted]
Subject: Release-authorised: OCTOBER 2004 MEETING

Dear Section 40 [redacted]

Thank you for your e-mail of 19 December 2007 regarding your undertaking not to reveal that you and Section 40 participated in a meeting with the MoD to discuss UFO matters.

I can confirm that any documents relating to this meeting that have been retained will be transferred to the National Archive as part of the general release of files. In light of this, you should consider yourself free to discuss the matter at your own discretion. That having been said, it would be helpful if prior to publishing any details of the meeting you let us know, as it may result in a number of FOI applications or requests for similar meetings with other ufolgists.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40 [redacted]
DAS-FOI
Section 40 [redacted]
MoD Main Building
Whitehall
London
SW1A 2HB

Section 40

From: Section 40
Sent: 19 December 2007 15:41
To: Section 40
Subject: In confidence

Hi Section 40

this message is not intended to be an FoIA request.

Firstly, thanks for the heads up in your earlier post.

The main reason I am writing this is that you may be unaware that myself and Section 40 Section 40 (cc:'d) attended a meeting with DAS on 1/10/2004. The meeting was entirely innocent (seeking clarification on various aspects of the MoD process, and specific points in question). We were however asked to refrain from discussing the fact that the meeting took place publicly in order to avert an avalanche of similar requests for meetings for which it could be difficult to justify refusal. Section 40 I have honoured the condition, but I expect that with the release of the relevant records, details will become available at TNA. Even though names will be retained, some people will recognise who the participants were with little difficulty.

Please can you confirm whether or not details of the meeting will be amongst the released records, and if so, are we still expected to be bound by our earlier undertaking not to discuss it?

In the paranoid world of ufology, all kinds of conspiracy theories will emerge once the details are revealed, though I think it would be helpful to the MoD and to myself and Section 40 in other ways.

Cheers,

Section 40

54

D/MSU/2/9/is

25 September 2007

DAS FOI – Section 40

Copy to:

APS/SofS
APS/Min(DES)
APS/Min(AF)
PS/PUS
PS/CAS
PSO/ACAS
Special Advisors

PS/CDI
MA/DCDI
DG Info
DAS
D News (RAF)
D News/PS
D News Pol 2
SO1 Air & Ops Dev

RELEASE OF UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECT (UFO) AND AERIAL PHENOMENA (UAP) FILES

1. Thank you for your submission seeking Ministerial approval for the transfer of the DAS and DIS UFO files to the National Archive.

2. The Minister approves this transfer and that a formal press announcement should be made when the first files are transferred, in Spring 2008.

Original signed

Section 40
APS/USofS
MB Floor 5, Zone B Section 40
USofS-Private Office

53

Section 40

From: Section 40

Sent: 18 September 2007 11:32

To: USofS-APS1

Cc: SofS-APS1; Min(DES)-APS1; Min(AF)-APS1; PUS-PS; CAS-PS; ACAS-PSO; CDI-PS; DCDI-MA; CTandUKOps-SO1 Air & Ops Dev-C; DGInfo; DAS-XO; DGMC-DNews Director-PS; DGMC-DNews RAF; SofS-SA-RA; DGMC-DNews Pol2

Subject: MINISTERIAL SUBMISSION - TRANSFER OF UFO FILES TO NATIONAL ARCHIVE

Attachments: 20070918 U Minsub - Release of UFO files to National Archive.doc

Please find attached a submission asking for Ministerial approval for the transfer of the DAS and DIS UFO files to the National Archive.

This replaces the submission dated 6 June 2007 which suggested placing the files on the MoD website.

Section 40
DAS-FOI
Section 40

20070918 U MINSUB UFO FILES

18 Sep 2007

APS/USofS

Copy to:

APS/SofS	PS/CDI
APS/MinDES	MA/DCDI
APS/MinAF	DG Info
PS/PUS	DAS
PS/CAS	D News (RAF)
PSO/ACAS	DNews/PS
Special Advisors	D News Pol 2
	SO1 Air & Ops Dev

Through DAS AD (Secretariat)

RELEASE OF UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECT (UFO) AND AERIAL PHENOMENA (UAP) FILES

Issue

1. Proactive transfer to the National Archives of MOD files related to UFOs and UAPs.

Recommendation

2. That the Minister:

a. approves the transfer of UFO and UAP files held by DAS and DIS to the National Archives progressively over the next three years;

b. agrees that a formal press announcement should be made at the time the first files are transferred, planned to be in Spring 2008 .

Timing

3. Routine.

Background

4. Since the end of WW2, MOD has been tasked with recording and, from time to time, investigating UFO sightings. Contrary to what many members of the public may believe, MOD has no interest in the subject of extraterrestrial life forms visiting the UK, only in ensuring the integrity and security of UK airspace.

5. DAS and DIS have some 160 files that deal with the subject of UFOs dating back to the 1970s. Of these, the majority contain correspondence with members of the public, with the next largest category being sighting reports. The remainder comprise PQ and Policy files and a small number of files that cover peripheral subjects. The majority of the information held on the 27 DIS files is likely to duplicate that held by DAS. DAS also holds a considerable number of files covering FOI requests and responses on the subject of UFOs which will also need to be released. In total over the course of the proposed three year programme, some 180 existing files will be released, with a further 20 new files being created over the same period, also requiring release at a future date

6. The files held by DAS and DIS are of keen interest to a large worldwide group of amateur and professional "ufologists". As a result, MOD receives a large number of, often complex, FOI requests each year for information regarding UFOs (DAS alone receiving 199 in 2005, 140 in 2006 and 120 to date in 2007).

7. DIS has already made a written commitment to review its files for release in a response to an FOI request from an academic researcher. This, and the decision by the French National Centre for Space Studies to release their UFO files earlier this year, has increased the, already significant, press and internet speculation that we are about to release our own.

Benefits from publication

8. In addition to the clear presentational benefits in meeting public demand and expectation, release of the files would also smooth the workload on DIS and DAS. The processing of FOI requests on the subject of UFOs is becoming increasingly costly and time consuming, especially if the Department's responses are challenged. The piecemeal release of information also fuels unhelpful speculation from those who believe there are issues that MOD are trying to hide. It is expected that within relatively few years, FOI requests on the subject will require the MOD to release virtually all its UFO files and it is considered beneficial that the release be managed in a structured manner.

9. It is not expected that the volume of requests about UFOs will significantly reduce (indeed, in the short term, press coverage and the early release of some of these files may lead to an increase). However, section 22 of the FOI Act exempts from release information which public authorities have a "view to publication" at a future date. By making a clear commitment to publish these files, DAS and DIS can therefore stop responding reactively to requests as they are received and instead manage their effort in a more organised manner. Whilst the time scale over which we can claim exemption under s.22 has not yet been tested, it is believed that invoking the exemption on the basis that we will publish information sometime within the next three years would be outside the spirit of the Freedom of Information legislation and would therefore pose presentational difficulties. Instead it is considered that use of this exemption should be limited to those instances when it is

planned to release the relevant information within a 12 month period. This inevitably means that MOD will have to continue to release some material in response to FOI requests but the requirement to provide information will reduce as documents are placed in the public domain

Mechanism of release

10. In order to maximise the presentational benefit, it would be preferable to publish the files on the internet using the MOD publication scheme. However, some 40% of the information in the files is correspondence from the public. This material is subject to the Copyright Designs and Patents Act (CDPA) 1988, which prohibits its publication on the internet. Publication of only the remainder of the information, not protected by copyright, would fuel accusations of a "cover-up" and undermine our presentational objectives.

11. It should be noted that the MoD has already placed two redacted files on the publication scheme together with a small number of non MoD documents. Although this move has been greeted with approval from ufologists, it may be never the less be necessary to remove them in order to comply with copyright obligations.

12. The alternative proposed is to transfer the files to The National Archives (TNA). Transfer alone would not constitute 'publication', however advice from the Ministry of Justice suggests that if the files were also made available online through The National Archives' 'Documents Online' facility, this would constitute publication as defined by section 22 of the FOI Act. There is a specific exemption in the CDPA which provides for public records transferred to The National Archives to be copied, including in respect of material that might otherwise be copyright protected. This interpretation of the FOI Act is so far untested and it may be challenged through a request for an internal review and, assuming the challenge is not upheld, at an Information Tribunal

13. Taking this approach, MOD could refuse specific requests under section 22 of the FOI Act for information on files due to be transferred to TNA in the next 12 month period. This would assist in managing the release of files in a structured manner. It is unusual for files to be transferred to TNA so far in advance of the usual 30-year review point. However, it is assessed that the high level of public interest and lack of sensitive material in the files means that no precedent is set by their early release. Corporate Memory and TNA are content with our transfer plan. Although 'publication' of the files to TNA does not provide the flexibility of using our own website, doing so still largely delivers the benefits set out above. However, it is important to note that unlike existing MoD practice, TNA will impose a charge of £3.50 to view or download each file, though members of the public would be able to visit the archives at Kew and view the files without charge.

14. The majority of the files are of low security classification but include references to air defence matters, defence technology, relations with foreign powers and occasional uncomplimentary comments by staff or police officers about members of the public, which will need to be withheld in accordance

with FOI principles. In particular, the PQ files will require considerable work before they can be transferred as they contain background notes for Ministers, but there is no reason, in principle, why they cannot be released and, indeed, a small number of background notes for PQs have already been released under FOI. The MoD is aware of no clear evidence to prove or disprove the existence of aliens and consequently the files are considerably less exciting than the "industry" surrounding the UFO phenomena would like to believe.

Preparation for Transfer

15. The most cost effective solution is to scan the files (~£13K), and purchase specialised redaction software (£3K). It is estimated that with current staffing levels, it will take approximately three years to complete, with the release conducted around the continuing normal duties of both branches and Corporate Memory. It is planned that files covering a complete year will be released on a rolling programme, in year order, with the oldest files being reviewed for release first. It is expected that on average, it will be possible to prepare for release a year's files roughly every two months. DAS files up to and including 1984 have already been passed to TNA, which will mean that the first few files to be released will be from DIS, which holds files back to the 1970s. Files will be transferred in chronological order with the aim of those covering 1979-92 being released in 2008, 1992-2000 in 2009 and 2001 onwards in 2010.

16. Once a schedule of redactions has been prepared, it will need to be agreed by the Lord Chancellor's Advisory Council on Public Records and Archives before the files can be transferred to The National Archives. The next meeting of the Advisory Council where this issue can be considered will be February 2008. There is no reason why the Advisory Council should not agree to any redactions proposed, but even after agreement is reached it will take The National Archives a short period of time to process the files transferred and make them available to the public. The first files should therefore be available to the public by spring next year.

Presentation

17. Press Office receive weekly calls from the media about UFOs – either reporting sightings or asking when if we are releasing papers. Subsequently, any announcement of a more general release of files is likely to attract a great deal of interest from the press and general public. There is a risk that media will overplay the MOD's involvement in these cases, therefore we will need to manage our message and be prepared to deal with a high level of media interest. There is also likely to be frustration that people who want to view files at the TNA will be charged.

18. Press Office advice is that a Ministerial decision to release the files is not newsworthy in itself. It is therefore proposed that D News will draw up a handling plan, in liaison with TNA, closer to the time.

(signed on DII)

Section 40 [redacted]
DAS FOI
Section 40 [redacted]

AUTHORISED BY: Section 40 [redacted]
GRADE/RANK: B2
BRANCH: DAS AD (Secretariat)

TEL Section 40 [redacted]

52

UFO UpDates

A mailing list for the study of UFO-related phenomena
'Its All Here In Black & White'

UK MoD File On Crop Circles

From: **Nick Pope <nick.nul>**
Date: Thu, 9 Aug 2007 18:38:43 +0100
Archived: Thu, 09 Aug 2007 14:04:27 -0400
Subject: UK MoD File On Crop Circles

Some time ago I was contacted by a ufologist who had made a Freedom of Information Act request for the MoD file on crop circles. When he was told it couldn't be located I wrote to the MoD to try and help them locate it, by suggesting what the file's reference number might have been and describing the sorts of documents that I believed the file contained. Despite this additional information, no such file was located. The MoD's confirmation of this has now been published, as a .pdf, on their website:

http://tinyurl.com/274cnm

The ufologist concerned subsequently refined his FOI request to cover all documentation on crop circles for the year 1991. He was sent around 20 documents, comprising press cuttings, correspondence between me and the Centre for Crop Circle Studies and internal correspondence in which I discuss with colleagues whether taking photographs of crop circles from military helicopters might undermine the MoD's "no defence significance" line on UFOs. There is also a note about events in 1985 when an Army Air Corps (AAC) Lieutenant Colonel was approached by a farmer and asked what the AAC had done to his crops. The document describes the subsequent investigation and a demonstration (filmed for a TV show) that showed that the downwash from helicopter rotor blades wouldn't cause the sorts of patterns being reported in cornfields.

Having now seen these documents, I can confirm that I had placed them on the 12/3 (UFOs - public correspondence) files as opposed to a separate file on crop circles, as I had originally thought. Crop circle documents for subsequent years will similarly have been placed on files in the 12/3 (subsequently renumbered 64/3) series.

Best wishes,

Nick Pope
http://www.nickpope.net

Listen to 'Strange Days... Indeed' - The PodCast

See:

Section 40

51

From: Section 40

Sent: 06 August 2007 11:00

To: Section 40

Subject: Re: FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST 03-08-2007-093521-001

Section 40

Many thanks for the confirmation. It now seems certain that I was mistaken. It's not easy to put genies back into bottles, but I'll try!

Best wishes,

Section 40

----- Original Message -----
From: Section 40
To: Section 40
Sent: Monday, August 06, 2007 10:42 AM
Subject: RE: FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST 03-08-2007-093521-001

Dear Section 40

Just to confirm that there is no file D/Sec(AS)12/8 and no sub-files in the 12 series were opened on the subject of Crop Circles.

Yours sincerely,

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

From: Section 40
Sent: 06 August 2007 10:20
To: Section 40
Subject: Re: FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST 03-08-2007-093521-001

Section 40

Thank you for your email. Unless there was a D/Sec(AS)/12/8 or a sub-part to one of the earlier files in the 12 series, it seems that I may have been mistaken about opening a discrete file on crop circles, and that I kept all documents on this subject in the D/Sec(AS)/12/3 series after all. If so, I apologise if I've set any hares running. I'll brief Section 40 on the situation, as it seems I may have inadvertently misled him.

Best wishes,

Section 40

----- Original Message -----
From: Section 40

To Section 40
Sent: Monday, August 06, 2007 9:50 AM
Subject: FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST 03-08-2007-093521-001

Dear Section 40

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request of 2 August 2007 asking for details of the file title and contents of files D/Sec(AS)/12/5 and D/Sec(AS)/12/6.

The titles of the files are shown below:

D/Sec(AS)12/5	UFOs- Close encounter reports, alien entities, abductions etc
D/Sec(AS)12/6	UFOs – Alleged UFO incident-Crash of Lightning F6 – 8 Sept 1970

I have checked the contents of D/Sec(AS)12/5 and they do not relate to crop circles. D/Sec(AS) 12/6 relates to an aircraft crash over the sea and again, has no connection to crop circles.

Your e-mail suggested that the background documentation to a PQ from Lord Hill-Norton appearing in Lords Hansard at Column WA191 on 19 November 1998, might confirm that a file on crop circles was opened at some point. I have checked the PQ and supporting documentation, but can still find no evidence that an official file on crop circles was opened at any time.

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

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

50

Section 40 [redacted]

From: Section 40 [redacted]

Sent: 06 June 2007 16:02

To: USofS-APS1

Cc: SofS-APS1; Min(DES)-APS1; Min(AF)-APS1; PUS-PS; CAS-PS; ACAS-PSO; CDI-PS; DCDI-MA; CTandUKOps-SO1 Air & Ops Dev-C; DGInfo; DAS; Section 40 Wg Cdr ; DGMC-DNews Director-PS; DGMC-DNews RAF; SofS-SA-RA; DGMC-DNews Pol2

Subject: MINISTERIAL SUBMISSION - RELEASE OF UFO FILES

Attachments: 20070530 U Ministerial Submission - Release of UFO Files - Final Version.doc; 20070530 NEWS BRIEF - UFO FILES Final Version.doc; 200706060 Annex B draft UFO press release Final Version.doc; Star May 5.tif; Indy May 4 pg 1.tif; Indy May 4 pg 2.tif; Indy May 4 pg 3.tif; Guardian 3 May.tif

Please find attached a submission asking for Ministerial agreement to release onto the MoD publication scheme of UFO files held by both DAS and DIS.

Section 40 [redacted]
DAS-FOI
Section 40 [redacted]

WITHDRAWN DUE TO COPYRIGHT ISSUES

Section 40 [redacted]
DAS-FOI

20070606 U MINSUB UFO FILES

6 June 2007

APS/USofS

Copy to:

APS/SofS	PS/CDI
APS/MinDES	MA/DCDI
APS/MinAF	DG Info
PS/PUS	DAS
PS/CAS	D News (RAF)
PSO/ACAS	DNews/PS
Special Advisors	D News Pol 2
	SO1 Air & Ops Dev

Through DAS AD (Secretariat)

RELEASE OF UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECT (UFO) AND AERIAL PHENOMENA (UAP) FILES

Issue

1. Proactive release under the MoD's Freedom of Information (FOI) Publication Scheme, of old MoD files related to UFOs and UAPs.

Recommendation

2. That the Minister:

(a) approves the release of UFO and UAP files held by DAS and DIS;
(b) agrees that a formal press announcement should be made at the time the first files are placed on the MOD website, planned to be in September this year .

Timing

3. Routine. Following a written commitment by DIS under FOI to review the release of its files, speculation on the internet about the content of the files has been rife and there have been several press articles on the topic. It is planned that the release will commence in September, on a three year rolling programme.

Background

4. MoD involvement with recording UFO sightings continues to produce a steady stream of correspondence and Freedom of Information (FOI) requests.

It is likely that over a period of time, the majority of information held on our UFO files will be released in answer to FOI requests.

5. Since the end of WW2, the MoD has been tasked with recording and, from time to time, investigating UFO sightings. Contrary to what many members of the public may believe, the MoD has no interest in the subject of UFOs or extraterrestrial life forms visiting the UK. Rather, its interest lies in the integrity and security of UK airspace.

6. DAS and DIS have some 160 files that deal with the subject of UFOs dating back to the 1970s. Of these, the majority contain correspondence with members of the public, with the next largest category being sighting reports. The remainder comprise PQ files, policy files and a small number of files that cover peripheral subjects. The majority of the information held on the 27 DIS files is likely to duplicate that held by DAS. DIS has already made a written commitment to review its files for release in a response to an FOI request from an academic researcher. DAS also holds a considerable number of FOI requests and responses covering the topic of UFOs, which will also need to be released.

7. Files held by DAS and DIS are of considerable interest to "ufologists", a large worldwide group which, at one end of the spectrum, consists of perfectly ordinary members of the general public, through to conspiracy theorists who are convinced that the UK government is part of a worldwide plot to cover up the existence and presence of extra terrestrials. The level of general interest in the subject can perhaps be judged by a recent (if unscientific) internet search for the acronym UFO, which produced some 38 million "hits".

8. The MoD receives a large number of, often complex, FOI requests each year for information regarding UFOs (DAS alone receiving 199 in 2005, 140 in 2006 and 70 to date in 2007). The processing of these requests is becoming costly and time consuming, especially if the Department's responses are challenged, and the piecemeal release of information fuels unhelpful speculation from those who believe there are issues the MoD are trying to hide. It is expected that within relatively few years, public interest in the subject will require the MoD to release virtually all its UFO files and it is considered beneficial that the release be managed in a structured manner. Given the uniqueness of the situation we do not believe that this poses any particular precedent to other collections of files.

9. Although it is not expected that the volume of requests about UFOs will significantly reduce (indeed in the short term it may increase), once files have been released to the public domain, the MoD will be able to deflect the majority of requests to the internet site and will have to spend much less time processing individual requests. Although there is a considerable volume of documentation to release, this should pose no difficulty for the MoD server, although any impression amongst the public we have released all our UFO files at once does run the risk of the system crashing if it receives too many hits at any one time. This is a problem that the French faced when they released their files.

10. The majority of files are of low security classification but include references to air defence matters, defence technology, relations with foreign powers, (particularly the USA) and occasional uncomplimentary comments by staff or police officers about members of the public, some of which may need to be withheld from release following FOI guidelines. However, the files are considerably less exciting than the "industry" surrounding the UFO phenomena would like to believe.

11. Unlike the French National Centre for Space Studies, who released their own UFO files earlier this year, it will be necessary for the MoD to redact names and addresses of individuals, including those of members of the public. It is proposed that the files are scanned in bulk and then redacted using commercially available software, which will considerably speed up the process. Scanning the DAS files is likely to cost in the region of £13K, whilst purchasing and operating the redacting software will cost a further £1K. It is estimated that with current staffing levels, it will take approximately three years to complete, with the bulk of the task falling to DAS. Files covering a complete year will be released on a rolling programme, in year order, with the oldest files being reviewed for release first. This approach will allow the release to be conducted around the continuing normal duties of both branches. It is expected that on average, it will be possible to release a years files roughly every two months. DAS files up to and including 1984 have already been passed to the National Archive, which will initially mean that the first few files to be released will be from DIS which holds files back to the 1970s. DIS expects to be able to release their first files, following review and redaction, in September 2007.

Presentation

12. There have been several national press articles in the past month on this topic (attached at Annex C). These were triggered by a FOI response, in which the department said it planned to review, for release, a number of files held by DIS. Subsequently, any announcement of a more general release of files is likely to attract a great deal of press interest at both a national and quite possibly, international level. There is also likely to be much interest shown by members of both the British and international public, particularly on the internet. The topic has already attracted a further FOI request asking for details of the background to the decision to release these files and the response will be quickly be publicised by the internet ufologist community.

13. Once the contents of the files appear on the MOD website it is expected that the response will be positive and fairly light-hearted (if a little disappointed that the files are not more exciting), with predictable headlines about "*X Files*". There is a risk that media will overplay the MoD's involvement in these cases, therefore we will need to manage our message and be prepared to deal with a high level of media interest.

14. Press Office advice is that a Ministerial decision to release the files is not newsworthy in itself. It is therefore proposed that D News will issue a press notice on the day of first document publication to the MOD website. This press notice will be issued to key national and defence correspondents. We would not recommend that a Ministerial quote is included in this press release as it could be taken out of context.

16. The press office will hold defensive lines to take, attached at Annex A.

17. A draft press release to co-incide with the release of the first documents is attached at Annex B.

(signed on DII)

Section 40
DAS FOI
Section 40

AUTHORISED BY: Section 40 TEL: Section 40
GRADE/RANK: B2
BRANCH: DAS AD (Secretariat)

DEFENSIVE PRESS BRIEF

DATE: **June 2007**

SUBJECT: Release of MoD Unidentified Flying Object (UFO) files

SOURCE: **DAS FOI** DESK OFFICER: Section 40

PRESS OFFICER: **DNews PoI 2** Section 40

BACKGROUND

Following a written commitment by DIS (following an FOI request) to review its UFO and Unidentified Aerial Phenomena (UAP) files the MOD has now decided to release its UFO and UAP files to the general public.

It is clear from the number of FOI requests the MoD receives for UFO information that many of the public are fascinated by the topic and the MoD has already released much information on the subject. The decision has been made to continue this release of information in a more structured manner.

MOD INTEREST IN "UFO" SIGHTINGS

The Ministry of Defence has no interest or role with respect to 'UFO/flying saucer' matters, or to the question of the existence or otherwise of extraterrestrial lifeforms.

The Ministry of Defence examines any reports of 'UFO' sightings it receives solely to establish whether what was seen might have some defence significance; namely is there any evidence that the UK's airspace might have been compromised by hostile or unauthorised foreign military activity.

The reports are examined, with the assistance of the Department's air defence experts as required. Unless there is evidence of a potential threat to the United Kingdom from an external military source, and to date no "UFO" sighting has revealed such evidence, we do not attempt to identify the precise nature of each sighting reported to us. We believe that down to earth explanations could be found for these reports, such as aircraft lights or natural phenomena. It is not appropriate for defence resources to provide this kind of aerial identification service.

KEY MESSAGES

- The MOD has decided to release its UFO and UAP files.

- Release of the first files is expected to take place in September following review and redaction in accordance with the principles of the Freedom of Information Act. A press announcement will be issued on that day that the first release is made.

- It will take about three years to release all the UFO and UAP files. They will be released in chronological order staring with the oldest.

- This is another example of the MoD embracing the spirit of open government.

- The MoD does not carry out research into UFO matters.

- The MoD only investigates UFO sightings to see if it believes there may be airspace integrity issues.

- We are open about this subject and the release of these files will prove this.

Q&A

Q. Why hasn't the MoD released these files before?

A. The MoD has already placed a number of its UFO files from the 1970s in the National Archive in recent years but a large number remain to be released.

Q. What are you holding back?

A. The files will be released in accordance with the principles of the Freedom of Information Act. It may be necessary to withhold some information under the usual FOI exemptions. In particular names and addresses of individuals who have reported sightings will be withheld to protect their privacy.

Q. How do you assess whether experts need to be involved in sightings?

A. A handful of sightings each year are considered as worthy of further investigation. This may be due to a large number of reports occurring on a particular day or an unusual pattern of activity or reports. Additionally the reports could come from witnesses such as police officers, pilots or air traffic controllers.

Q. What is the difference between documents/files from Intelligence Staff and Air Staff?

A. The majority of DIS documents/files will be duplicates of sighting reports found on the main DAS files.

xx/2007 xx xx 2007

Ministry of Defence releases UFO files

The first in a series of UFO files has been issued on the Ministry of Defence's (MoD) website today, xx xx 2007.

The documents date back to the 1970s and include descriptions of alleged Unidentified Aerial Phenomenon or "UFO" sightings and any subsequent evaluations the MoD carried out.

This is the first file to be released as a result of a review of all UFO-related documents held within the MoD, in response to requests made under the Freedom of Information Act 2001. Subsequent files will be added to the website over the next three years.

The MoD examines reports solely to establish whether UK airspace may have been compromised by hostile or unauthorised military activity. If required, sighting reports are examined with the assistance of the Department's air defence experts. Unless there is evidence of a potential threat, there is no attempt to identify the nature of each sighting reported.

Experts have concluded to date that there are realistic explanations behind alleged UFO reports, such as aircraft lights or natural phenomena.
The Ministry of Defence has no interest or role regarding UFO matters, or regarding the question of the existence or otherwise of extraterrestrial lifeforms.

Notes to Editors

1. The MoD will be releasing these documents over a period of three years.
2. The files are compiled by Defence Air Staff and

Defence Intelligence Staff.

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MoD opens its files on UFO sightings to public

James Randerson
Thursday May 3, 2007
The Guardian

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DCSA +

Working togethe

The Ministry of Defence plans to open its "X-Files" on UFO sightings to the public for the first time. Officials have not yet decided on a date for the release of the reports, which date back to 1967, but it is hoped to be within weeks.

The move follows the decision by the French national space agency to release its UFO files in March, the first official body in the world to do so.

UFO buffs will be keen to find out what officials knew about some of the UK's most famous sightings and whether any action was taken. One celebrated event - at Rendlesham Forest, Suffolk, in 1980 - has been dubbed "Britain's Roswell" after the UFO incident in the US in 1947. At Rendlesham there were several witness reports of a UFO apparently landing. The released files should support or discount claims that radiation was detected at the site after the event.

David Clarke, a lecturer in journalism at Sheffield Hallam University and author of Flying Saucerers: A Social History of UFOlogy, said opening the MoD's files would make it harder to sustain the idea that evidence for the existence of aliens has been suppressed. "The more of this stuff that they put on their website or put in the national archives, the less it will cost the taxpayer, because at the moment people are writing in about individual incidents and they are having respond," said Dr Clarke, referring to requests under the Freedom of Information Act.

The documents due for release are witness reports of apparent UFO sightings, many by civil pilots and military personnel. Most were simply collected and filed by a small, secret unit within defence intelligence called DI55. A few are thought to have been investigated further by the military, but the details have never been made public. There are 24 files due for release, each containing 200-300 reports of sightings, plus internal MoD briefings and correspondence.

Client: Ministry of Defence
Source: The Independent (Main)
Date: 04 May 2007
Page: 32,33
Circulation: 255492
Area(cm²): 751

Is the truth really out there? At last, the MoD opens its files

Last week, Captain Ray Bower saw strange lights in the sky. Now he, and thousands of others, may be allowed to discover the cause. **By Robert Verkaik**

"Unidentified object seen. Bright, yellow, thin, stationary. Size of 737. Second object same shape seen behind first at some distance... It could have been as much as a mile wide."

Not the words of a local leaving the Dog and Duck at throwing out time, but the most recent report by a British pilot of a sighting of an unidentified flying object.

It was logged by Captain Ray Bower, a 50-year-old pilot of 22 years experience, who made the observation during a flight over the Channel Islands last week.

If the truth really is out there, then Britain's growing army of UFO hunters hope that Capt Bower's report and thousands of other sightings of cigar-shaped objects and strange flashing lights will eventually prove it.

Bombarded by requests to see the evidence, the Ministry of Defence is to release Britain's official documents of UFO sightings, so the public can judge for themselves whether we are being visited by alien life forms.

A spokeswoman for the MoD said: "We are receiving a lot of requests at the moment to see this information so we have decided to put the reports on our website. But to give this some sort of context we have only ever been interested in reports that have a defence perspective."

The decision will be a blow to Britain's conspiracy industry which has found the MoD's secrecy over UFO sightings compelling evidence of a cover-up. It was only recently that the MoD acknowledged that a government UFO unit, known as S4F (Air) or DI55, even existed.

Capt Bower's report will now be examined by MoD investigators who will try to establish whether what he saw posed any threat to national security.

According to his local newspaper, Capt Bower spotted a bright-yellow light 10 miles west of Alderney while his plane was about 30 miles from the island and at 4,000ft. "It was a very sharp, thin yellow object with a green area. It was 2,000ft up and stationary," he said. "I thought it was about 10 miles away, although I later realised it was approximately 40 miles from us. At first, I thought it was the size of a 737. But it must have been much bigger. It could have been as much as a mile wide."

As he continued his approach to Alderney, he saw a second object further to the west. "It was exactly the same but looked smaller because it was further away," he said. "It was closer to Guernsey. As I got closer to it, it became clear to me that it was tangible. I was in two minds about going towards it to have a closer look but decided against it because of the size of it. I had to think of the safety of the passengers first."

Capt Bower is not alone. Thousands of people have reported sightings to MoD. In 2004, the most recent documents available, the MoD's UFO unit received 88 reports.

But it is the dispassionate observations of pilots and military personnel which the MoD tends to take most seriously. Many of these reports have been transferred to the National Archives Office in Kew.

Britain's most famous

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Client: Ministry of Defence
Source: The Independent (Main)
Date: 04 May 2007
Page: 32,33
Circulation: 255492
Area(cm²): 751

UFO sighting was at Rendlesham Forest, near RAF Woodbridge, Suffolk, in 1980. The "Rendlesham File" concerns a sighting of a "glowing" triangular object by US Air Force police.

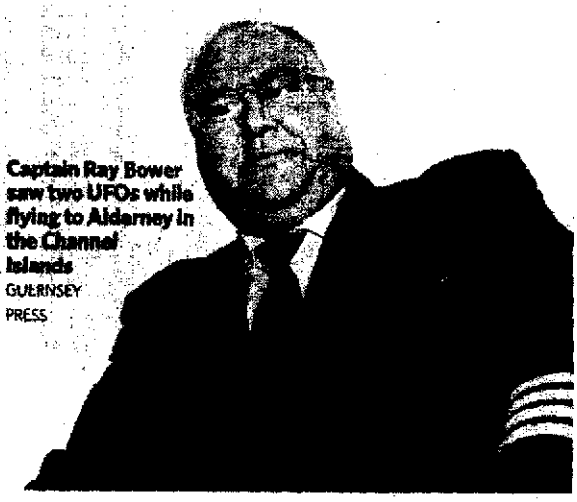
The documents had only previously been made available to about 20 people who used the American Freedom of Information Act to gain access to them.

The report says that in the early hours of 27 December 1980 a number of US Air Force men witnessed the object hover in the sky, transmitting blue pulsating lights and sending nearby farm animals into a "frenzy". In a report entitled "Unexplained Lights", USAF Lt Col Charles I Halt, the deputy base commander at RAF Bentwaters, adjacent to Woodbridge, told how he witnessed an object emitting a "red sun-like light" moving through the trees.

The MoD's response read: "No evidence was found of any threat to the defence of the United Kingdom, and no further investigations were carried out."

Twenty seven years later the MoD still remains to be convinced of the case for visits by alien life forms.

Capt Bower has also kept an opened mind about his experience. "I'm certainly not saying that it was something of another world," he said. "All I'm saying is that I have never seen anything like it before in all my years of flying."



Captain Ray Bower saw two UFOs while flying to Alderney in the Channel Islands
GUERNSEY PRESS

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Source: The Independent (Main)
Date: 04 May 2007
Page: 32,33
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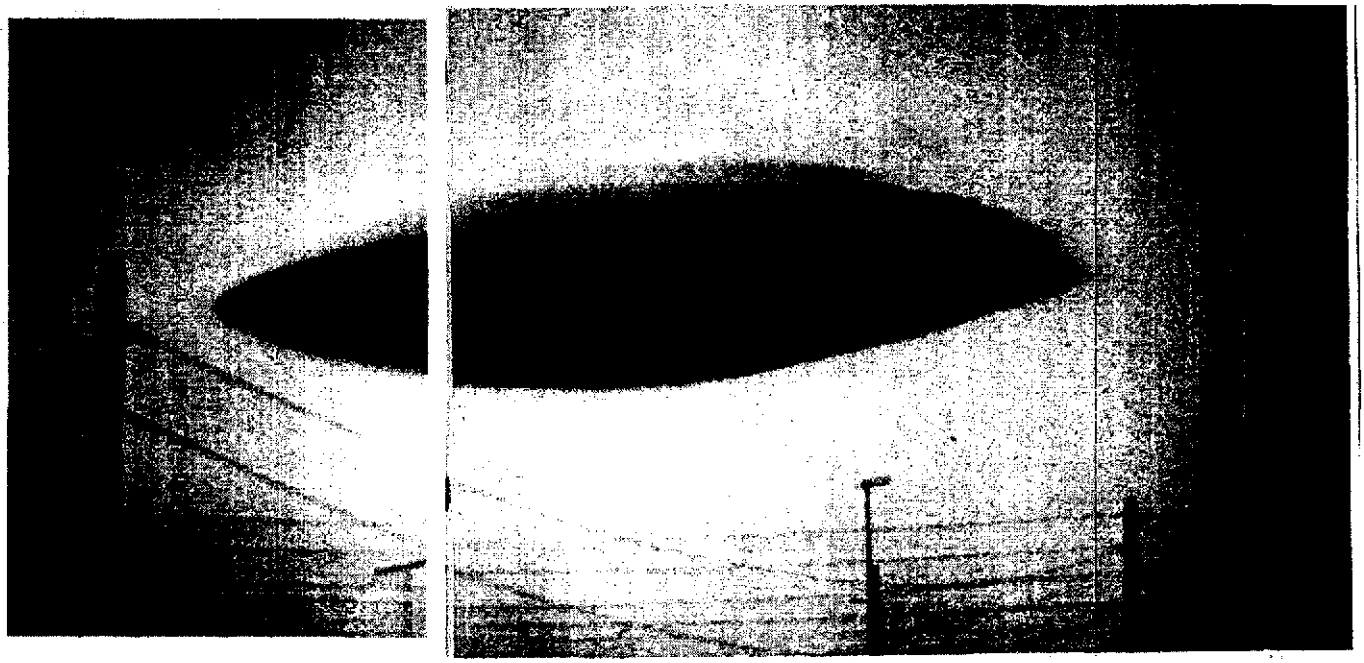
Area(cm²): 751



Britain's most notorious sightings

Devon, October 1967 Sgt Roger Willey and Pc Clifford Waycott were driving along a country lane when they were dazzled by bright white lights in the sky. There have been many theories, including spy ships sent by the Soviet Union.

Winchester, Hampshire, November 1976 Joyce Bowles and Ted Pratt claimed they were visited by aliens while driving on a country lane. They claim their car suddenly shook and then veered off the road into a grass verge. The car was subject to electrical interference as the engine roared. They spotted what appeared to be a cigar-shaped craft with three entities behind a window in the object. As they watched a bearded humanoid wearing a silver suit came out, walked to the car and looked in on the occupants. He then disappeared, and the couple were able to drive off.

Dechmont, West Lothian, November 1979 Bob Taylor's alleged encounter is the only recorded UK case officially investigated by police. Mr Taylor said he came across a large spherical object in a woodland clearing. He claimed two round objects with protruding metal spikes attached themselves to his trousers and began to drag him towards the UFO. The next thing he knew he was coming round lying face down on the grass. The police case is still open.

Rendlesham Forest, Suffolk, 1980 This incident concerned a sighting of a "glowing" triangular object by US Air Force police in Rendlesham Forest, near RAF Woodbridge. In the early hours of 27 December 1980 a number of US Air Force men saw the object hover in the darkness, pulsating with light and sending nearby farm animals into a "frenzy". The MoD's response was a top secret memo that dismissed the event in terms of a threat to national security.

Somewhere over southern England, 1994 The crew of an Air France flight from Nice to London saw a giant disk that seemed change shape and colour. After a minute or so it disappeared.

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Client: Ministry of Defence
Source: Daily Star (Main)
Date: 05 May 2007
Page: 18,19
Circulation: 783229
Area(cm²): 295

UFO reports to go on MoD website

BRIT X FILES OPEN AT LAST

by CAMERON MILL

THE Ministry of Defence is at last set to open its own X Files to the public.

The move promises to reveal the facts behind some of our most baffling UFO cases.

The files, to be released over the next two years, will reveal details of the thousands of reports of flying saucers over the UK since World War Two.

Fever

It means amateur alien-hunters will be able to follow in the footsteps of Fox Mulder and Dana Scully – played by David Duchovny, 46, and Gillian Anderson, 38, in cult TV show The X Files.

UFO fever was spectacularly re-ignited last week after Captain Ray Bower, 50, a respected pilot with 22 years of experience, saw a yellow UFO "up to a mile wide" over t Channel Islands.

And that case has n made the MoD decide release its files on pos ble alien encounte after staff were "bo barded" with requests information.

An MoD spokesm said: "We are receivin lot of requests to see t information, so we h decided to put the repo on our website.

"But to give this so sort of context, we h only ever been interes in reports that have defence perspective."

For decades, success governments tried keep secret the dedica UFO unit known as S (Air) or DI55.

Specialists from unit are now prob Capt Bower's sighting learn whether it co be a threat to natio security. It is one of thousands of UK sightings to be investigated. In 2004 alone, the unit received nearly 100 reports.

Britain's most famous UFO sighting happened in Rendlesham Forest, near RAF Woodbridge, Suffolk, in 1980.

US Air Force police reported a "glowing triangular" object.

Threat

The MoD response read: "No evidence was found of any threat to the defence of the UK, and no further investigations were carried out."

Even Capt Bower is keeping an open mind about what he saw off the coast of Alderney.

"I'm certainly not saying it was something of another world. All I'm saying is that I have never seen anything like it in all my years of flying."

Famous sightings

● **OCTOBER 1967, Devon:** Sgt Roger Willey and Pc Clifford Waycott were dazzled by bright white lights in the sky as they drove along a country lane. Conspiracy theorists believe they were spy rockets sent by the Soviet Union.
● **NOVEMBER 1976, Winchester, Hants:** Joyce Bowles and Ted Pratt claimed they were abducted as they drove in the countryside. The aliens – one bearded and dressed in a silver suit – arrived in a cigar-shaped craft.
● **NOVEMBER 1979, Dechmont, West Lothian:** Bob Taylor's reported encounter is the only UK case to be officially investigated by police. He found a large spherical object in a woodland clearing. Two objects with metal spikes locked on his trousers and pulled him towards the UFO. Next thing he remembers is waking up on the grass. The police file is still open.
● **DECEMBER 1980, Rendlesham Forest, Suffolk:** A "glowing triangular" object was spotted by US Air Force police. A number of men saw the object hover in the darkness, sending nearby farm animals into a "frenzy".
● **JANUARY 1994, southern England:** The crew of an Air France flight to Nice saw a giant disc which seemed to change shape and colour.

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Section 40

From: Section 40
Sent: 20 April 2007 15:41
To: Section 40
Subject: FW: DIS UFO INCIDENT FILES & DAS UFO FILES

From: Section 40
Sent: 20 April 2007 12:46
To: Section 40
Cc: Section 40
Subject: RE: DIS UFO INCIDENT FILES & DAS UFO FILES

Section 40

As you know we are very keen to place our files into the public domain as this is the only way to stop the continual stream of requests. In addition the report released last year concluded that there was no evidence that any UAP in UK air space were incursions from extra-terrestrial or foreign origin, no potential military technologies of interest were identified and there was no longer a requirement for the DIS to monitor UFO sighting reports. Thus we have nothing to hide, despite over enthusiastic past members of both our departments and we'll work with to ensure coherent release. Content that you take the lead in submissions to Ministers where necessary.

Regards

Section 40

From: Section 40
Sent: 19 April 2007 15:40
To: Section 40
Cc: Section 40
Subject: DIS UFO INCIDENT FILES & DAS UFO FILES

Section 40

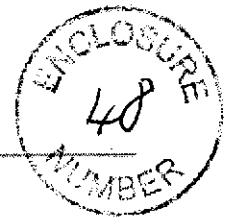
Further to our meeting on Tuesday we have discussed with DAS DD the implication of release of the UFO incident sighting reports and how we might best handle the likely (inevitable) requests for further information held in our files from researchers. As you are aware the DAS files contain considerably more information and correspondence on the reports of sightings, particularly direct reports from members of the public and associated correspondence than those police and military reports contained in your files. We have some 36 files covering sighting reports and 50 files of correspondence with members of the public and a further 23 files covering correspondence with researchers (eg Section 40 and Section 40). It would clearly be sensible for us to look to release all our files into the Publication Scheme (136 in total) concurrently with those you propose to release. There will inevitably be some duplication as the police and military reports were copied to both our branches but equally there may be some discrepancies where reports may have been lost. It would seem sensible that we take a joint approach to Ministers in seeking agreement to release of these files and I would be happy to take the lead in preparing the submission if you are content.

Regards,

Section 40

Section 40
DAS AD Sec

Section 40
DII: DAS-ADSec



Section 40

From: Section 40

Sent: 19 April 2007 15:40

To: Section 40

Cc: Section 40

Subject: DIS UFO INCIDENT FILES & DAS UFO FILES

Section 40

Further to our meeting on Tuesday we have discussed with DAS DD the implication of release of the UFO incident sighting reports and how we might best handle the likely (inevitable) requests for further information held in our files from researchers. As you are aware the DAS files contain considerably more information and correspondence on the reports of sightings, particularly direct reports from members of the public and associated correspondence than those police and military reports contained in your files. We have some 36 files covering sighting reports and 50 files of correspondence with members of the public and a further 23 files covering correspondence with researchers (eg Section 40 Section 40 would clearly be sensible for us to look to release all our files into the Publication Scheme (136 in total) concurrently with those you propose to release. There will inevitably be some duplication as the police and military reports were copied to both our branches but equally there may be some discrepancies where reports may have been lost. It would seem sensible that we take a joint approach to Ministers in seeking agreement to release of these files and I would be happy to take the lead in preparing the submission if you are content.

Regards,

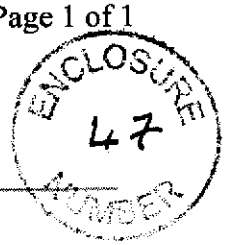
Section 40

Section 40

DAS AD Sec

Section 40

DII: DAS-ADSec



Section 40

From: Section 40

Sent: 28 March 2007 10:38

To: Section 40

Subject: Internet-Authorised: UFO REPORTS

Section 40

Further to our telephone conversation of 27 March 2007, I have checked on our policy files and spoken to my predecessor, but have been unable to find any formal instruction to the Home Office or Police to send UFO sightings to the Ministry of Defence.

It is possible that somewhere in our files there is a letter to the Home Office asking them to ensure the Police forward UFO reports to the MoD, but to discover it would simply be too costly in time and resources.

I can however, confirm that the practice of UFO reports being forwarded by the Police to the MoD is a longstanding one.

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

46

Section 40

From: Section 40
Sent: 23 March 2007 15:05
To: Section 40
Subject: FW: UFO
Importance: High

Section 40

Could you take a look at the email string below and advise Section 40 accordingly.

Section 40

Section 40
Info-Access-Pol 1
tel Section 40

From: Section 40
Sent: 23 March 2007 14:50
To: Section 40
Subject: UFO
Importance: High

Section 40

I have attached the 2nd request that Section 40 has made to the Home Office below. I have responded to him previously saying that the Home Office do not hold any information on the subject of UFOs, Flying Saucers etc and to contact the National Archives or check the Hansard website. He has mentioned of making several requests on this subjects to MOD.

I have checked with my colleagues and our database again and could find nothing on this subject. However Section 40 has raised the issue of any guidelines, policy or guidance from the Home Office to police forces on policy relating to the reporting and investigation of UFO reports made by police officers and members of the public.

Could you confirm if the MOD do issue the guidance to the police and if not then which department is responsible for that?

I would be grateful if you could respond to this email as soon as possible so I can respond to the enquirer quickly.

Thanks

Section 40 | Information Access Officer
Information & Record Management Services | Home Office IT Directorate
4 Floor | Seacole Building | 2 Marsham Street | SW1P 4DF
Tel: Section 40

www.homeoffice.gov.uk

Dear Section 40

Thankyou for your email dated 9 February in response to my FOI to Home Office regarding records on 'UFOs' & aerial phenomena.

With reference to my request for records of Home Office responses to PQs on this and related material (i.e. 'the Rendlesham Forest incident'), thankyou for searching your records.

However, I suspect the reason you were unable to locate any information on this topic is because the PQ folders/Hansard material does not necessarily specify 'UFOs' or 'Rendlesham forest incident' in their titles.

Four specific written Parliamentary Questions dealt with by the Home Office (two made in Lords, one in Commons) are:

*Hansard (House of Lords) 23 January 1997: PQ by Lord Hill-Norton re alleged evacuation of Blundeston Prison & Holloway Bay Youth Correction Centre on date of 'Rendlesham Incident.' - with a follow-up PQ on 26 January, answered by Home Office minister

*Hansard (Lords): 23 October 1997: PQ by Lord Hill Norton, 'Highpoint Prison' title) re alleged evacuation of prison on date of Rendlesham incident. Answered by Lord Williams of Mostyn (Home Office)

*House of Commons (Written Answer): 30 March 1998, 'Low Flying' (title) PQ by Helen Jackson MP (Sheffield Hillsborough) relating to low flying incident investigated by South Yorkshire Police. Answered by Mr Michael (Home office).

I would like to make these four PQs the subject of a FOI request - by which I wish to request copies of background briefing papers, or any correspondence or other papers relating to or used to answer these PQs.

I note what you say in your email regarding the 'small handful of files' that are retained by the Home Office. However, I find it difficult to believe that folders dealing with answers to Parliamentary Questions such as these are not retained, as they would need to be referred to by civil servants who may be asked to respond to similar or related questions in the future.

I would also like to question the "no information" response I received with reference to my earlier FOI question on advice given to serving police officers with regards to the reporting procedure for UFO sightings.

It is my understanding that police officers follow a specific reporting procedure if they wish to file a report on aerial phenomena they have observed. In that case there must be existing information relating to those guidelines.

If this specific information is not held centrally by Home Office could you advise on who may be responsible for implementing this guidance? (for example ACPO).

I look forward to receiving your response to this fresh FOI request.

Yours Faithfully,

Section 40

[redacted]

****
This email and any files transmitted with it are private and intended
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it came from telling them it is not for you and then delete it from your system.

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****

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The MessageLabs Anti Virus Service is the first managed service to achieve the CSIA Claims Tested Mark (CCTM Certificate Number 2006/04/0007), the UK Government quality mark initiative for information security products and services. For more information about this please visit www.cctmark.gov.uk

Section 40 [redacted]

From: Section 40 [redacted]
Sent: 19 January 2007 16:04
To: Section 40 [redacted]
Cc: DAS-UFO-Office
Subject: MOD File On Crop Circles

Dear Section 40

I've been contacted by a UFO researcher, Section 40 [redacted] who tells me that he's made an application under the FOIA for any documents the MOD has on the crop circle phenomenon, but says MOD are having trouble locating the material requested.

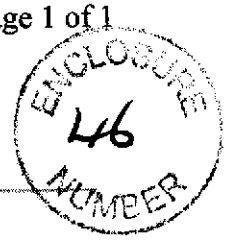
I'm virtually certain I opened a discrete file on the subject, which would have been in the 12 series. From memory, it was probably either 12/5 or 12/6. As I recall, this contained some internal correspondence between me and staff in DI55, external correspondence with members of the public, together with various magazines and photographs which may have been in the file or may have been stored separately in one of the cabinets.

I'm not sure of the exact scope of Section 40 [redacted]quest (or other FOIA requests on crop circles), but there are some other papers relating to crop circles, assuming they've not been destroyed. There were four PQs from July and October 1989. Two went to MOD, one to MAFF and one to the Home Office, but I'd be surprised if MOD didn't get copied the correspondence on the two handled elsewhere. Additionally, there are some papers relating to a farmer's complaint in 1985 that crop circles on his land might be caused by military helicopter activity. This was investigated by a Lt Col Section 40 [redacted] at Middle Wallop and documents relating to this were subsequently sent to DS8/Sec(AS). There may be other material (though I can't recall anything on Operation Blackbird!) but that's all I can remember.

I hope this is helpful and assists you in responding to the various FOIA requests. Please let me know if you need any further information.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40 [redacted]



Section 40 [redacted]

From: Section 40 [redacted]
Sent: 15 February 2007 12:43
To: Section 40 [redacted]
Subject: REQUEST FOR COMMENT ON REDACTIONS

Section 40 [redacted]

As requested, I have had a look at the documents that you sent over. Generally OK but I do have a number of points.

1. e-mail dated 16 December 2005 – very end you should redact Section 40 as it's a room number.
2. e-mail dated 20 February 2006 – I have no idea what the phrases Horizon Geometry and Special tasks mean. Therefore cannot comment. No reason to withhold Section 40 [redacted] rank.
3. Loose minute dated 22 Nov 2005 - redact Section 40 from the signature block as it's a room number. I can see no reason to redact text from paras 2 and 3 (other than Section 40 [redacted] name). With para 2 it might be an idea to check with CT&UK Ops to see if they have a problem with it.
4. Loose minute dated 26 April 2006 – No problems
5. E-mail dated 31 March 2006 – No problem
6. E-mail dated 9 March 2006 – I can see no reason to withhold Section 40 [redacted] rank.
7. Letter dated 28 April 2006 – No problem
8. E-mail dated 28 April 2006 – No problem.

That should be all the documents you sent me. If not, let me know!

Happy top discuss in more detail if you wish.

Section 40 [redacted]
DAS-FOI
Section 40 [redacted]

Section 40 [redacted]

From: Section 40 [redacted]
Sent: 12 February 2007 11:22
To: Section 40 [redacted]
Subject: Section 40 [redacted] FOI REQUEST - UAP REPORT DOCUMENTS
Attachments: DAS-DIS Email 16Dec05 re FOI Request.htm; DAS Email 28Apr06 re Publication Scheme.htm; DAS Email 31Mar06 re UAP Report redactions.htm; DAS Email re CT&UK Ops redactions-9Mar06.htm; DAS Email re CT&UK Ops redactions-20Feb06.htm; DAS LM to DIS 22Nov05 re Section 40 [redacted]equest for information.doc; DAS MINISTERIAL SUB - UAP Report - 26Apr06.doc; DAS Release Letter to Section 40 [redacted]28Apr06.doc; DAS-DIS Email 16 Dec05 - redacted.txt; DAS Email 20Feb06 - UAP Report redactions - redacted.txt; DAS Email 28Apr06 - Publication Scheme - redacted.txt; DAS email re CT&UK Ops Report redactions - redacted.txt; DAS Email UAP Report redaction comments - 31 March 06-redacted.txt; DAS Letter of Release - UAP Report - Redacted.doc; DAS LM to DIS November 2005 - REDACTED.doc; DAS MINISTERIAL submission - redacted.doc

Section 40

As discussed, Section 40 [redacted] has sent us an FOI request in which he asks for all documents relating to the release of the UAP Report. We have been back to him to clarify and refine the request and it has now been narrowed down to the attached documents – 8 of which were originated by DAS.

Attached you will find copies of the original documents and copies of the proposed redacted versions. I would be grateful if you could have a look at the redacted versions and let me have any comments you may have on the redactions and whether you are in agreement with them or consider more information needs to be redacted or whether any of the redactions are not required.

Please give me a call if you wish to discuss. A reply by the end of the week would be appreciated.

Thanks and apologises !!!

Section 40 [redacted]
DI CSD Sec 3
Section 40 [redacted]

From: Section 40
Sent: 28 April 2006 14:29
To: Section 40
Cc:
Subject: Publication Scheme

Attachments: 20060428 U Publication Scheme introduction to release of the UAP Report.doc; 20060625 U Letter to Section 40 - UAP Report - Disclosure Log version.doc

Section 40

The large Unidentified Aerial Phenomena in the UK Air Defence Region report has now been released to the two FOI requesters. 3 of the 4 volumes have been put on CD. Section 40 DAS-PS who is scanning the final volume has been away sick, but has returned today. She hopes to get it done today and if she does I will bring the CDs up to you. I am on leave next week, so if she does not get it done today, I have asked Section 40 Section 40 DAS-FOI1) to bring all the discs to you asap.

Please see attached a statement regarding what the report is and why we are releasing it. I would be grateful if this could somehow be seen at the front of the report on the PS.

I also attach a copy of the letter sent to Section 40 with his address and the name of the other requester removed, for the Disclosure Log.
Section 40 has specifically asked for his name to be left on the letter and has given his consent (in writing) for the release of this personal data. Please insure that neither his letter or the Report appear in the Publication Scheme or on the Disclosure Log until Monday 15th May 2006.

Section 40

If you have any comments or amendments to the statement mentioned above please make Section 40 aware before it goes on the Publication Scheme.

I will be back in office on Wednesday 10th May 2006.

Regards

Section 40
DAS-FOI

DAS Email 28Apr06 - Publication Scheme - redacted

From: XXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
S.40
Sent: 28 April 2006 14:29
To: XXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
S.40
Cc: XXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
S.40
Subject: Publication Scheme

Attachments: 20060428 U Publication Scheme introduction to release of the UAP Report.doc; 20060625 U Letter to XXXXXXXX - UAP Report - Disclosure Log
S.40
version.doc

XXXXX
S.40

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S.40
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S.40
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XXXXXXXX has specifically asked for his name to be left on the letter and has
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S.40

I will be back in office on Wednesday 10th May 2006.

Regards
XXXXXXX
S.40
DAS-FOI

From: XXXXXXXXXX s.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 xxxx s.40
(Switchboard) 020 7218 9000
(Fax) 020 7218 xxxx s.40
e-mail das-ufo-office@mod.uk

XXXXXXXXXXXX
XXXXXXXXXXXXX
XXXXXXXX s.40
XXXXXXXX
XXXXXXX

Our Reference
26-09-2005-091240-001

Date
28 April 2006

Dear XXXXXXXXXX s.40

Please find enclosed a copy of the report entitled *Unidentified Aerial Phenomena in the UK Air Defence Region* written in December 2000 as you requested on 1 September 2005, in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000. I apologise for the length of time this request has taken, but the meticulous scrutiny this document has received has enabled us to release the vast majority of the report and I hope you will be pleased with the final result.

The report consists of 465 pages divided into four parts, three Volumes and an Executive Summary. While we have endeavoured to release as much information as possible, it has been necessary to remove some information and where this is the case the appropriate Section of the Freedom of Information Act has been indicated beside the redaction. The Sections and the reasons for their use are given below. Sections 26, and 27 are qualified exemptions and in accordance with the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act we have looked at the balance of public interest for and against disclosure for each Section. Details of the public interest test and our conclusions are also detailed below.

Section 26 (Defence) – This information consists of details of the operation and performance of UK Air Defence radar. In favour of disclosing this information is the public interest in promoting understanding of the RAF's ability to detect and effectively respond to potential threats in UK airspace. It is important to recognise public anxiety with regard to possible attacks on the UK, particularly from acts of terrorism and the need to reassure the public that everything possible is being done to protect them. However, this public interest has already been served to a considerable extent by the publication of the Sixth Report of the House of Commons Defence Committee in 2002. In the report the Committee outline the measures the Government takes to protect the public from terrorist activity including threats from the air.

Against the limited public interest in disclosure, is a countervailing public interest which favours withholding the information in order to preserve the effectiveness of the UK's air defences. The release of this information could be of significant value to the planning of an attack on the UK, including from terrorism. There is therefore a strong public interest in preserving the RAF's ability to defend the British mainland through the effectiveness of its air defences. and we therefore conclude that the balance of the public interest is firmly in favour of withholding the information in accordance with Section 26(1)(a) & (b).

Section 27 (International Relations) – This information consists of information about or supplied by another nation. In favour of disclosing this information is the public interest in understanding the exchange of information between the UK and other nations.

Against the public interest is the need to maintain the UK's ability to effectively share and receive information from our allies, concerning issues of mutual benefit, with a degree of confidentiality. The release of this information is, likely to prejudice the future exchange of such information and may also damage the UK's relationship with that nation. We therefore conclude that the balance of public interest is in favour of withholding this information in accordance with Section 27(1)(a) & (3).

Section 40 (Personal Information) – This information contains personal data about the author of the report and members of the public who have reported UFO sightings. This information is exempt under Section 40 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and is covered by the Data Protection Act 1998. Section 40 is an absolute exemption and therefore requires no public interest test.

You will also notice that some minor details have been removed because they are not relevant to your request. These consists of office addresses, telephone numbers and unique job titles. This information is not relevant to the contents of the report and we believe its removal does not prejudice the understanding of the report. The titles of significant branches such as DI55 and Sec(AS)2a have not been removed.

I hope you will find this useful. If you are dissatisfied with our decision to refuse this information 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. (e-mail: Info-XD@mod.uk).

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 normally 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.

I should also inform you that the information supplied to you continues to be protected by the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988. You are free to use it for your own purposes, including any non-commercial research you are doing and for the purposes of news reporting. Any other reuse, for example commercial publication, would require the permission of the copyright holder. Most documents supplied by the Ministry of Defence will have been produced by government officials and will be Crown Copyright. You can find details on the arrangements for re-using Crown Copyright from the Office of Public Sector Information at: http://www.opsi.gov.uk/click-use/index.htm. Information you receive which is not subject to Crown Copyright continues to be protected by the copyright of the person, or organisations, from which the information originated. You must ensure that you gain their permission before reproducing any third party (non Crown Copyright) information. If you intend to use this information for commercial publication or are unsure whether permission is required, please write to the following address for advice:

Section 40 [redacted]
Intellectual Property Rights Group – Policy
MOD Abbey Wood
Stoke Gifford
Bristol
BS34 8JH

We appreciate that this document is likely to be of interest to a wider public audience and it is our intention to place an electronic version in the Freedom of Information Publication Scheme on the MOD website (www.mod.uk). We have taken into account your request to have time to read and digest the report before it is made available in the Publication Scheme and have agreed to allow you and **xxxxx** a short period of exclusive sight of the report. The report will be available for **s.40** viewing in the Publication Scheme from Monday 15th May 2006.

Yours sincerely,

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

Sheffield
Section 40

Our Reference
26-09-2005-091240-001

Date
28 April 2006

Dear Section 40

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MOD Abbey Wood
Stoke Gifford
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BS34 8JH

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Yours sincerely,

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

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

I am very happy for you to continue to correspond with Section 40 as DAS are the policy lead and you have established a relationship already. It's best that he has one POC in MOD!

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

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

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

Have a good (UFO-free) Christmas!
Section 40

Section 40
DI BCR CG AD
Section 40

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

Dear Section 40

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

All of the information Section 40 has asked for in this request is DIS material and not held by DAS. However, Section 40 has been corresponding with me about UFOs almost continuously for over 5 years and we have released a lot of information to him. In order to stop him starting a similar long chain of correspondence with yourselves and so I can keep track of what information he has been given I thought it best that your response comes through me rather than directly to him. If you would prefer to correspond directly with him, please let me know. Otherwise I believe that you are best placed to decide on what can be released from these documents (with the input of any other parties as you see fit) and the use of any exemptions. You would then need to redact any information which is to be withheld. As the FOIA is an entitlement to information not documents it would be acceptable to provide a digest of releasable information but given the number of documents involved it may be more practical to provide copies (redacted where necessary). I would then be happy to draft a response to Section 40 (and the other applicant who is interested in these papers) which of course I will clear with you. I will give some thought to press lines, although until we know exactly what will be released (or withheld) I will not know what to cover. Maybe we can discuss this immediately prior to the release of the information. I think at the very least we should inform both our heads of branch and DG Info-AccessAD about the release. We do not get many PQs on UFOs these days, but it may be worth informing US of S just in case. I will discuss this with my AD, Section 40 In the meantime, I will send the two

applicants a holding letter.

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

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

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

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

Regards

Section 40
DAS-FOI

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

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

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

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

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

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

Section 40
DI BCR CG AD
Section 40

From: Section 40
Sent: 24 November 2005 12:52
To Section 40

Subject: FW: FOI Request Section 40
Importance: High

Section 40
Can we have a chat about this.

Section 40

From: Section 40
Sent: 22 November 2005 15:29
To: Section 40
Cc: Section 40
Subject: FOI Request - Section 40
Importance: High

Section 40

Please see attached.

Section 40
DAS-FOI
Section 40 should delete.

From: XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
S.40
Sent: 16 December 2005 11:50
To: XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
S.40
Cc: XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
S.40
Subject: RE: FOI Request - XXXXXXXXXXX
S.40

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

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

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DI BCR CG AD
WHXXXXX XXXXXXMB
S.40

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S.40
DAS-FOI

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S.40
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S.40
Cc: XXXXXXXXXXXXXX
S.40
Subject: FW: FOI Request - XXXXXXXXXXXXXX
S.40

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S.40
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S.40
DI BCR CG3, rather than directly to XXXX?
S.40

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

In addition, as you acknowledge in your minute, this report is likely to receive

substantial press coverage, and we need to plan more carefully how it will be handled. We (all) need to be thinking of press lines. Should we consider advising Ministers and senior staff?

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

I would be grateful for your views on the division of labour as DAS lead on UFOs

but we are the experts with the information. Perhaps a meeting in the New Year to discuss the way ahead would be useful.

XXXXXXXXXXX
S.40
DI BCR CG AD
WHXXXX XXXXXMB
S.40

DAS-DIS Email 16 Dec05 - redacted

From: XXXXXXXXXXXXX
S.40
Sent: 24 November 2005 12:52
To: XXXXXXXXXXXXX
S.40
Subject: FW: FOI Request - XXXXXXXXXX
S.40
Importance: High

XXXXXXX,
S.40
Can we have a chat about this.

XXXX
S.40

From: XXXXXXXXXXXX
S.40
Sent: 22 November 2005 15:29
To: XXXXXXXXXXXX
S.40
Cc: XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
S.40
Subject: FOI Request - XXXXXXXXXXXXXX
S.40
Importance: High

XXXX
S.40

Please see attached.
XXXXXXX
S.40
DAS-FOI
Section 40
MBXXXXX
S.40

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

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

Page 2 Para 5 Remove the first line.
Para 6 Remove the whole paragraph.
Para 7 Remove the whole paragraph
Para 8 Remove the whole paragraph

Page 3 Para 7 Remove the last sentence

Page 6 Para 24 Remove the whole paragraph

Page 8 Para 27 *Horizon Geometry* Remove the whole paragraph

Page 9 Para 28 Remove paragraph to line nine *special tasks.*

Pages 10 - 11 Remove the whole page.

Pages 13 – 17 Remove the whole page

Page 14 Remove the whole page.

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

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

I hope this helps.

Section 40
DAS-FOI
Section 40 [redacted]

DAS Email 20Feb06 - UAP Report redactions - redacted

From: XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
S.40
Sent: 20 February 2006 14:42
To: XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
S.40
Subject: UAP Report

XXXXXXX
S.40

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

Page 2	Para 5	Remove the first line.
	Para 6	Remove the whole paragraph.
	Para 7	Remove the whole paragraph
	Para 8	Remove the whole paragraph
Page 3	Para 7	Remove the last sentence
Page 6	Para 24	Remove the whole paragraph
Page 8	Para 27	XXXXXXXXXXXXXXX Remove the whole paragraph
S.26		
Page 9	Para 28	Remove paragraph to line nine XXXXXXXXXXXXX.
S.26		
Pages 10 - 11		Remove the whole page.
Pages 13 - 17		Remove the whole page
Page 14		Remove the whole page.

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I hope this helps.
XXXXXXX
S.40
DAS-FOI
Section 40
MXXXXX
S.40

From: Section 40 [redacted]
Sent: 09 March 2006 12:42
To: Section 40 [redacted]
Subject: UAP Report

Attachments: UAP Report Redaction.doc

Section 40 [redacted]

Please find attached details of the results of my consultation with Wing Commander Section 40 [redacted] (DCT&UKOps-SOI Airspace Integrity) regarding the radar information we identified at the meeting. I have only included those where he has indicated information that should be removed. I hope this helps with your redaction of the report. If you spot anything else while you are going through it, please let me know and I will check it with Section 40

Regards

Section 40
DAS-FOI
Section 40 [redacted]

DAS email re CTUK Ops Report redactions - redacted

From: XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
s.40
Sent: 09 March 2006 12:42
To: XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
s.40
Subject: UAP Report

Attachments: UAP Report Redaction.doc

XXXXXXX
s.40

Please find attached details of the results of my consultation with XXXXXXXXX
s.40
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXX (DCT&UKOps-SO1 Airspace Integrity) regarding the radar
s.40
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s.40

Regards

XXXXXXXX
s.40
DAS-FOI
Section 40

From: Section 40 [redacted]
Sent: 31 March 2006 16:20
To: Section 40 [redacted]
Subject: UAP Report

Section 40

I have read through the report and have the following comments:

Volume 1
Page vi - Should we remove number 9 from the index?
Chapter 1, page 2, para's 2 and 5 - It is ok to leave the a in Air Staff 2a. This was a section within Sec(AS), not a person and is widely known by the public already.
Chapter 3, page 14, para 33 – Is it already publicly known that we have nuclear assets at Faslane, Aldermaston, Capenhurst?
Chapter 4, page 1, para 1, line 8 – Should we mention black programmes?
Chapter 5, page 1, para 5, line 3 – "Following the Russian experiences, it would be …….". This presumably refers to a particular incident in Russia. Is this common knowledge?
Chapter 5, page 4-5, para 16 – I assume the remark about the "inappropriate statement …..issued by another Department" is referring to Sec(AS). I am not sure Sec(AS) were even aware that this study had been conducted (they were not on the distribution when the report was sent out). While I don't suppose we can remove this remark, we might have to field some awkward questions about this.
Page B-3 – Attn for Sec(AS)2a - the a can be put back in.

Volume 3
Page 2, para 9, line 5 – It may be a good idea to remove Section 27 [redacted] as this may lead some to be able to guess which country has been removed.
Chapter 2, page 6, para 24 – The 2a can be put back in Sec(AS)2a.

I am happy to speak when you are ready.

Regards

Section 40
DAS-FOI

DAS Email UAP Report redaction comments - 31 March 06-redacted

From: XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX s.40
Sent: 31 March 2006 16:20
To: XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX s.40
Subject: UAP Report

XXXXXX s.40

I have read through the report and have the following comments:

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removed.
Chapter 2, page 6, para 24 - The 2a can be put back in Sec(AS)2a.

I am happy to speak when you are ready.

Regards
XXXXXXX s.40
DAS-FOI

LOOSE MINUTE

D/DAS/64/3/11

22 November 2005

DIST-GM OMS AD

Copy to: DI BCR CG2
DAS- Sec AD

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST – Section 40 [redacted]

1) I am writing concerning Section 40 Freedom of Information request for a copy of the report produced by DIS in December 2000 entitled "Unidentified Aerial Phenomena in the UK Air Defence Region", Volumes 1, 2 and 3 and the Executive Summary. I have now read the Executive Summary which you proposed to release ahead of the Volumes and while I do not profess to understand the technical or scientific information, I have the following comments for your consideration.

2) The summary contains references to what can and can not be seen on UK Air Defence Radar and discusses Section 26 [redacted] Section 26 [redacted]. I think we should therefore show the Summary (and relevant parts of the report) to Wing Commander Section 40 [redacted] CT and UK Ops - Airspace Integrity for an opinion on how sensitive this is now. I note UKADGE 1 (predecessor to CT&UK Ops) was on the original distribution of these documents, so it is possible that they also have a copy on their files.

3) There are references to flight safety aspects [redacted] Section 26 [redacted] The fatal Mull of Kintyre Chinook accident in 1994 in which the pilots were found grossly negligent is still topical and DAS continue to receive FOI requests and correspondence from those campaigning to clear the pilots names. I believe at one time the possibility of a UFO in the area was suggested by some of the campaigners as a possible cause.

4) The summary also contains reference to plasma formations / technologies and "exotic technologies". You may recall when releasing the DIS letter dated 4 December 2000 (D/DIST/11/10) in response to Section 40 [redacted] earlier request we removed paragraph 3 as not relevant to the request. The main concern was that it mentioned that plasma formations have potential applications to novel weapons technology which you thought might still be sensitive and as it did not directly relate to Section 40 [redacted] request at the time, it was removed. Section 40 [redacted] has asked us to reconsider the withholding of this paragraph and it seems pointless to continue to withhold it if we are going to release this information in the Executive Summary.

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

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

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

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

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

9) I hope this is helpful Section 40 and the other FOI applicant awaiting these papers, have been waiting for these documents for some time, so if possible I would like to get some news to them by the end of this week. Please give me a call if you need to discuss further.

Section 40

DAS-FOI

Section 40

LOOSE MINUTE

D/DAS/64/3/11

22 November 2005

DIST-GM OMS AD

Copy to: DI BCR CG2
DAS- Sec AD

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST – XXXXXXXXXXXXXXX **s.40**

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2) The summary contains references to what can and can not be seen on UK Air Defence Radar and discusses **xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx** **s.26** **xxxxxxx**. I think we should therefore show the Summary (and relevant parts of the report) **s.26** to **xxxxxxxxxxxxxx**, CT and UK Ops – Airspace Integrity for an opinion on how sensitive **s.40** this is now. I note UKADGE 1 (predecessor to CT&UK Ops) was on the original distribution of these documents, so it is possible that they also have a copy on their files.

3) There are references to flight safety aspects **xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx** **s.26**
xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx **s.26**
xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx **s.26**
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xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx **s.26**
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4) The summary also contains reference to plasma formations / technologies and "exotic technologies". You may recall when releasing the DIS letter dated 4 December 2000 (D/DIST/11/10) in response to **xxxxxxxx** earlier request we removed paragraph 3 as not **s.40** relevant to the request. The main concern was that it mentioned that plasma formations have potential applications to novel weapons technology which you thought might still be sensitive and as it did not directly relate to **xxxxxx** request at the time, it was removed. **xxxxxx** has **s.40** asked us to reconsider the withholding of this paragraph and it seems pointless to continue to withhold it if we are going to release this information in the Executive Summary.

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XXXXXXXXX **s.40**
DAS-FOI
Section 40

s.40

D/DAS/63/3/11

26 April 2006

PS/US of S

Copy to :**DAS-XO**
DI BCR CG AD
DCT&UKOps – SOI Airspace Integrity
DGMC-D News- Armed Forces 4
Info-AccessOpsAD

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT – RELEASE OF DIS REPORT ON UNIDENTIFIED AERIAL PHENOMENA (UAP) IN THE UK AIR DEFENCE REGION

ISSUE
1. The release of a DIS-commissioned study into Unidentified Aerial Phenomena in the UK Air Defence Region in response to a request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

RECOMMENDATION
2. Minister to note the release of a document that is likely to attract media and public attention.

TIMING
3. Urgent. The report is to be released into the public domain on 28 April 2006 and will be revealed in the MOD Freedom of Information Publication Scheme on 15th May 2006.

BACKGROUND
4. Since the introduction of the FOIA on 1 January 2005, the Directorate of Air Staff, as the lead branch, has received a large number of requests for information on reported 'UFO' sightings in UK air space. Several documents have been released in response to these requests, one of which referred to a DIS study entitled 'Unidentified Aerial Phenomena in the UK Air Defence Region'. DAS have now received requests from two members of the public (one of which is an academic researcher) requesting copies of this study report.

5. The study was commissioned by DIST to ascertain whether there was any evidence of a threat to UK air space from Unidentified Aerial Phenomena. DI55 regularly received copies of UAP sighting reports and had formed the view that none of them presented any threat to UK airspace. Neither had any of the reports indicated any potential new technologies which may have been of defence interest. DI55 therefore were of the view that they had no need to receive these reports, but in order to establish whether UFO reports had any value to Defence Intelligence and whether there was a requirement for

Defence Intelligence Staff to see them in the future, they decided to commission a study into the reports that had been received. The study was carried out during the period December 1996 to March 2000 by a contractor, Section 40 [redacted] who was employed in DIST and the report was completed in December 2000. Although this was only one of several tasks in which the contractor was engaged, he produced a very comprehensive report (three volumes and an Executive Summary). The conclusion was that there was no evidence of threats to UK airspace and no new technologies which may have been of defence interest. Most aerial phenomena could be easily explained. It was then decided that DI55 would cease to receive UAP sighting reports. Since December 2000, these reports have not been forwarded to DIS.

6. It is understood that this is the most detailed study that has been undertaken by the Ministry of Defence into unidentified aerial phenomena in UK air space. As it is a unique report and in view of the continuing high profile of the 'UFO' phenomenon, it is expected that the release of the report into the public domain will create media and public interest.

7. The contractor wrote the first two volumes of the report with a view to their release, but the third volume was classified SECRET UK Eyes Only because it contained sensitive information concerning the UK Air Defence Region. The report has been scrutinised by the subject matter experts in DIST, DI BCR, CT&UK Ops and DAS and it is considered that the report can be downgraded to UNCLASSIFIED. However, several sections of the report have been withheld in accordance with Sections of the FOIA. These are as follows;

S.26 - Defence – Information which may be likely to compromise the defence of the British Isles.

S.27 - International Relations – Information which would prejudice relations with other States.

S.40 – Personal Information – Personal data were living individuals can be identified from the information. Also covered by the Data Protection Act 1998.

8. The information withheld relates to UK air defence radar performance, UAP studies in other countries, potential military use of UAPs and personal details of the report's author and contributors and members of the public who have submitted 'sighting' reports. It should also be noted that the report contains reference to unexplained RAF aircraft accidents and although some information has been withheld, it has been determined that under the FOIA, there are no justifiable grounds to withhold the information in total. This section is also likely to attract media and public interest.

PRESENTATIONAL ISSUES

9. In anticipation of the expected reaction of the release of the report, suitable press lines have been prepared and these are attached for attention of the MOD Press Office.

10. The report is to be released to the requesters in hard copy but, in view of the anticipated level of interest and number of new requests for copies, the report has been scanned and will be posted on the MOD Freedom of Information website on the 15th May, where it can be viewed and downloaded by the general public.

Section 40

DAS–FOI

Section 40

Authorised by:

Section 40

DAS-Sec AD

Section 40

D/DAS/63/3/11

26 April 2006

PS/US of S

Copy to :**DAS-XO**
DI BCR CG AD
DCT&UKOps – SOI Airspace Integrity
DGMC-D News- Armed Forces 4
Info-AccessOpsAD

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT – RELEASE OF DIS REPORT ON UNIDENTIFIED AERIAL PHENOMENA (UAP) IN THE UK AIR DEFENCE REGION

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XXXXXXXXX **s.40**
DAS–FOI
XXXXX XXXXXMB **s.40**

Authorised by:
XXXXXXXXX **s.40**
DAS-Sec AD
XXXXX XXXXXXMB **s.40**

Section 40

From: Section 40
Sent: 05 April 2005 15:01
To: Section 40
Subject: UFO Files

Hi Section 40

We need to touch base re: the UFO material for the publication scheme. How are things progressing – perhaps there is a way we can help?

Section 40

ENCLOSURE 43 NUMBER

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) Section 40
(Switchboard) 020 7218 9000
(Fax) Section 40
(GTN)

CHOts DAS-FOI
E-Mail Section 40

Section 40
TNT Archive Services
Bourne Avenue
Hayes
Middlesex
UB3 1RF

Your Reference

Our Reference
D/DAS/64/1
Date
30 November 2004

Dear Section 40

You may recall that during our telephone conversation on the 25th November concerning difficulties we have experienced with the retrieval of our files from the TNT archive, you suggested that I sent you a list of the files that we will need to access for release into the public domain so that you can insure that they can be located when we need them. This is attached at Annex A to this letter. We do not need all these files immediately, (we will request each batch as we need them) but the list has been compiled in the order in which we will require them. According to our records, all of these files should be held in the TNT archive at Hayes.

It may help you to understand why it is so important that we can retrieve these files quickly if I explain that the subject of 'unidentified flying objects' is of great interest to the general public. We currently receive a large number enquiries and requests for information from these files, and we fully expect this to increase with the introduction of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 on 1 January 2005. We have included some classes of information on UFOs in the Ministry of Defence Freedom of Information Publication Scheme on the internet and these have attracted more hits than the other 110 classes of information in the Scheme put together. In order to lessen the burden on this department with handling lots of enquiries under the FOI Act, we have decided that we will release as much information as we can into the Publication Scheme. The Information Commissioner has been advised of this and we are currently seeking his approval for two new classes of information for each year starting in 1985. The Secretary of State has also been informed that this information will be released in the near future.

I hope that you will appreciate that in order for this exercise to work it is essential that we are able to retrieve the files from the TNT archive within days of requesting them, and do not continually experience the seven week delay which we had with one of the files from the first batch. I trust this list will assist you, but if you have any problems locating any of these files, please let me know.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

FILE NUMBER	FILE TITLE	APPROXIMATE YEAR OF CONTENTS
D/Sec(AS)12/2 Part C	UFO Reports	1986
D/Sec(AS)12/3 Part B	UFO Correspondence	1986
D/Sec(AS)12/2 Part D	UFO Reports	1987
D/Sec(AS)12/3 Part C	UFO Correspondence	1987
D/Sec(AS)12/2 Part E	UFO Reports	1988
D/Sec(AS)12/2 Part F	UFO Reports	1988
D/Sec(AS)12/3 Part D	UFO Correspondence	1988
D/Sec(AS)12/2 Part G	UFO Reports	1989
D/Sec(AS)12/2 Part H	UFO Reports	1989
D/Sec(AS)12/3 Part E	UFO Correspondence	1989
D/Sec(AS)12/3 Part F	UFO Correspondence	1989
D/Sec(AS)12/3 Part G	UFO Correspondence	1989
D/Sec(AS)12/2 Part I	UFO Reports	1990
D/Sec(AS)12/2 Part J	UFO Reports	1990
D/Sec(AS)12/2 Part K	UFO Reports	1991
D/Sec(AS)12/3 Part I	UFO Correspondence	1991
D/Sec(AS)12/2 Part L	UFO Reports	1992
D/Sec(AS)12/3 Part J	UFO Correspondence	1992
D/Sec(AS)12/3 Part K	UFO Correspondence	1992
D/Sec(AS)12/2 Part M	UFO Reports	1993
D/Sec(AS)12/3 Part L	UFO Correspondence	1993
D/Sec(AS)12/3 Part M	UFO Correspondence	1993
D/Sec(AS)12/3 Part N	UFO Correspondence	1993
D/Sec(AS)12/7 Part A	UFOs – Alleged UFO incident 31 March 1993	1993
D/Sec(AS)12/2 Part N	UFO Reports	1994
D/Sec(AS)12/3 Part O	UFO Correspondence	1994

D/Sec(AS)12/3 Part P	UFO Correspondence	1994
D/Sec(AS)12/3 Part Q	UFO Correspondence	1994
D/Sec(AS)12/3 Part R	UFO Correspondence	1994
D/Sec(AS)64/3/7 Part A	UFO Correspondence – Persistent Correspondent – Councillor W F Buchanan	1994-1999
D/Sec(AS)12/2 Part O	UFO Reports	1995
D/Sec(AS)12/3 Part S	UFO Correspondence	1995
D/Sec(AS)64/2 Part A	UFOs - Sighting Reports	1995-1996
D/Sec(AS)64/3 Part A	UFOs – Public Correspondence	1995
D/Sec(AS)64/3 Part B	UFOs –Public Correspondence	1995-1996
D/Sec(AS)64/3/1 Part A	UFO Correspondence – Persistent Correspondent – Section 40 [redacted]	1996-1999
D/DAS(Sec)64/3/1 Part B	UFO Correspondence – Persistent Correspondent – Section 40 [redacted]	1999-2001
D/Sec(AS)64/2 Part B	UFOs –Sighting Reports	1996
D/Sec(AS)64/2 Part C	UFOs –Sighting Reports	1996
D/Sec(AS)64/2 Part D	UFOs– Sighting Reports	1996
D/Sec(AS)64/3 Part C	UFOs –Public Correspondence	1996
D/Sec(AS)64/3 Part D	UFOs –Public Correspondence	1996
D/Sec(AS)64/3 Part E	UFOs –Public Correspondence	1996
D/Sec(AS)64/3 Part F	UFOs –Public Correspondence	1996
D/Sec(AS)64/3 Part G	UFOs –Public Correspondence	1996-1997
D/Sec(AS)64/3/9	UFO Correspondence – Persistent Correspondent – Section 40 [redacted]	1996-1998

D/Sec(AS)64/3/8 Part A	UFO Correspondence – Persistent Correspondent – Section 40	1997-1998
D/Sec(AS)64/2 Part E	UFOs –Sighting Reports	1997
D/Sec(AS)64/2 Part F	UFOs –Sighting Reports	1997
D/Sec(AS)64/2 Part G	UFOs –Sighting Reports	1997-1998
D/Sec(AS)64/3 Part H	UFOs –Public Correspondence	1997
D/Sec(AS)64/3 Part I	UFOs –Public Correspondence	1997
D/Sec(AS)64/3 Part J	UFOs –Public Correspondence	1997
D/Sec(AS)64/3 Part K	UFOs –Public Correspondence	1997
D/Sec(AS)64/3 Part L	UFOs –Public Correspondence	1997-1998
D/DAS(Sec)64/3/4 Part A	UFO Correspondence – Persistent Correspondent – Section 40	1997-1998
D/Sec(AS)64/3/2 Part A	UFO Correspondent – Persistent Correspondent – Section 40	1998-2000
D/Sec(AS)64/2 Part H	UFOs –Sighting Reports	1998-1999
D/Sec(AS)64/3 Part M	UFOs –Public Correspondence	1998
D/Sec(AS)64/3 Part N	UFOs –Public Correspondence	1998
D/Sec(AS)64/3 Part O	UFOs –Public Correspondence	1998
D/Sec(AS)64/3/6 Part A	UFO Correspondence – Persistent Correspondent – Section 40	1998
D/Sec(AS)64/3 Part P	UFOs – Public Correspondence	1998-1999
D/Sec(AS)64/2 Part I	UFOs - Sighting Reports	1999
D/Sec(AS)64/3 Part Q	UFOs - Public Correspondence	1999
D/Sec(AS)64/3 Part R	UFOs - Public Correspondence	1999
D/Sec(AS)64/3 Part S	UFOs - Public Correspondence	1999-2000

D/Sec(AS)64/2 Part J	UFOs - Sighting Reports	2000
D/DAS(Sec)64/2 Part K	UFOs - Sighting Reports	2000
D/DAS(Sec)64/2 Part L	UFOs - Sighting Reports	2000-2001
D/Sec(AS)64/3 Part T	UFOs - Public Correspondence & Requests for Information	2000
D/DAS(Sec)64/3 Part U	UFOs - Public Correspondence & Requests for Information	2000-2001
D/Sec(AS)64/3/10 Part A	UFO Correspondence – Persistent Correspondent – Mr Eric Morris	2000
D/DAS/64/3/14	UFO Correspondence- Persistent Correspondent – Section 40 [redacted]	2000-2004
D/DAS(Sec)64/2 Part M	UFOs - Sighting Reports	2001
D/DAS/64/2 Part N	UFOs - Sighting Reports	2001-2002
D/DAS/64/3 Part V	UFOs - Public Correspondence & Requests for Information	2001
D/DAS/64/3 Part W	UFOs - Public Correspondence & Requests for Information	2001
D/DAS/64/3 Part X	UFOs - Public Correspondence & Requests for Information	2001
D/DAS/64/3/12	UFO Correspondence- Persistent Correspondent – Section 40 [redacted]	2001-2004
D/DAS/64/2 Part O	UFOs - Sighting Reports	2002
D/DAS/64/3 Part Y	UFOs - Public Correspondence & Requests for Information	2002
D/DAS/64/3 Part Z	UFOs - Public Correspondence & Requests for Information	2002-2003

D/DAS/64/3 Part AA	UFOs - Public Correspondence & Requests for Information	2003
D/DAS/64/3/16	UFO Correspondence – Persistent Correspondent – Section 40 [redacted]	2003

Section 40

From: Section 40

Sent: 25 November 2004 12:59

To: Section 40

Subject: RE: Scanning Documents: Accessibility

Good luck with your presentation!

Section 40

6th Floor, Zone F
Main Building
Whitehall
SW1A 2HB
Section 40
email (external: Section 40

From: Section 40
Sent: 25 November 2004 09:03
To: Section 40
Subject: RE: Scanning Documents: Accessibility

Thanks Section 40

Not being a computer wiz like you, this is a bit Chinese to me. Happy to speak further later. I am giving an FOI presentation today at 1400, but I will give you a ring after it has finished.

Section 40

From: Section 40
Sent: 24 November 2004 18:38
To: Section 40
Cc:
Subject: Scanning Documents: Accessibility

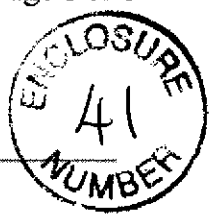
Hi Section 40
Just some info I picked up from Section 40 MOD Internet Manager, about how to present scanned documents so they are accessible.

Firstly, we can present them on the Publication Scheme as PDF formats (which is what happened last time. However, we need to also provide versions as .tif – this format is needed for conversion to OCR….

We can discuss further!

Section 40

6th Floor, Zone F
Main Building
Whitehall
SW1A 2HB
Section 40
email (external: Section 40



Section 40

From: Section 40

Sent: 23 November 2004 13:55

To: Section 40

Subject: RE: Publication Scheme

I have placed the new file on the server – should be visible a little later today

Section 40

6th Floor, Zone F
Main Building
Whitehall
SW1A 2HB
Section 40
email (external: Section 40

From: Section 40
Sent: 23 November 2004 11:59
To: Section 40
Subject: Publication Scheme

Section 40

We now have a dedicated UFO e-mail address for members of the public to use instead of my personal one. Please could you remove the UFO Policy statement in the scheme and replace is with the attached. Sorry to mess you about. This should be the last time we have to change this.

Section 40
DAS-FOI

MOD Policy on Unidentified Flying Objects (UFO)

The Ministry of Defence does not have any expertise or role in respect of 'UFO / flying saucer' matters or to the question of the existence or otherwise of extraterrestrial lifeforms, about which it remains totally open-minded. To date the MOD knows of no evidence which substantiates the existence of these alleged phenomena.

The MOD examines any 'UFO' reports 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.

If you wish to report a sighting or have any questions about the MOD's position regarding UFOs, you should write to the following address;

Ministry of Defence
Directorate of Air Staff – Freedom of Information
5th Floor, Zone H
Main Building
London
SW1A 2HB

Alternatively you can contact us on any of the following;

Telephone: 020-7218-2140 (24 hour Answerphone)
Fax: Section 40 [redacted]
E-Mail: das-ufo-office@mod.uk

ENCLOSURE 40 NUMBER

Section 40

From: Section 40

Sent: 02 November 2004 18:00

To: Section 40

Cc: 'SWS FIN1a - Tribune, Section 40
Section 40

Subject: Internet-authorised: IC letter re. new UFO_ classes

Section 40

Thank you for copying me in to your message.

I am very pleased to see that we are now reaching an end-game on these particular classes of information. My main comment is about the need to prepare the ground both within MOD and externally for the release of this information. I am assuming that the information in the new classes is being released for the first time. I know that Ministers were consulted back in March about the publication of armed forces survey results - and US of S announced the intention to publish this material via a written statement to Parliament. Given (a) the media coverage of information in survey reports (not sure if it was these or others, but the principle still applies), and (b) the pressure being exerted by the Lord Chancellor for departments to increase the amount of information released proactively, I think we need to follow the same course for the other classes.

The question, therefore, is whether Ministers have been informed of the intention to publish the UFO and Trident information. If not, then I think we should make a submission in consultation/conjunction with DAS and the SWS IPT. Comments from copy addressees would be welcome.

Section 40

From: Section 40

Sent: 02 November 2004 16:51

To: Section 40

Cc: Section 40

Subject: IC letter re. new UFO_ classes

I am about to send this letter to the Information Commissioner - comments to me by 04/11/2004 welcome

---

Directorate of Information (Exploitation)-Access PM4
Ministry of Defence, Zone F, Level 6,
Main Building, LONDON WC2A 2HB

Telephone: Section 40 Military Network: Section 40
Fax: Fax: Section 40
E-Mail: Section 40

FOI Team

Reference: DGInfo/3/2/3/2

Information Commissioner
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

Date: 2 November 2004

Dear Sir,

Notification of new Classes of Information for inclusion in the MOD FOI Publication Scheme – Reference Code: W1000004

References: A. IC letter W1000004 dated 12 November 2002
B. Publication Schemes a Practical Guide: Part I 'Classes' V2. dated April 03

The MOD FOI Publication Scheme, comprising originally of 111 Classes of Information, received the Information Commissioner's approval in November 2002 (Reference A).

In accordance with the instructions in Paragraph 10.4 of your guidance on publication schemes (Reference B) I am writing to inform you of five new Classes of Information that it is proposed to include in the MOD Publication Scheme.

In the light of public interest, the MOD wishes to release information in the following category:

UFO sighting reports: UFO sighting reports received by MOD air staff in 1985

Correspondence about UFOs: Correspondence received by MOD air staff in 1985

This will form a series of classes for each year since 1985. However, given the work involved in preparing the documents for publication we will concentrate on each year in turn.

In addition, the following classes are proposed and it is confirmed that consideration has been given to the public interest in the following topics:

Results of surveys determining the attitudes of servicemen from 2003 and each consecutive year onwards : results of continuous attitude surveys carried out once a year covering the Royal Navy, Royal Marines, Army and RAF

Trident Briefing Pack: Information about the Trident submarine programme covering areas of public interest. Prepared and updated annually by the Strategic Weapon System IPT of the Defence Logistics Organisation.

Documents relating to the UFO and Trident classes will be made available on the internet site in due course. Results of the Continuous Attitude Surveys are already available in the House of Commons Library and on the internet.

It is proposed that these should now form part of the MOD Publication Scheme.

- It is confirmed that in making this information available on the Internet and as part of the MOD Publication Scheme consideration has been given to the public interest.

Yours faithfully,

Section 40 [redacted]

39

Section 40 [redacted]

From: Section 40 [redacted]
Sent: 14 October 2004 14:58
To: Section 40 [redacted]
Subject: RE: 040924 - FOI - Annual report on implementation of the Act

Section 40

Thank you for this.

I read through the Act and current guidance/interpretation on the issue you raised about the length of time to retain information that's been the subject of a request. Unfortunately we have received no guidance on this as such, so I will now consult the DCA on their opinion. I'll get back to you as soon as I have a response from them.

Section 40

From Section 40 [redacted]
Sent: 13 October 2004 16:09
To: Section 40 [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: RE: 040924 - FOI - Annual report on implementation of the Act

Section 40

Sorry I have yet to reply to the messages from Section 40 and yourself.

We had our meeting with Section 40 on 1st October and we informed him that we are examining the information that we hold on UFOs to see what further information we can make available via the PS. We did not tell him (and he did not ask) what information would be available, or when.

You will be pleased to hear that we have now decided what we want to call the first of the new UFO classes of information for the PS and I have e-mailed Section 40 so she can put these to the Information Commissioner for approval. We are going to start with information from 1985 and I have requested the five files covering this period from archives. As soon as we have received them, we will begin the selection and preparation of the documents. Putting the documents into an electronic format is still a problem, as DAS currently have no scanners. This is a problem not just for us, but others in DAS, and our I-HUB are pursuing it. I hope that by the time we have the IC approval and the information is prepared, this may be resolved.

As for the Lord Chancellor's annual report to Parliament, we are happy for you to mention our plans for the new additions to the PS, but I would (if possible) prefer you not to give a firm deadline. This is because the speed with which this will happen depends on the issues mentioned above and our ongoing workload. I suggest the following could be used for the annual report, which I have based on S of S's reply to Lord Falconer.

'One area of information which has attracted significant public interest since its inclusion at the launch of the Publication Scheme is information about 'unidentified flying objects'. Recognising this interest, MOD is currently examining the information held on this subject in order to make more of this information available via the Publication Scheme'.

Please let me know if you wish to discuss further.

Section 40
DAS-FOI
5th Floor, Zone H
Section 40

From: Section 40
Sent: 11 October 2004 17:47
To: Section 40
Subject: FW: 040924 - FOI - Annual report on implementation of the Act

Section 40

Further to Section 40 e-mail of 24th September (copied below), I was wondering if you'd had a chance to consider whether you'd be prepared for us to mention your plans for reviewing/releasing UFO information as an example of good practice in our return to the DCA? If so, I would be very grateful if you could provide a few lines that you'd be happy to see included.

Happy to discuss further,

Section 40

Section 40
Info-Access2
MoD Main Building
Level 6, Zone F
Tel (Military) Section 40
Tel (Civilian):
Fax: Section 40

From: Section 40
Sent: 24 September 2004 16:39
To: Section 40
Cc:
Subject: 040924 - FOI - Annual report on implementation of the Act

Section 40

The attached letter from the Dept of Constitutional Affairs asks us to contribute to the annual report which the Lord Chancellor has to make to Parliament on preparations for implementation of the FOI Act. In addition to completing a standard questionnaire, we are invited to highlight any examples of best practice - in particular ones which show progress towards releasing previously unpublished material. You will sense what is coming!

We obviously need to be cautious about flagging up ideas that might not come to anything. However – as we indicated in the recent advice to S of S - your plan for reviewing/releasing the reports of UFO sightings is rather more firm than that. Would you be happy, therefore, for this to be mentioned in the annual report? If it is your intention to let Section 40 know what is in the wind then I certainly think it would be appropriate to acknowledge the plan via this more formal route.

Grateful for your initial views at this stage. We will then consult i.d.c. about the exact words included in the reply.

Regards

Section 40

Section 40 [redacted]

From: Section 40 [redacted]
Sent: 14 October 2004 08:35
To: Section 40 [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: Publication Scheme

Section 40 [redacted]

As discussed, below are the titles of the two new classes we would like to add to the Publication Scheme. Once these have been approved by the Information Commissioner and populated, we will work on 1986 and so on for each year. As it is highly likely that the IC will approve these, I will start work on preparing the documents while we are awaiting approval. Please could you let me know whether we need IC approval for every new year or could we ask him to approve them now?

UFO sighting reports received by MOD air staff in 1985.

Correspondence about UFOs received by MOD air staff in 1985.

Please let me know if you need any further information.

Section 40 [redacted]
DAS-FOI

Section 40

From: Section 40

Sent: 20 September 2004 11:39

To: Section 40

Cc: Section 40

Subject: 040917 - Proactive Steps to Greater Openness - reply to letter from the Lord Chancellor - submission to S of S

Section 40

I know that Section 40 spoke to you this morning about progress in agreeing a new UFO class for the Publication Scheme. I have reflected this in the attached submission (para 5) and draft reply to the Lord Chancellor. Could you please let me know if this is OK - a.s.a.p I'm afraid because of the timescale for reply! Should I add anyone other than DAS to the distribution?

Section 40 Please note that the draft has moved on from the version I sent you last Friday. Any comments soonest please.

Section 40

DG Info 3/21/1

[20] September 2004

APS/Secretary of State

Copy to:

PS/Minister(AF)	LA17
PS/Minister(DP)	AD Corporate Memory
PS/US of S	Naval Historical Branch
APS/PUS	Air Historical Branch
PS/2nd PUS	CSG-FOI
PS/Personnel Director	SP Pol – Hd AFBT
DG Info	Parliamentary Clerk
DGMC	DD/C&L(F&S) Legal
DGFM	Special Advisers
D Info(Exp)	TOG CTL
DAS	

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – LETTER FROM THE LORD CHANCELLOR ON PROACTIVE DISCLOSURE

References:

A. Lord Chancellor's letter of 8th July 2004 – not to all
B. Letter from Lord Filkin dated 6 July 2004
C. MST 2/9C dated 13 August 2004
D. DG Info 3/21/1 dated 12 August 2004

Issue

1. The Lord Chancellor has asked (Reference A) for further thoughts from MISC 28 members and other Cabinet colleagues on a cross-Government package of measures for the proactive release of information.

Recommendation

2. That Secretary of State should use the draft reply at Annex A.

Timing

3. Urgent. Replies have been requested by 21 September.

Background

4. At the Cabinet meeting on 8 July it was agreed that the Government's approach to FOI should be based on a dual strategy: robust refusal of requests for information that relate to policy-making, balanced by a significant increase – volume and breadth – in the proactive release of less sensitive information. In his

letter to the Prime Minister, the Lord Chancellor reports that good progress is being made on the former strand but that much more needs to be done on the second. He highlights a concern that the Government will gain no credit from passing the FOI Act if the dual strategy is unsuccessful "....in convincing the public that FOI can make a difference to their lives, by giving them more information about the things that matter to them".

5. In Reference C, S of S responded to the ideas for more proactive disclosure set out by Lord Filkin (Ref B). There is little to add in reply to the further letter from the Lord Chancellor. As explained in my advice on the earlier exchange (Ref D), we are encouraging the identification of new classes of information for the Publication Scheme and intend to highlight any commitment to break new ground in terms of what is made available. One area of public interest where this should be possible is the reported sighting of UFOs. When the Publication Scheme was first launched (in Nov 2002), the inclusion of some information on this subject led to widespread media coverage. The intention is to make available the MOD(Air) files containing reports (from members of the public) and our official replies. Starting with 1985, the plan is to gradually release the files for later years. Although not core MOD business, a steady flow of correspondence confirms that these files will be of public interest. The physical effort involved in redacting the records (to remove personal data) and convert them to electronic format means that this cannot be done immediately but it can be mentioned to the Lord Chancellor as an example of our positive intentions.

6. In addition, some areas of the Department (for example DGFM's staff) have plans for a structured review of current policy on the disclosure of core information. This could lead to recommendations for a more liberal approach. However, it would be premature to draw attention to the prospect of changes that will require consideration and agreement (probably inter-departmentally in the case of financial and resource information).

7. When Lord Filkin wrote in early July he did not map out any clear steps or timetable for carrying forward the new initiatives he outlined. Indeed, at that stage there had been no formal agreement of the dual strategy. While recognising the importance of FOI being seen to make a real difference, the Department of Constitutional Affairs have left it late in the day to urge the identification of proposals that will "...have real bite ....and attract media attention beyond the sections of the press particularly interested in FOI." It is clearly desirable to have some initiatives lined-up for January 2005, but to sustain the dual strategy there will be a need to develop plans for the proactive release of information on a continuous basis not just as a one-off exercise. This will require new ways of working to make the structured release of background facts, statistics and research part of the routine planning for key announcements.

Presentation

8. None as such. However, MOD is considered to be a secretive department and it is therefore inevitable that our performance in the post-FOI era will be tested and subject to close scrutiny. (Indeed, we are currently handling a PQ from James Arbuthnot MP which asks whether the department will implement the full terms of

the FOI Act). We will have recourse to the first part of the FOI strategy on a regular basis, and it is important that we also show active commitment to the second part.

9. The examples for greater proactivity mooted in the Lord Chancellor's letter relate to departments that are in the front line in delivering public services (health, education, Home Office). The part which information from these departments can play in satisfying public interest is much more obvious and direct than information about defence. Nonetheless the principle that background material should be released when key policies or issues of keen public interest are being presented to the public, is one which the Secretary of State should support. As the dual strategy acknowledges, the rationale for withholding information about which there is genuine sensitivity is likely to be better understood and accepted if we are seen to be taking active steps to make information available where we can. The draft letter at Annex A therefore takes this line.

Section 40 [redacted]

Section 40 [redacted]

Info Exp – AD Access

Section 40 [redacted]

ANNEX A

DRAFT LETTER FROM THE SECRETARY OF STATE TO THE LORD CHANCELLOR

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

In your letter of 8 September you explained your concern about the danger of negative publicity if we do not do more to demonstrate commitment to the second part of our agreed strategy for implementing the FOI Act. You urged colleagues to come up with suggestions and plans for releasing more information in a way that will attract good publicity and allow the public to see a positive benefit from FOI. I am afraid that I have little to add to my reply to Geoff Filkin's letter of 6 July.

MOD is not really a public-facing department. What we do does not make a difference to the day to day lives of ordinary members of the public. I fully accept that the information we hold attracts a significant level of interest from some sectors – not least because we are often deemed to be over-secretive. There are, of course, good reasons for this and my officials will therefore need to make frequent use of the exemptions in the Act as well as placing reliance on the first part of the dual strategy.

At the same time I accept that there will be advantages in disclosing information proactively where we can. In my earlier letter I confirmed that we are already contributing to existing initiatives (such as the National Archives scheme for releasing records before they are 30 years old), and that we are continuing to look for new Classes of Information for our Publication Scheme. Where we have any significant new tranches of information for release we will ensure that these are presented in a way that secures maximum credit in the FOI context. One area which attracted significant public (and media) interest when we first launched our Publication Scheme, was information related to reported sightings of UFOs. Work is in hand to include more of this information in the Publication Scheme and this should be possible in the first half of next year. As I have said, we will ensure this is publicized at the right time.

It is clearly desirable to have some initiatives lined-up for the turn of the year, but to sustain the dual strategy there will be a need to develop plans for the proactive release of information on a continuous basis not just as a one-off exercise. This will require management to make the structured release of background facts, statistics and research part of the routine planning for key announcements.
For the longer term, my officials will look at the possibility of following this course when we have a key decision or policy announcement to make. However, as I said in my letter to Geoff Filkin it will take time and effort to establish this as a routine new way of working.

I am copying this letter to the Prime Minister, MISC 28 members, other Cabinet colleagues and Sir Andrew Turnbull. I would be grateful if I could look to your staff to ensure it also goes to Departmental FOI Champions and Departmental Communications Directors..

Section 40 [redacted]

From: Section 40 [redacted]
Sent: 20 September 2004 11:16
To: Section 40 [redacted]
Cc: Info-AccessPM4; Info-AccessAD; Section 40 [redacted]
Subject: Additional UFO material for the MOD Publication Scheme

Hi Section 40

Further to our conversation this morning Section 40 is advising S of S for his reply to the Lord Chancellor on FOI progress that additional UFO material will start to be added to the Publication Scheme in the next few months. As you might expect, we will need to be seen to be honouring this commitment and may be asked for an update on progress at some time in the future. Section 40 stand ready to help you with agreeing the Class descriptions we will use and to work out the practical method of preparing the material for publication. Presumably you will soon be calling back the set of files containing the 1985 reports so that you can get a clear idea of what the first stage of the task will entail. Please could you keep us informed of progress and anything that is impedes it.

Look forward to hearing from you.

Section 40 [redacted]
Info-AccessPM1
Section 40 [redacted]

Section 40

From: IPR-CTM3, Section 40 on behalf of IPR-CTM3
Sent: 25 August 2004 13:03
To: Section 40
Subject: RE: Crown Copyright

Section 40

When you send them the information tell them to contact the MOD Copyright Unit, the details are:

Section 40
Section 40
IPR Group
Section 40
MOD Abbey Wood
Bristol
BS34 8JH

Tel Section 40
Fax
E-mail ipr-cu@dpa.mod.uk

Regards

Section 40

-----Original Message-----
From: Section 40
Sent: 25 August 2004 12:18
To: IPR-CTM3
Subject: RE: Crown Copyright

Section 40

Thank you for your help. It looks like I will have to tell my enquirer to write to the MOD Copyright Unit. I do not seem to be able to find them on our wonderful new DII directories. Are they part of your organisation and/or do you have an address?

Section 40
DAS-FOI

From: IPR-CTM3, Section 40
Sent: 25 August 2004 09:24
To Section 40
Cc: LEGAL ADVISERS-LA17; IPR-CTM
Subject: RE: Crown Copyright

Dear All,

I am unsure of peoples knowledge as to the relationship between FOI and copyright, so apologies for the proverbial granny's and sucking eggs.

The way we describe FOI, is the ability of a person to achieve 'self enlightenment' by accessing the information available by virtue of the various provisions of the FOI Act. The information they are provided with is a copy of the original and it may not be further reproduced without the permission of the copyright owner. In our case the majority will be owned by the Crown and they would be infringing the Crowns copyright if they made copies, although there are a number of exceptions under the Copyright Designs and Patents Act 1988. Essentially these exceptions are its use for private study or

non-commercial research (s29) or criticism, news reporting or review (s30). Where the information does not belong to the Crown, we have to have permission of the copyright owner before we can copy it and that includes copying it to supply for an FOI request.

Therefore while it may be determined that no fee will be payable under the FOI for the provision of the material, where a person/organisation intends to commercially exploit the material they will require a licence from the MODs Copyright Unit and a fee will be charged. Where the information is not going to be commercially exploited, for instance a person receives information under FOI and intends to put it on a website, they would still need a licence before reproducing it (and we are still likely to charge a licence fee) otherwise it will be an infringement of the Crown's copyright.

It is essential, therefore, that any information made available through the publication scheme clearly identifies who owns the copyright. If it is wrongly marked as Crown Copyright, when it is in fact owned by one of our contractors, and the MOD licence's it's use to a third party, we leave ourselves open to an action for infringement and damages.

On the MODs external website (www.mod.uk), if you go to the bottom of the home page and click on copyright the wording below is shown.

Freedom of Information

Supply of information under the Freedom of Information Act does not give the person or organisation the automatic right to reuse the documents in a way which will infringe copyright, for example, by making multiple copies, publishing or issuing copies to the public.'

This statement should be made on any release of information under the FOI Act to ensure that the recipient is in no doubt as to the position they are in.

If you wish to discuss any of the points raised above please give me a call.

Regards

Section 40

Section 40

Intellectual Property Rights Group
Ministry of Defence
Section 40

-----Original Message-----
From: Section 40
Sent: 24 August 2004 17:45
To: IPR-CU Section 40
Subject: FW: Crown Copyright

Section 40

We spoke, PSA, thanks for your help on this

Section 40 works in the Crown Copyright Team at DPA.

Regards

Section 40

From: Section 40

Sent: 24 August 2004 13:00
To: Section 40
Cc: LEGAL ADVISERS-LA17
Subject: RE: Crown Copyright

Section 40

It is one of the Rendlesham Forest documents in the UFO Correspondence class and can be accessed for free.

Section 40

From: Section 40
Sent: 24 August 2004 12:10
To: Section 40 LEGAL ADVISERS-LA17
Subject: FW: Crown Copyright

Section 40

Was it on the publication scheme as readily available or something that would be released for a fee?

I've copied in Section 40 LA17. Section 40 grateful for any advice you can offer on the crown copyright issue.

Regards

Section 40

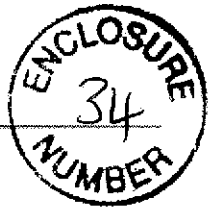
From: Section 40
Sent: 24 August 2004 11:45
To: Section 40
Subject: Crown Copyright

Section 40

I have received a letter from Macmillan Education Australia (a publisher of educational books for primary and secondary schools) who want to use an image of the Lt Col Charles Holt memo which we have put in the publication scheme as part of one of our classes on UFOs. They want to print this document in 5000 copies of a publication called 'Marvels and Mysteries' which is used by primary school children.

I would be grateful for some advice as to whether this would be subject to Crown Copyright regulations and if so, what do we have to do about this request?.

Section 40
DAS-FOI
5th Floor, Zone H
MB
Section 40



Section 40

From: Section 40
Sent: 24 August 2004 17:27
To: IPR-CU; Section 40
Subject: FW: Crown Copyright

Section 40

We spoke, PSA, thanks for your help on this

Section 40 works in the Crown Copyright Team at DPA.

Regards

Section 40

Section 40

From: Section 40
Sent: 24 August 2004 13:00
To: Section 40
Cc: LEGAL ADVISERS-LA17
Subject: RE: Crown Copyright

Section 40

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From: Section 40
Sent: 24 August 2004 12:10
To: Section 40 LEGAL ADVISERS-LA17
Subject: FW: Crown Copyright

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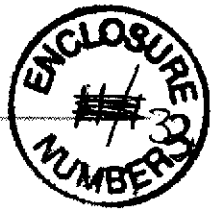
Section 40
DAS-FOI
5th Floor, Zone H
MB
Section 40



Section 40

From: Section 40
Sent: 24 August 2004 15:17
To: Section 40
Cc: Section 40 (Personal); Section 40
Subject: Re: TNT Archives

Section 40

Firstly, please let me apologise on behalf of TNT. I will endeavour to remedy this on your behalf.

The process that is currently being undertaken is as follows:

My team have raised a complaint proforma on TNT and have passed it to them as of today.
We have given TNT 4 working days to respond to the query, with an explanation, a remedy and a way forward.
A member of my team will chase this query on a daily basis until it has been actioned.
One of my team will contact you with the response.

Again, please accept my apologies, but rest assured this will be investigated.

Very Kind Regards

Section 40
Section 40
Ministry of Defence
C/O TNT Archive Services, Hayes
Tel Section 40

----- Original Message -----
From: Section 40
To: Section 40
Cc:
Sent: Monday, August 23, 2004 2:45 PM
Subject: TNT Archives

Dear Section 40

I have been given your name by Section 40 MOD, Information (Records)1, because I wish to make a complaint about the service we are receiving from TNT Archive Services.

I work for the Directorate of Air Staff in the MOD and deal with correspondence from the public on 'unidentified flying objects'. I am also this Directorate's Freedom of Information officer.

We have a number of our UFO files stored at the Archives in Hayes and often have to retrieve them in order to answer requests for information from the public. We have been experiencing problems with requests for files going unanswered and the files never arriving. The most recent example of this was when my colleague Section 40 faxed a request to TNT for two files on 29 July 04. The files did not arrive and despite the fact her address and telephone number were on the fax, she received no calls to say there were any problems. Section 40 then sent a letter on the 6th August asking when the files were going to be sent, to which there has been no reply. She made a telephone call on the 10th August and spoke to a lady, named Section 40 who asked her to fax the details of the request again, which she did. Someone named Section 40 left a message on Section 40 voicemail on 16th August asking us to contact her, but when Section 40 tried to call back, no one was answering the TNT helpline number, so Section 40 wrote again. I telephoned the TNT helpline this morning and spoke to Section 40 who appeared not to know what I was talking about and was unable to

locate any of our previous requests. She has taken my telephone number and said she would call me back today. I await her call.

I hope you will appreciate that we have to comply with the Code of Practice on Access to Government Information which is soon to be replaced by open government legislation, namely, the Freedom of Information Act 2000. Both of these say that we must respond to requests for information from the public within 20 working days of receipt. It is therefore, essential that we are able to retrieve our files from the Archives in the shortest time possible. Before TNT took over the Hayes Archive we were receiving our files back within 3 days of requesting them and if any could not be immediately located the Hayes staff had the courtesy to call us and inform us of this. Not only are we not now receiving our files and having to chase TNT many times, but there is not even a call to explain what the problem is (if there is one). Section 40 has found both of the files I have requested on this occasion listed on the FAS system as stored at Hayes, within 5 minutes of looking for them.

This is a totally unacceptable service, which I hope you will take up with TNT. Should you need any further details please feel free to contact me.

Section 40
MOD
DAS-FOI
5th Floor, Zone H
Main Building
Whitehall
London
SW1A 2HB

Section 40

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

Telephone (Direct dial) Section 40
(Switchboard) 020 7218 9000
(Fax) Section 40
(GTN)
DII DAS-FOI
E-Mail Section 40

ENCLOSURE NUMBER 32

AMP Sec B & C2a
HQ PTC
RAF Innsworth
Gloucester
GL3 1EZ

Your Reference
PTC/342036/6/B&C
Our Reference
D/DAS/64/1
Date
30th July 2004

DUTY PERSONNEL OFFICER ORDERS

Reference A: PTC/342036/6/B&C dated 8 March 2004
B: D/DAS/64/1 dated 15 March 2004

Further to references A and B, I am writing to inform you of my new title and contact details for the Duty Personnel Order No.17 concerning reports of Unidentified Flying Objects, the details of which are at the top of this letter.

Please note that the telephone number given here is for official use only and should not be given to members of the public. We have a UFO answerphone where the public can leave details of their UFO sightings and the number for this is 020 7218 2140. There is a slight technical problem with this telephone line at present, but this should be resolved shortly. Our address, fax number or my e-mail address can be given to the public, if they wish to contact us direct.

Section 40

DAS-FOI
5th Floor, Zone H
MB

Section 40

From: Section 40
Sent: 09 July 2004 16:32
To: Info-AccessPM1 Section 40
Subject: internet-authorised: FW: Publication Scheme

Hi Section 40

Thanks for update of yr address. I'm up on the Section 40 When you read this you will have moved in - so hopefully it all went well!

Have you made any further progress with assessing the actual number of documents which will need processing for the PS?

I'm on leave for 2 weeks from the 17/07 but perhaps we can touch base on my return

Section 40
6th Floor, Zone F
Main Building
Whitehall
SW1A 2HB
Section 40
email (external: Section 40

From: DAS-Sec3
Sent: 09 July 2004 10:16
To: Info-AccessPM4
Subject: Publication Scheme

Section 40

We are moving back to MB today and I have just realised that the Publication Scheme address etc will be out of date. I would be grateful if you could amend the following details;

From Monday 12 July 2004

Address: Ministry of Defence
Directorate of Air Staff - Freedom of Information
5th Floor
Zone H
Main Building
Whitehall
London
SW1A 2HB

My e-mail address is changing to: Section 40

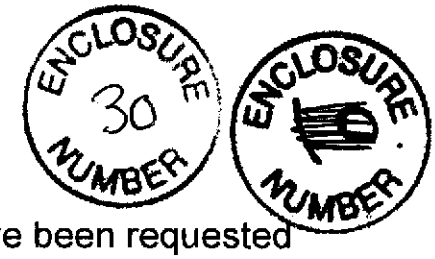
The answerphone number will remain the same, but we are having some difficulties with the line for the answerphone, so in the short term people may want to write, e-mail or fax to Section 40 Section 40 Maybe you could add a note to that effect.

Sorry about the short notice and inconvenience caused. So much to do, so little time!

Section 40 [redacted]

[redacted]AS-Sec3

Section 40 [redacted]



TNT Archive Services

Please find enclosed the following files which have been requested from the archives and are now returned.

D/Sec(AS)56/1 pt D	RAF Operations training in the UK. Sonic booms & other breaches of flying regulations.
MO/9/18 pt 1	UFOs Policy
D/Sec(AS)64/3 pt J	UFOs Public Correspondence
D/Sec(AS)64/3 pt L	UFOs Public Correspondence
D/Sec(AS)12/1 pt A	UFOs Policy
D/Sec(AS)12/2 pt A	UFOs Reports
D/Sec(AS)12/2 pt B	UFOs Reports
D/Sec(AS)12/2 pt C	UFOs Reports
D/Sec(AS)12/2 pt H	UFOs Reports
D/Sec(AS)12/3 pt B	UFOs Correspondence

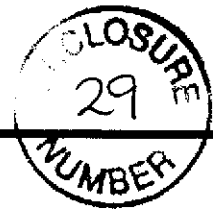
So I can be sure these files have reached you safely I would be grateful if you could sign or stamp the enclosed copy of this form and return it to me at the following address.

Section 40 [redacted]
Ministry of Defence
Directorate of Air Staff – Secretariat 3
Room 6/73
Metropole Building
Northumberland Avenue
London
WC2N 5BP

Telephone: Section 40 [redacted]

8 June 2004

Section 40



From: InfoAccess-PM1
Sent: 07 June 2004 12:44
To: DAS-Sec3
Cc: DAS-SecAD; DI BCR-D; DI55B; InfoExp-AccessAD; AHB(RAF)-Head of; D UK-SO1 AIR OPS 2; InfoAccess-PM4; Info-Records1; DI BCR-CG AD
Subject: RE: UFO Information for the Publication Scheme

Section 40

I have been somewhat delayed in getting back to you on this. I agree with Section 40 that we do not want to draw attention to the omission of any material that may be held by DIS. With a view to meeting the requirement that all material attributable to a Class of Information must be published I can suggest the following titles/definitions for the classes you want to open for each year from 1985 on:

'Unidentified Flying Object reports for 1985: Reports of UFO sightings received from all sources by MOD UK Air during 1985 (personal data removed).'

'Unidentified Flying Object correspondence for 1985: Correspondence on UFOs received by MOD UK Air from the general public during 1985 (personal data removed),'

I have used "MOD UK Air" to embrace both DAS and D UK Air and thereby exclude DIS. If we are asked by those in the know about additional material held by DIS, then an agreed statement will need to be issued about the current non-availability of these records due to asbestos contamination....and what the plan is for recovering them. The Classes for each successive year would only need to be opened when that material was ready for publishing. As a first step and to examine the feasibility, I believe you were going to size the job by calling back all the of the files for a particular year, to look at the number of documents and amount of redaction required.

Please let me know if these draft Classes will suffice.

Section 40
Info Access-PM1
Section 40

-----Original Message-----
From: DAS-Sec3
Sent: 11 May 2004 17:32
To: InfoAccess-PM1
Cc: DAS-SecAD; DI BCR-D; DI55B; InfoExp-AccessAD; AHB(RAF)-Head of; D UK-SO1 AIR OPS 2; InfoAccess-PM4; Info-Records1; DI BCR-CG AD
Subject: UFO Information for the Publication Scheme

Section 40

As discussed earlier, in light of DI BCR-CG AD's comments on the DIS information in the contaminated archive and the notes in the PS class description, we clearly need to give this very careful thought. I will be away on leave until the 24th May, but prehaps you (and the copy addressees) may like to give it some thought in the meantime.

As you would not have seen my earlier proposal on the title of the new classes and their contents, this is attached.

<< File: UFO FILE REVIEW- Proposal April 04.doc >>

By way of background you may wish to be aware that we know that there is a keen public interest in this subject and DAS already receives a large number of requests for information under the Code of Practice on Access to Government Information. Some of our correspondents have indicated an interest in the forthcoming FOIA and we think it is highly likely that we could receive an increased number of requests when access rights come in in January 2005. From the files we have already seen in dealing with these requests, it is clear

that a large number of them do not contain anything that would not be releasable if requested. We therefore have embarked on an exercise to make as much of this information as possible accessable to the public by using the publication scheme, thus reducing the amount of requests we have to handle in the future.

What to call the new classes and what to populate them with has become a bit of a tricky issue. My initial thoughts were to have a class for UFO Reports and one for UFO Correspondence for each year towards the present day. After discussions with Info-Records1, 1985 seemed the best place to start. As our experience of dealing with requests under the Code shows most requests are of the nature "everthing the MOD holds on the ..... incident of .....January 1985". This meant that we wanted to include reports and correspondence from all the branches who have handled UFO material, not just DAS. D UK SO1-Air has agreed to include information which may have been held on her files but not on DAS files, on cases where reports have been referred for further investigation. DIS information can not be added in a similar way at this time because of the asbestos contamination.

It is my understanding that once we have given the class a name we are commited to publishing everything in the class. We therefore have to be very careful not to give a class a title if we are not going to put that information in it. Maybe we can all give the proposed class names etc some thought and discuss further when I return from leave.

Section 40 [redacted]
DAS-Sec3
Section 40 [redacted]

Section 40 [redacted]

From: DI BCR-CG AD
Sent: 07 May 2004 16:46
To: DAS-Sec3
Cc: DAS-SecAD; DI BCR-D; DI55B; InfoExp-AccessAD; AHB(RAF)-Head of; D UK-SO1 AIR OPS 2; InfoAccess-PM4; Info-Records1
Subject: RE: Release of information on UFOs

Section 40

Thank you. Your proposal to specifically name DIS files as being potentially releasable could be a hostage to fortune.I will need to speak to Section 40 (ADI ALM formerly DI 55b) who is out this week before being able to clarify.

I would prefer not to draw specific attention to DIS in the PS, as this could also lead to additional correspondence and requests for information, which this whole exercise is designed to prevent. If we do receive requests for DIS files, then we could deal with them on an ad hoc basis. If we are inundated, then we could consider adding a caveat to the Publication Scheme in the future.

Section 40 [redacted]
DI BCR CG AD
Section 40 [redacted]

-----Original Message-----
From: DAS-Sec3
Sent: 07 May 2004 15:35
To: DI BCR-CG AD
Cc: DAS-SecAD; DI BCR-D; DI55B; InfoExp-AccessAD; AHB(RAF)-Head of; D UK-SO1 AIR OPS 2; InfoAccess-PM4; Info-Records1
Subject: RE: Release of information on UFOs

Section 40 [redacted]

Thank you for your reply.

With reference to your comments about the note on the DIS information, this was included because while I appreciate that UFO reports were once copied to DIS and D UK-SO1 Air and both of your files therefore contain identical copies of reports sent to DAS, D UK-SO1 Air's files also sometimes include background information on alleged UFO incidents. This information is not recorded on DAS files. For example when a UFO report from a credible witness (ie Military or civil pilot, Air Traffic Controller, Policeman) is received in DAS, it is referred to D UK-SO1 Air who make enquiries with other parties such as RAF Fylingdales and Neatishead. D UK-SO1 Air then reply to DAS, most often that the report contained nothing of defence significance. The original report and D UK-SOI Air's reply are therefore on the DAS file, but the enquiries with the other parties will only be recorded on D UK-SO1 Air's files. If we only include the original report in the Publication Scheme (PS) and no background information where it is available, the public will still be able to make an FOIA request for it and make the whole reason for publishing this information pointless. With the agreement of D UK-SO1 Air, it is therefore, my intention to include in the PS all the available information on UFO reports regardless of whose file it is held on and this was one of the reason for included in the review all the information held by branches which have (or have had) an interest in UFOs.

I have not seen any of the DIS UFO files, so would be grateful if you could confirm whether DIS took any action at all on the UFO reports they received or just mearly read and filed them. If the former, then it is likely that they contain nothing different to what we have on our files and we have no need to include the note in the PS, but if the later, we still need to consider adding this information in the future if possible.

Finally, it is worth baring in mind that this subject attracts conspiracy theorist and the public are w[redacted]aware of the distribution of these reports. They may therefore become suspicious if the only information they see published comes from DAS and D UK Air and there is no mention of DI's role. In the long term this could also lead to additional correspondence and requests for information, which this whole exercise is designed to prevent.

Please give me a call if you need further clarification. I will be on leave from 12-21 May inclusive.

Section 40
DAS-Sec3
Section 40 [redacted]

-----Original Message-----
From: DI BCR-CG AD
Sent: 07 May 2004 12:07
To: DAS-Sec3
Cc: DAS-SecAD; DI BCR-D; DI55B; InfoExp-AccessAD; AHB(RAF)-Head of; D UK-SO1 AIR OPS 2; InfoAccess-PM4; Info-Records1
Subject: RE: Release of information on UFOs

<< File: LM TO DAS - Publication scheme.doc >>
PSA.

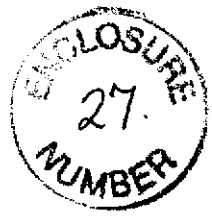
Section 40 [redacted]
DI BCR CG AD
Section 40 [redacted]

-----Original Message-----
From: DAS-Sec3
Sent: 27 April 2004 12:26
To: D UK-SO1 AIR OPS 2; DI BCR-CG AD; InfoAccess-PM4; Info-Records1
Cc: DAS-SecAD; DI BCR-D; DI55B; InfoExp-AccessAD; AHB(RAF)-Head of
Subject: Release of information on UFOs

Please see the attached.

<< File: FILE REVIEW- Proposal April 04.doc >>

Section 40 [redacted]
DAS-Sec3
Section 40 [redacted]



LOOSE MINUTE

D/DAS/64/1

27 April 2004

D UK-SO1 AIR OPS 2
DI BCR CG AD
InfoAccess-PM4
Info-Records1

Copy to:
DAS-SecAD
DI BCR D
DI55B
InfoExp-AccessAD
Hd of AHB

UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS –NEW CLASSES OF INFORMATION FOR THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION PUBLICATION SCHEME

Reference A:D/DAS/64/1 dated 16 April 2003
B:D/DAS/64/1 dated 23 May 2003
C:D/DAS/64/1 dated 18 August 2003
D:D/DI BCR/10/8/3 dated 20 August 2003

1. Thank you for your comments late last year concerning the release of information on UFOs into the MOD Freedom of Information Publication Scheme(PS). Taking into account your comments and advice from Info-Records1 regarding future arrangements with The National Archives (TNA), I propose that we now proceed as follows.

2 In light of the forthcoming access rights under the Freedom of Information Act, an exercise is already underway to consider whether files held at TNA which are due for release between 2006-2009 could be released in January 2005 or soon after. A final decision has yet to be made, but if this goes ahead it is likely that in the future, information will be made available to the public immediately on transfer to TNA instead of being held in the archive until the 30 year point. I therefore propose that to allow for a sufficient period between redacted information appearing in the PS and the original material being fully open at TNA, the start date for inclusion in the PS should be revised to 1985 instead of 1980 as proposed in Reference C.

3. With regard to the new classes of information I propose to start with two classes for each year from 1985 to date. The first would be titled 'UFO Reports received by the MOD in 1985' and will contain all of the UFO reports received from members of the public, military personnel, civil pilots, air traffic controllers, policeman etc. As DIS files are currently unavailable due to the asbestos contamination in the OWOB basement area, we will include reports from DAS and D UK Air files only at this stage. To reflect this the class will include a note such as: 'This class does not include any UFO reports which may have been received by

the Defence Intelligence department of the MOD. These documents are currently inaccessible due to asbestos contamination in the archive storage area. These documents may be added at a later date'.

4. I believe that it is important to include all the reports regardless of the source, because in our experience, the public are more interested in credible witness reports than they are from those from members of the public and any attempt to exclude these could lead to accusations that we have something to hide. Also, we have released such reports on request in the past. All personal data will be redacted in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998 (DPA 98). DI BCR CG AD has raised concerns that this title would mean that we would be committed to the release of military reports of possible incursions into the UK Air Policing Area. However, D UK-SO1 Air has confirmed that such incidents are not classed as UFO reports or reported in the same way.

5. The second class of information would be titled 'UFO correspondence received from members of the public in 1985'. This title has been changed since Reference C to reflect the comments of DI BCR CG AD who felt that 'UFO correspondence received by MOD' was too broad a term and could be interpreted to mean internal MOD correspondence. Although this would seem inconsistent with the naming of the class for UFO reports, I can not recall seeing material that could be classed as correspondence from credible witnesses that was not related to a report, therefore all the released correspondence would be from members of the public. Again all personal data would be redacted in accordance with DPA 98.

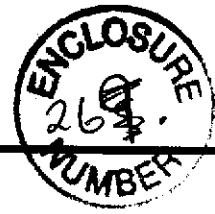
6. I would be grateful if you could let me know if you have any comments on this proposal by COP 7th May 2004. I then intend to ask InfoAccess-PM4 to seek the Information Commissioner's agreement to the addition of these classes into the PS.

(Original Signed)

Section 40

DAS-Sec3

Section 40



DAS-Sec3

From: InfoAccess-PM4
Sent: 29 March 2004 11:38
To: DAS-Sec3
Subject: RE: Publication Scheme

Hi Section 40

Will try and do that before Easter!

Section 40

-----Original Message-----
From: DAS-Sec3
Sent: 26 March 2004 10:13
To: InfoAccess-PM4
Subject: Publication Scheme

Section 40

I have revised the MOD UFO policy statement which is in the Publication Scheme because my section title and e-mail address have changed. I have also taken the opportunity to swap the words around a bit to make it read better. Please could you arrange for the old version to be removed and this one inserted. I hope this does not cause you too much inconvenience.

<< File: Publication Scheme - UFO Policy Statement.doc >>

Section 40
DAS-Sec3
Section 40

DAS-Sec3 26 March 2004

To: InfoAccess-PM4
Subject: Publication Scheme

Section 40

I have revised the MOD UFO policy statement which is in the Publication Scheme because my section title and e-mail address have changed. I have also taken the opportunity to swap the words around a bit to make it read better. Please could you arrange for the old version to be removed and this one inserted. I hope this does not cause you too much inconvenience.

Publication Scheme - UFO Polic...

Section 40
DAS-Sec3
Section 40

MOD Policy on Unidentified Flying Objects (UFO)

The Ministry of Defence does not have any expertise or role in respect of 'UFO / flying saucer' matters or to the question of the existence or otherwise of extraterrestrial lifeforms, about which it remains totally open-minded. To date the MOD knows of no evidence which substantiates the existence of these alleged phenomena.

The MOD examines any 'UFO' reports 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.

If you wish to report a sighting or have any questions about the MOD's position regarding UFOs, you should write to the following address;

Ministry of Defence
Directorate of Air Staff (Secretariat) 3
Room 6/73
Metropole Building
Northumberland Avenue
London
WC2N 5BP

Alternatively you can contact us on any of the following;

Telephone: 020-7218-2140 (24 hour Answerphone)
Fax: Section 40
E-Mail: das-sec3@defence.mod.uk

From: Section 40
Directorate of Air Staff (Secretariat)3

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Room 6/73, Metropole Building, Northumberland Avenue, London, WC2N 5BP

Telephone (Direct dial) Section 40
(Switchboard) 020 7218 9000
(Fax) Section 40
(GTN)

CHOts DAS-LA-Ops+Pol1
E-Mail das-laopspol1@defence.mod.uk

ENCLOSURE NUMBER 25

AMP Sec B&C2a
HQ PTC
RAF Innworth
Gloucester
GL3 1EZ

Your Reference
PTC/342036/6/B&C

Our Reference
D/DAS/64/1

Date
15 March 2004

DUTY PERSONNEL OFFICER ORDERS

1. Thank you for the opportunity to review the Duty Personnel Officer Order No.17 concerning Unidentified Flying Objects. Please amend the following paragraphs as shown.

Para1b. Change post title from DAS(LA) Ops & Pol1 to DAS-Sec 3.

Para 2. Change post title from DAS(LA) Ops & Pol 1 to DAS-Sec 3.

Bottom of the page. Sponsor: Change DAS(LA) Ops & Pol1 to DAS-Sec 3.

2. Please note that on 9 July 2004 we are due to move back to the refurbished Main Building, so our address will change. We do not yet have details of our full address, but I will advise you of the changes in due course. All telephone and fax numbers, and signal addresses should remain the same.

Section 40

DAS-Sec3
Section 40

UNCLASSIFIED
COVERING RESTRICTED

HEADQUARTERS
PERSONNEL AND TRAINING COMMAND

ROYAL AIR FORCE INNSWORTH, GLOUCESTER GL3 1EZ
Reply to: AMP Sec Briefing & Co-ord2a, Section 40

Telephone Gloucester Section 40

See Distribution

Your Reference

Our Reference PTC/342036/6/B&C

Date 8 March 2004

DUTY PERSONNEL OFFICER ORDERS

1. The Duty Personnel Officer Orders are due for reissue at the end of April 04. A copy of the Order(s) that you sponsor is enclosed and you are requested to make any amendments that are necessary and return the Order(s) to me by **5 Apr 04**.

2. Your assistance is greatly appreciated.

Section 40

AMP Sec B&C2a
Section 40

Distribution:

DAS(LA)Ops & Pol1, Metropole Bldg (Order No 17)
HQ PTC, BFM, Rm G4 (Order No 20)
HQ PTC, PersSy1, Rm G126 (Order No 16)
HQ PTC, SO1 RAF Cer & UP, Rm G39 (Order No 15)
HQ PTC, ICP1, Rm G105 (Order Nos 2, 12)
HQ PTC, ICP2, Rm G105 (Order Nos 1, 13, 14)
HQ PTC, SO1 PM PTC, Rm G19 (order No 1)
HQ PTC, FT ME, Rm S118 (Order No 11)
HQ PTC, SO3 PC4, Rm G22 (Order No 7)
HQ PTC, CFSO, Rm S20 (Order Nos 4, 5)
RAF Innsworth, WO Comms (Order No 3)
RAF Innsworth, Station Security Officer (Order No 19)

COVERING RESTRICTED
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

ORDERS FOR HQPTC DUTY STAFF OFFICER

ORDER NO 17

UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS

1. All sightings of Unidentified Flying Objects (UFOs) are to be reported using the format at Annex A. Reports are to be submitted as follows:

a. Out of working hours and only if considered of major significance to Chief Defence Staff Duty Officer (CDSDO). The CDSDO may be contacted on MOD Main Building, Tel GPTN Section 40 [redacted]

b. At any time to MOD, DAS(LA)Ops & Pol 1, Room 6/73, Metropole Building , Northumberland Avenue, London. Tel GPTN Section 40 [redacted] Use SIC-Z6F with signal messages.

2. CDSDO will pass all reports submitted out of hours to DAS (LA) Ops & Pol 1.

3. Outside normal working hours all enquiries from the Press are to be referred to the Duty Press Officer at MOD who may be contacted at MOD Main Building, Tel Section 40 [redacted] The Press may be given the following direct dial BT Tel No for the Duty Press Officer 020 7218 7907.

May 03

Sponsor: MOD DAS(LA)Ops & Pol 1
Tel: Section 40 [redacted]

RESTRICTED

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

REPORT OF AN UNEXPLAINED AERIAL SIGHTING

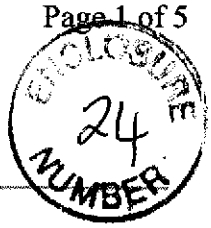
1	Date and time of sighting. (Duration of sighting)	
2	Description of object. (No of objects, size, shape, colour, brightness, noise)	
3	Exact position of observer. (Indoors/outdoors, stationary/moving.)	
4	How object was observed. (Naked eye, binoculars, other optical device, camera or camcorder)	
5	Direction in which object was first seen. (A landmark may be more helpful than a roughly estimated bearing)	
6	Approximate distance.	
7	Movements and speed. (side to side, up or down, constant, moving fast, slow)	

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

8	Weather conditions during observation. (cloudy, haze, mist, clear)	
9	To whom reported. (Police, military, press etc)	
10	Name, address and telephone no of informant.	
11	Other Witnesses.	
12	Remarks.	
13	Date and time of receipt.	

UNCLASSIFIED



Section 40 [redacted]

From: Info-Records1
Sent: 09 March 2004 11:22
To: DAS-Sec3
Subject: RE: Internet-Authorised: FOIA - 30 year rule

Section 40

Your 2nd para: the exercise we are currently engaged on: examining lists of material (in this case 1,200 files in TNA custody with a release date of 2006 or later) will only lead to the recall of a few potentially interesting files due to its title. Our examination of the list only revealed around 60 for recall and a final check. The great bulk we are simply "taking a chance" on! On the basis that they were cleared for normal release thus any residual sensitivity would have been sufficiently low to cause few, if any problems, the files being recalled cover subjects we have only, in recent years, become a little concerned about ie Northern Ireland, nuclear issues.

As for the missing files - 22 UFO files - that these have been missed from the exercise is worrying. Although the UFO files will not being recall for a final examination, unless you wish to view them, of more concern have any other files been missed, perhaps those that we might just have concerns about.

My question to TNA about files missing from the list is relevant. Should any be missing from the list we will be in no position to claim an exemption, thus I deduce that missing files will be automatically released! I will be interested to see TNA's response!

Section 40 [redacted]

-----Original Message-----
From: DAS-Sec3
Sent: 09 March 2004 10:51
To: Info-Records1
Cc: DAS-Sec; DAS-SecAD
Subject: RE: Internet-Authorised: FOIA - 30 year rule

Thanks for sight of this Section 40 really is trying every angle possible to obtain access to these files, isn't he?.

I assume that records released under the "accelarated opening exercise" will not be redacted in anyway ie. they will contain individuals personal details and will be fully open as if they were over 30 years old. If this is the case, as the records have been in archives for a number of years, do we get any opportunity to view them for information we may wish to withold under FOI exemptions, or is it assumed that as they have already been through your staff's review process, that it is OK for them to be released?

With regard to the 22 missing files, if Section 40 ted them off PROCAT and they are not part of the accelarated opening exercise, does this mean that they have either already been released or that TNA have simply missed them from the exercise?

Section 40 [redacted]
DAS-Sec3
Section 40 [redacted]

-----Original Message-----
From: Info-Records1
Sent: 05 March 2004 09:00
To: DAS-Sec3

Subject: FW: Internet-Authorised: FOIA - 30 year rule

Section 40

A hidden copy (in view of the subject matter).

The accelerated opening exercise relates to the "automatic" release of records held at TNA that are not yet 30-years old. TNA claim about 100,000 such files are held, approx 1254 are said to be MOD, but I've reduced the number slightly.

Of concern the omission of 22 files transferred to Kew 2.5 to 5 years ago!

Section 40

-----Original Message-----
From: Info-Records1
Sent: 05 March 2004 08:53
To: Section 40
Cc:
Subject: Internet-Authorised: FOIA - 30 year rule

Section 40

Very grateful for sight of this exchange - the enquirer is well know in MOD.

Of the 30 files identified in the email (two are duplicated entries) only three are shown on the accelerated opening exercise - DEFE 24/977, 978 & 979.

22 AIR pieces transferred to Kew at various dates - 6 April 1999, 1 Feb 200 and (the bulk) 2 Oct 2001 - do not appear on the TNA return!

5 - DEFE 24/1205. 1206 & 1207, plus DEFE 71/34 & 35 - are still to be transferred!

Does this mean that the 22 files not shown on the accelerated opening list would have been automatically released in the absence of an exemption claim (assuming one applied!)?

One wonders whether have any more slipped through the crack?

Section 40

-----Original Message-----
From: Section 40
Sent: 05 March 2004 07:41
To: Section 40
Subject: FW: FOIA - 30 year rule

Section 40

Meant to copy you this for info at the time.

Section 40

-----Original Message-----
From: Section 40
Sent: 17 February 2004 10:59
To: Section 40
Cc:
Subject: RE: FOIA - 30 year rule

Section 40

Many thanks for your e-mail. I am including in my reply Section 40 the TNA client manager for MoD.

As we discussed, TNA is in the process of asking government departments to review the records held at TNA closed under the 30 year rule of the Public Records Act since the rule will be replaced from January 2005 by public access to all information not covered by exemptions in the FOI Act.

Our timetable for this review is to gather responses from departments by the end of July and, where indicated by them, to open records not believed to contain FOI exempt material from 4 January 2005 to public inspection here at Kew. Obviously I cannot prejudge what the outcome will be in respect of the piece references below, however, if for any reason they are not made open in Jan 2005, you are still entitled to ask to see the records under the FOI Act and in consultation with MoD, TNA would review the records concerned to see what can be released.

There is an exemption for personal information under FOI (based largely around the Data Protection Act). Below is the link to the guidance which the Information Commissioner has issued to public authorities for use after 2005. It is probable that even if the files contain some personal information which is considered to fall under this exemption, then the remainder of the non exempt information can be made available and there is a statutory right of appeal against any decision not to release information.

http://www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk/cms/DocumentUploads/Personal%20Info%20awareness%20guidance%201.pdf

In the meantime I'll endeavour to check MoD's return when it is received to let you know the outcome after July but feel free to prompt me if there is a delay. As I say, whatever the outcome of the review this year, you can still make a request to see the information from January when a much more detailed consideration of the extent of exempt material is likely compared to the resource constraints involved in the general review that is taking place this year.

All the best with your research

Section 40

-----Original Message-----
From: Section 40
Sent: 16 February 2004 17:12
To: Section 40
Subject: FOIA - 30 year rule

Dea Section 40

Further to our conversation last week, as promised here is the list of the 30 Ministry of Defence files held at Kew, to which I referred. According to MoD, these files have been already been transferred, but there may be others (dating to 1978) that are in the process of being transferred during the coming year.

My area of study is MoD policy towards reports of Unidentified Flying Objects, which is the subject of a research grant application to the AHRB (currently under consideration). I have already obtained a substantial amount of material from MoD towards my study, by applications under the current Code of Practice. However, I wish to access as much historical material as

possible during the
period of my research grant.

My questions re the Data Protection Act refer to the content of the files: i.e. the majority contain
reports and correspondence from named members of the public and service personnel. The MoD
have maintained in the past that they owe a duty to people who have reported incidents to them,
and have used this to ensure that files must remain closed for 30 years.

However, they have recently said they are now reviewing their files to see which UFO related
material could be released under their FOIA Publication Scheme. With the FOIA arriving in Jan
next year, they anticipate a flood of requests such as mine.

I would be interested to know if they are prepared to release the 30 files currently at Kew covering
the period 1975-1978 in January 2005.

The files are listed below: (I have added approximate date of opening
in brackets where available from PROCAT under the present 30 year rules).

AIR 2/18874 UFO correspondence 1974-75 (2006)
AIR 2/18920 UFO correspondence 1975 (2007)
AIR 2/18921 UFO correspondence 1976 (2007?)
DEFE 24/1206 UFO correspondence 1977 (2008)

AIR 2/18961 UFO reports January 1975 (2006)
AIR 2/18962 UFO reports February 1975 (2006)
AIR 2/18963 UFO reports March 1975 (2006)
AIR 2/18964 UFO reports April 1975 (2006)
AIR 2/18965 UFO reports May 1975 (2006)
AIR 2/18966 UFO reports June 1975 (2006)
AIR 2/18967 UFO reports July 1975 (2006)
AIR 2/18968 UFO reports December 1975 (2006)

AIR 2/18920 UFO reports 1975-76 (2007)
AIR 2/18921 UFO reports 1976 (2007)
AIR 2/18949 UFO reports August 1975-June 1976 (2007)
AIR 2/18969 UFO reports January 1976 (2007)
AIR 2/18970 UFO reports February 1976 (2007)
AIR 2/18971 UFO reports March 1976 (2007)
AIR 2/18972 UFO reports April 1976 (2007)
AIR 2/18973 UFO reports May 1976 (2007)
AIR 2/18974 UFO reports June 1976 (2007)
AIR 2/18975 UFO reports September 1976 (2007)
AIR 2/18976 UFO reports October 1976 (2007)
AIR 2/18977 UFO reports November 1977 (2007)
AIR 2/18978 UFO reports December 1977 (2007)

DEFE 24/977 UFOs: edited reports 1976-77 (2008)
DEFE 24/978 UFO reports April-Sept 1977 (2008)
DEFE 24/979 UFO reports Sept-Dec 1977 (2008)

DEFE 71/34 UFO reports Jan-May 1977 (2008)
DEFE 71/35 UFO reports June-Sept 1977 (2008)
DEFE 24/1205 UFO reports Oct-Dec 1977 (2008)
DEFE 24/1207 UFO reports Jan-March 1978 (2009).

Please keep me informed of any response you receive from MoD if you submit these references

with your list for 2005.

I'm grateful for your assistance with my research,

Section 40

[redacted]

This email has been scanned for all viruses by the MessageLabs Email
Security System. For more information on a proactive email security service working around the clock, around the globe, visit http://www.messagelabs.com

Section 40 [redacted]

From: Info-Records1
Sent: 05 March 2004 09:00
To: DAS-Sec3
Subject: FW: Internet-Authorised: FOIA - 30 year rule

Section 40 [redacted]

A hidden copy (in view of the subject matter).

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Section 40 [redacted]

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To: Section 40 [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: Internet-Authorised: FOIA - 30 year rule

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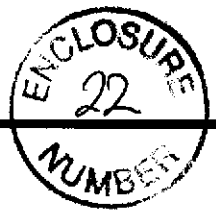
Sent: 05 March 2004 07:41
To: Section 40 [redacted]
Subject: FW: FOIA - 30 year rule

Section 40 [redacted]

Meant to copy you this for info at the time.

Section 40 [redacted]

Section 40



Fr DI BCR-CG AD
Se 02 March 2004 18:15
To: DAS-Sec3
Subject: RE: UFO files

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Red

Section 40

Re the DIS archives. We will eventually have a facility at Feltham to give access to our archives, but this is unlikely to be set up in the near future, although it may well be ready in time for FOI entry into force in January.

Section 40

DI BCR CG AD

Section 40

-----Original Message-----
From: DAS-Sec3
Sent: 02 March 2004 08:50
To: DI BCR-CG AD
Cc: Info-Records1
Subject: RE: UFO files

Section 40

Section 40 as not got back to us with any further requests to date, but I am sure it is only a matter of time.

With regard to new UFO classes of information for the FOI Publication Scheme, as we are uncertain as to what will happen to the DI UFO files, I am looking to add classes which include only documents from DAS and D UK Air files at this time. We may have to explain in the description of the class that any related DI documents are not included and word this carefully to insure that we are not promising to add them later if we can not be certain that they will ultimately be preserved. I will, of course, inform you and D UK Air of the outcome of my meeting with Section 40

Section 40

DAS-Sec3

Section 40

-----Original Message-----
From: DI BCR-CG AD
Sent: 01 March 2004 16:36
To: DAS-Sec3
Subject: RE: UFO files

Section 40

We do have that one file here -and I have made a copy of the contents (in anticipation of Section 40 Section 40 quest). The issue of the archives is still to be resolved - we are discussing this issue tomorrow as we may need access to files as part of the Butler review. I suspect, however, that if we are able to retrieve any, the UFO files will be fairly low on the list of priorities. I will update you after the meeting tomorrow.

Section 40

DI BCR CG AD

Section 40

-----Original Message-----
From: DAS-Sec3
Sent: 01 March 2004 16:27
To: Info-Records1; DI BCR-CG AD
Subject: UFO files

Section 40

Tomorrow Section 40 (InfoAccess-PM4) is coming to discuss new UFO classes of

- information with me. The last information I had on the DI UFO files was that all but one (D/DI55/108/15/2 - Cosford Incident Investigation) were in the Old War Office archive which has asbestos contamination and their future is uncertain.

Is their any futher news?

Section 40 [redacted]

DAS-Sec3

Section 40 [redacted]

Section 40

Fr DAS-SecAD
Sent: 02 March 2004 15:25
To: DAS-Sec3
Subject: PTC FOI STEERING GROUP: 1 MAR 04

Importance: Low

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Red

Section 40

I attended the above yesterday. Little to report, but a few observations below.

General

Section 40 had recently briefed the PTC Management Board. The Board highlighted the need to publicise the FOI Focal Points with the TLB, and put emphasis on the need for cultural change in response to FOI. The Board indicated its willingness to support implementation of FOI in PTC.

Publication Scheme

A request was made to emphasise the need to consider putting material in the scheme. I said that we had done so already, and that a review of remaining UFO files would be undertaken with a similar view. However, we could not say at this stage what the results would be.

Toolkit

DG Info pressing ahead, and a developmental version of the kit was already available to PTC on the Internet. A trial is being undertaken in HQ NI and DG Info are sure they provide the toolkit for PTC by 31 March 04.

PTC had bid for 120 toolkits. They would each be licensed to individuals.

Training

HQ NI were leading on this. DbLearning had agreed to take on the responsibility of providing training on behalf of "Defence".

EIRs

Guidance was still awaited on the handling of these.

Charging

Still no guidance from the Dept of Constitutional Affairs. Section 40 assured me this was regularly raised.

FOI Awareness

The SG wanted to make sure that there was a high level awareness of FOI related issues. The Newsletter was mentioned (and another is about to issue at the end of March). The SG suggested that reference to an understanding of FOI should be included in Directorate Induction Packs. Could you make sure we have some reflection of FOI in our DAS induction packs please?

I commented that the main Building community was very much focussing on HOME related issues at present and that we need to keep FOI on the agenda.

DCRM

The next SG meeting is to be held on 17 May.

Papers I took to the meeting (including Agenda) are returned to you separately.

Section 40 [redacted]

Section 40 [redacted]

Fr [redacted]
Sent: Info-Records1
02 March 2004 12:52
To: DAS-Sec3
Cc: InfoAccess-PM4
Subject: RE: Feedback from MOD Pilot Publication Scheme

Section 40 [redacted]

You are correct:

the retained passages (there are two, not one) are retained in accordance with Section 3(4) of the Public Records Act of 1958. The retention is with the approval of the Lord Chancellor.

The reason for retention is on "Intelligence" grounds, a Lord Chancellor's Instrument covers such retentions.

As is the custom with intelligence matters we do not discuss the details of documentation judged still sensitive. It a couple of cases when sending copies of the report to members of the public I've mentioned that two passages have been retained and that "the extracted passages are currently the subject of discussions between MOD and the relevant party." However, I can confirm that approaches have been made on two occasions to US authorities to clear the offending passages, so far without success!

If Section 40 [redacted] wishes to see information about public records and existing legislation I can think of no better website that that of The National Archives, specifically http://www.pro.gov.uk/recordsmanagement/access/manual this provides direct access to a detailed manual, now, in its third edition about "Access to Public Records".

Section 40 [redacted]

-----Original Message-----
From: DAS-Sec3
Sent: 02 March 2004 09:44
To: Info-Records1
Cc: InfoAccess-PM4
Subject: FW: Feedback from MOD Pilot Publication Scheme

Section 40 [redacted]

I have had the following enquiry about the Flying Saucer Working Party Report No.7 in the Publication Scheme.

As far as I am aware the information was withheld under Section 3(4) of the Public Records Act 1958 or 1967. This was because of its reference to the CIA and I think someone was going to ask the Americans if it could be released. If this is correct, are you able to tell me what Section 3(4) says and do you know if anyone has pursued its release with the American's?

Section 40 [redacted]
DAS-Sec3
Section 40 [redacted]

-----Original Message-----
From: InfoAccess-PM4
Sent: 01 March 2004 10:02
To: DAS-Sec3
Cc: InfoAccess-PM4
Subject: FW: Feedback from MOD Pilot Publication Scheme

Hi [redacted]

I [redacted] had this come through to the Publication Scheme feedback mail box. Are you able to help with some of his query? Let me know if you can
I will obviously find out about exemptions for him

[redacted]
-----Original Message-----
From: feedback@foi.mod.uk [mailto:feedback@foi.mod.uk]
Sent: 01 March 2004 02:51
To: InfoAccess-ad2@defence.mod.uk
Subject: Feedback from MOD Pilot Publication Scheme

[redacted]"Network engineer","ufologyinuk"[redacted]

[redacted]
Stoke on Trent
[redacted]-99,-99,1,-99,-99,-99,"","",1,1,2,2,2,2,2,2,4,1,"Retention/deletions:

In the Flying Saucer Working Party document (report no. 7), there is a deletion with a stamp "Retained under section 3(4)".

It is not clear which document "section 3(4)" relates to. I did check the links to the "Code of Practice on Access to Government Information" (parts I & II), and The Freedom of Information (FOI) Act 2000, but in both cases section 3(4) does not appear to exist?

I would be very obliged if you could direct me to a list of exemption codes accessible via the internet as used in this example, ideally via email if possible?

One other observation that I would like to make is that once the Flying Saucer Working Party document has been opened via a browser, it is nigh impossible to get out of and return to the page that the link was on. It can be done by right-clicking on the "back" button and going back more than a single page, but many people will be unaware of this.

Regards,

[redacted]"I would like to see a lot more UFO related material on-line. Many documents are available in printed form only, and this is a very expensive medium in comparison to .pdf files.","I'll let you know as I have more exposure to it!",0

Section 40

From: Info-Records1
Sent: 02 March 2004 09:09
To: DAS-Sec3
Cc: Info-AnalysisAD; DI BCR-CS AD
Subject: RE: UFO files

Section 40

I too will be attending a meeting re OWO situation later today Section 40 inspired).

I endorse Section 40 view re OWO UFO files, or rather their likely low priority designation when we are finally in a position to process papers currently stored in OWO basement.

Section 40

-----Original Message-----
From: DAS-Sec3
Sent: 02 March 2004 08:50
To: DI BCR-CG AD
Cc: Info-Records1
Subject: RE: UFO files

Section 40

Section 40 has not got back to us with any further requests to date, but I am sure it is only a matter of time.

With regard to new UFO classes of information for the FOI Publication Scheme, as we are uncertain as to what will happen to the DI UFO files, I am looking to add classes which include only documents from DAS and D UK Air files at this time. We may have to explain in the description of the class that any related DI documents are not included and word this carefully to insure that we are not promising to add them later if we can not be certain that they will ultimately be preserved. I will, of course, inform you and D UK Air of the outcome of my meeting with

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DI BCR CG AD

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Is their any futher news?

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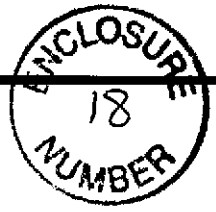
DAS-Sec3
Section 40 [redacted]

Section 40



From: DI BCR-CG AD
Sent: 02 March 2004 09:05
To: DAS-Sec3
Subject: RE: UFO files

Thanks Section 40

Section 40

DI BCR CG AD

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As we discussed, TNA is in the process of asking government departments to review the records held at TNA closed under the 30 year rule of the Public Records Act since the rule will be replaced from January 2005 by public access to all information not covered by exemptions in the FOI Act.

Our timetable for this review is to gather responses from departments by the end of July and, where indicated by them, to open records not believed to contain FOI exempt material from 4 January 2005 to public inspection here at Kew. Obviously I cannot prejudge what the outcome will be in respect of the piece references below, however, if for any reason they are not made open in Jan 2005, you are still entitled to ask to see the records under the FOI Act and in consultation with MoD, TNA would review the records concerned to see what can be released.

There is an exemption for personal information under FOI (based largely around the Data Protection Act). Below is the link to the guidance which the Information Commissioner has issued to public authorities for use after 2005. It is probable that even if the files contain some personal information which is considered to fall under this exemption, then the remainder of the non exempt information can be made available and there is a statutory right of appeal against any decision not to release information.

http://www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk/cms/DocumentUploads/Personal%20Info%20awareness%20guidance%201.pdf

In the meantime I'll endeavour to check MoD's return when it is received to let you know the outcome after July but feel free to prompt me if there is a delay. As I say, whatever the outcome of the review this year, you can still make a request to see the information from January when a much more detailed consideration of the extent of exempt material is likely compared to the resource constraints involved in the general review that is taking place this year.

All the best with your research

Section 40

-----Original Message-----
From: Section 40
Sent: 16 February 2004 17:12
To: Section 40
Subject: FOIA - 30 year rule

Dear Section 40

Further to our conversation last week, as promised here is the list of the 30 Ministry of Defence files
held at Kew, to which I referred. According to MoD, these files have been already been transferred, but
there may be others (dating to 1978) that are in the process of being transferred during the coming
year.

My area of study is MoD policy towards reports of Unidentified Flying Objects, which is the subject
of a research grant application to the AHRB (currently under consideration). I have

already obtained
a substantial amount of material from MoD towards my study, by applications under the current
Code of Practice. However, I wish to access as much historical material as possible during the
period of my research grant.

My questions re the Data Protection Act refer to the content of the files: i.e. the majority contain
reports and correspondence from named members of the public and service personnel. The MoD
have maintained in the past that they owe a duty to people who have reported incidents to them,
and have used this to ensure that files must remain closed for 30 years.

However, they have recently said they are now reviewing their files to see which UFO related
material could be released under their FOIA Publication Scheme. With the FOIA arriving in Jan
next year, they anticipate a flood of requests such as mine.

I would be interested to know if they are prepared to release the 30 files currently at Kew covering
the period 1975-1978 in January 2005.

The files are listed below: (I have added approximate date of opening
in brackets where available from PROCAT under the present 30 year rules).

AIR 2/18874 UFO correspondence 1974-75 (2006)
AIR 2/18920 UFO correspondence 1975 (2007)
AIR 2/18921 UFO correspondence 1976 (2007?)
DEFE 24/1206 UFO correspondence 1977 (2008)

AIR 2/18961 UFO reports January 1975 (2006)
AIR 2/18962 UFO reports February 1975 (2006)
AIR 2/18963 UFO reports March 1975 (2006)
AIR 2/18964 UFO reports April 1975 (2006)
AIR 2/18965 UFO reports May 1975 (2006)
AIR 2/18966 UFO reports June 1975 (2006)
AIR 2/18967 UFO reports July 1975 (2006)
AIR 2/18968 UFO reports December 1975 (2006)

AIR 2/18920 UFO reports 1975-76 (2007)
AIR 2/18921 UFO reports 1976 (2007)
AIR 2/18949 UFO reports August 1975-June 1976 (2007)
AIR 2/18969 UFO reports January 1976 (2007)
AIR 2/18970 UFO reports February 1976 (2007)
AIR 2/18971 UFO reports March 1976 (2007)
AIR 2/18972 UFO reports April 1976 (2007)
AIR 2/18973 UFO reports May 1976 (2007)
AIR 2/18974 UFO reports June 1976 (2007)
AIR 2/18975 UFO reports September 1976 (2007)
AIR 2/18976 UFO reports October 1976 (2007)
AIR 2/18977 UFO reports November 1977 (2007)
AIR 2/18978 UFO reports December 1977 (2007)

DEFE 24/977 UFOs: edited reports 1976-77 (2008)
DEFE 24/978 UFO reports April-Sept 1977 (2008)
DEFE 24/979 UFO reports Sept-Dec 1977 (2008)

DEFE 71/34 UFO reports Jan-May 1977 (2008)
DEFE 71/35 UFO reports June-Sept 1977 (2008)
DEFE 24/1205 UFO reports Oct-Dec 1977 (2008)

DEFE 24/1207 UFO reports Jan-March 1978 (2009).

Please keep me informed of any response you receive from MoD if you submit these references
with your list for 2005.

I'm grateful for your assistance with my research,

Section 40 [redacted]

This email has been scanned for all viruses by the MessageLabs Email Security System. For more information on a proactive email security service working around the clock, around the globe, visit http://www.messagelabs.com

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ENCLOSURE NUMBER 316

To: Section 40
D INFO(EXP)RECORDS 1C

RECORDS REQUISITIONED FROM THE NATIONAL ARCHIVE

Thank you for requisitioning the following records from The National Archive which are now returned.

AIR 2/18975
AIR 2/18921

NAME: Section 40

SIGNATURE: Section 40

RANK: AO .

BRANCH: DAS (Secretariat) 3
Room 6/73
Metropole Building
Northumberland Avenue
London
WC2N 5BP

Telephone: Section 40
Fax: Section 40

DATE: 11/02/04.

MOD RECORDS ORGANISATION

To [redacted]

Records Requisitioned from The National Archive

The enclosed records were requisitioned for you from The National Archives (NA)

They must not to be mutilated, altered, annotated or added to in any way; and on no account must they be passed to any other authority without written permission from this branch.

You will be held personally responsible for this material whilst it is on charge to you, and accountable for any breach of the above instructions.

THESE RECORDS MUST BE RETURNED TO THE ADDRESS BELOW BY:-

28th November 2003

DO NOT RETURN DIRECTLY TO THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES

[redacted]
D INFO(EXP)RECORDS 1c
[redacted]
Old War Office
Whitehall
LONDON
SWIA 2EU
Tel/Fax: [redacted]

Please sign one copy of this receipt and return it to the address above.

Received: AIR 2/18975
AIR 2/18921

Signature_____ Name_____

Rank_____ Branch_____

Date_____ Tel No_____

Section 40

From: InfoAccess-PM4
Sent: 18 December 2003 14:07
To: DAS-Sec3
Subject: Charging under the code

HiSection 40

This is my understanding of the situation but please edit as necessary. I will then send it on to Section 40
Section 40 Section 40

Section 40 has requested information on UFO policy from DAS. His request entails examining 27 files and under the code of practice, DAS will charge him for the information. This will mean a bill of £3,000. However, there is a possibility that some of the information he has requested will be released under the Freedom of Information Act - at the moment though DAS have not identified which parts will be placed in the publication scheme (this may not happen until next year.

Section 40 has said that:

1) Why should he pay for information that could be released?
2) Is he entitled to a rebate if some of the info he paid for is subsequently placed on the publication scheme

Please can you confirm the stance we should take in issues like this"

regards

Section 40

Loose Minute

Info-Records1/3/7/8

3 September 2003

DAS LA Ops and Pol 1

Copy to:

DI BCR D	DAS-LA-Ad	Info-Access 4
DI55B	Hd AHB	DAO CoOrdRD JNCO
InfoExp-Access AD	DAO-AIRC2-SO1	

REVIEW OF INFORMATION HELD INMOD ON UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS

Reference:
A: D/DAS/64/1 dated 18 August 2003
B: D/DI BCR/10/8/3 dated 20 August 2003

1. I agree with your proposal, outlined in Reference A, to release relevant data on the subject of unidentified flying objects, dating from 1980, through the MOD's Publication Scheme.

2. A quick check of our records has revealed that there are 69 files relating to this subject that have been prepared for The National Archives (TNA). All are due for release in accordance with the provisions of the 30-year rule. Subsequent files, i.e. those dating from 1980 and later, will be reviewed and transferred to TNA as per the current arrangements, and subject to the standard sensitivity arrangements.

3. On the subject of the asbestos contamination in the Old War Office basement the prognosis for any files stored in this area is not good. The contamination effects three archive/file stores: the MOD sensitive archive (under the control of Info-Records1), AHB's file store and the DIS store. The current proposal is to re-locate files stored in this area to Feltham. On re-location control of these files will be assumed by Info-Records and we hope to have in place by the New Year proposals to safeguard the information contained on these files. What seems to be the case is that decontaminating files by cleaning is not an option. The information on these files is likely to be safeguarded by either: (a) scanning or encapsulation. Either process is likely to prove costly and time consuming. I suspect that some hard decisions will have to be made about what files are to be safeguarded!

Section 40 [redacted]
Info-Records1
Section 40 [redacted]

UFOs-Publication Scheme review further DIS comments

From: DI BCR-CG AD
Sent: 20 August 2003 17:22
To: DAS-LA-Ops+Pol1
Subject: RE: UFOS- WAY AHEAD

Thanks, Section 40

Section 40

-----Original Message-----
From: DAS-LA-Ops+Pol1
Sent: 20 August 2003 17:17
To: DI BCR-CG AD
Cc: Info-Access3; Info-Access4
Subject: RE: UFOS- WAY AHEAD

Section 40

Thank you for your comments. Naturally, I do not have a detailed knowledge of the contents of your files, and while it would appear from the DAS files that I have seen, that we could release whole files, I appreciate that may not be the case with regard to DIS files. If you are happy to extract and release only particular documents as defined by a class, I am sure that would be fine.

The titles of the classes mentioned in my LM are very much first thoughts and defining the classes is going to take some work in order to achieve something which is acceptable to all parties. I do not know what DAO hold on thier files but I suspect they may have similar issues to yourself. Prehaps once I have everyones general agreement to the use of the Publication Scheme we can all discuss the class titles along with Info-Access staff and come up with something suitable.

Section 40

-----Original Message-----
From: DI BCR-CG AD
Sent: 20 August 2003 16:20
To: DAS-LA-Ops+Pol1
Cc: Info-Access3; Info-Access4
Subject: RE: UFOS- WAY AHEAD

Section 40

Thank you for your note. As I understand it, the publication scheme guidelines state that all information within a class should be released. I was under the impression that neither the current Code nor the FOI exemptions when they enter into force could be applied to the Publication Scheme, since its purpose is to identify information releasable now. That is why we need to be very careful in defining the classes quite narrowly. I am trying to avoid us having to release military reports ie objects picked up on radars or by other UK military air defences. I am sure someone in the RAF could assist with wording!

I am copying this to Section 40 - perhaps they could provide some advice on the classes and whether I am interpreting this correctly!

Section 40
DI BCR CG AD
Section 40

-----Original Message-----
From: DAS-LA-Ops+Pol1
Sent: 20 August 2003 14:47
To: DI BCR-CG AD
Cc: DI BCR-D; DI55B; InfoExp-AccessAD; DAS-LA AD; DAO COORD JNCO; AHB(RAF)-Head of; DAO-AIRC2-SO1; Info-Access4; Info-Records1
Subject: RE: UFOS- WAY AHEAD

UFOs-Publication Scheme review further DIS comments

Thanks Section 40

You are the first person to comment on my proposals so we will have to look at everyones comments when I have them all and agree on how to proceed. However, in the interim I will say that the titles of the classes will have to be carefully thought through. The reason I did not mention members of the public specifically is because we receive reports and correspondence from a number of sources. Although the majority are from members of the public, we do get some from pilots (military and civilian) air traffic controllers and policemen. They are filed in the order in which we receive them, regardless of were they come from. It is our intention to release whole files (whenever possible)once the personal data has been removed. However, if during the preparation of material for the Publication Scheme, sensitive information is discovered, this can still be withheld under exemptions of the Code of Practice on Access to Government Information (the Code). We would, of course, have to be carefull that there is also an appropriate exemption under the FOI Act to avoid someone requesting this information in January 2005 when the access rights under FOI come into force and supercede the Code.

I will be on leave between 1-19 September. But I am happy to discuss further before or after then if you wish.

Section 40 [redacted]
DAS-LA-Ops+Pol1

-----Original Message-----
From: DI BCR-CG AD
Sent: 20 August 2003 13:00
To: DAS-LA-Ops+Pol1
Cc: DI BCR-D; DI55B; InfoExp-AccessAD; DAS-LA AD; DAO COORD JNCO; AHB(RAF)-Head of; DAO-AIRC2-SO1; Info-Access4; Info-Records1
Subject: UFOS- WAY AHEAD
Importance: High

Section 40
Please see the attached minute.
Section 40 is away until 1 September, when I am away for 2 weeks, so please could you ensure that he is happy with my proposal. I am back in on 15 September.

Section 40 discussed with Section 40 Grateful if you could let Section 40 know if you are happy. Thanks

Section 40 [redacted]
DI BCR CG AD
Section 40 [redacted]

LOOSE MINUTE

D/DAS/64/1

18 August 2003

DI BCR CG 4
DAO-AIRC2-SOI
InfoExp-Access AD
Info-Access 4
Info-Records1

Copy to:
DAS-LA-AD
Hd of AHB
DI BCR D
DI55B
DI BCR CG AD
DAO COORD JNCO

REVIEW OF INFORMATION HELD IN MOD ON UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS

Reference A: D/DAS/64/1 dated 16 April 2003
Reference B: D/DAS/64/1 dated 23 May 2003

1. Thank you for your inputs to the review of UFO files for possible release into the public domain. I would now like to propose a way forward.

2. The review has revealed that MOD holds some 254 files which are known to contain information relating to UFOs. The files are held as follows:

DAO-AIRC2-SO1 – hold 11 files containing information from 1983 to date. All are to be examined for possible release.

DI BCR CG 4 - hold 26 files containing information from 1977 to date. 22 files could possibly be released, but 21 of these are held in the Old War Office archive which is currently unavailable because of asbestos contamination. It is not yet known when these files will be accessible. The remaining file that could be reviewed contains material regarding a well known UFO incident about which DAS also hold a file. The DAS file contains a significant amount of internal correspondence and careful thought would need to be given before these papers are released. The four files not for release refer to DIS policy on UFOs.

DAS - hold 210 files containing information from 1972 to date. 65 files have been reviewed by Info(Records) and are held in The National Archive awaiting release in the next few years. I propose that we leave these for release in the normal way and do not include them in this review. One file is already in the MOD FOI Publication Scheme (the Rendlesham Forest file). 108 files could be reviewed. The 36 which will remain closed include; 18 containing correspondence with persistent correspondents; 11 Parliamentary correspondence and enquiries; 6 Policy and one on the incident

mentioned above. Some of these may be released in the future, but I do not propose to include them in this initial stage.

Others – There are 7 files, in archives, the origin of which is not clear. If the branches responsible for these can not be identified, DAS will review them for possible release.

Conclusion;
There are 254 files held by MOD and currently closed to the public. Excluding DIS files, 126 of these could be examined for release.

3. The next step is to decide how to release this information. At our meeting in May, the following options for release were suggested.

The MOD Freedom of Information Publication Scheme
The three UFO Classes of Information already included in the MOD Publication Scheme have had over 48,000 hits, far more than any other Class in the Scheme. After the initial flurry of interest when these documents were released, correspondence to the Department regarding these papers has diminished, reducing work for DAS staff. Several of our regular correspondents have asked when we will be adding new Classes to the Scheme and there has also been speculation in one of the best known UFO publications. At our meeting there was some concern about creating additional Classes because of the need to scan a large number of documents. However, Information – Access 4 has established that providing the documents are prepared in a steady stream, Reprographics in St Giles Court would be able to perform this task free of charge.

Early release of files to The National Archive
In order to release material into The National Archive ahead of the 30 year point all personal data has to be removed and dummy files created. The National Archive would then have to agree to store twice as many files, the dummy file which would be open to the public and the original. When the information reaches the 30 year point, the dummy would be removed and replaced by the original. This could mean that recent material would be released ahead of older files.

Copies of files to be published in booklets to be purchased by the Public
A charge would have to be made in order to offset the cost of printing and distribution. The Public may question why this method of release was chosen when we could have used the Publication Scheme and supplied the information free of charge. Legal advice would also have to be sought because of crown copy write issues.

Conclusion
The simplest and most cost effective way to release the UFO files appears to be through the Publication Scheme. This would make the material widely accessible, would enable the public to search for information electronically and is the quickest way of placing a large amount of information in the public domain before FOI access in January 2005. I therefore propose that this is the method adopted.

4. Finally, we need to decide in what year we should start this task and, the titles of the new Classes of Information. I do not wish to interfere with the normal review process for preparation of files for The National Archive, so suggest we start with files from 1980. This would also fit logically with the 'Rendlesham Forest' file already in the Publication Scheme which dates from this period. The files can be broadly split into three categories. UFO

Reports / Incidents, UFO Correspondence and, other individual events. I therefore propose that we begin with two separate Classes entitled – "UFOs- Sightings reported to the MOD in 1980" and "UFOs – General correspondence received by the MOD in 1980". These would be followed by separate Classes for each year up to 2002. As DIS files have to be excluded, I suggest (if possible) the Classes contain a note such as "This excludes information stored in the Central London Archive which is at present subject to asbestos contamination".

5. I should be grateful if addressees would confirm whether they agree with these proposals and/or provide comments by COP 12 September 2003.

Section 40 [redacted]

DAS-LA-Ops+Pol1

Section 40 [redacted]

ENCLOSURE 11 NUMBER

BNSC
BRITISH NATIONAL SPACE CENTRE

What is BNSC - Welsh Translation

Space Industry | Space Research

The British National Space Centre (BNSC) is a voluntary partnership, formed from 10 Government Departments and Research Councils, to coordinate UK civil space activity. Together their expenditure on civil space amounts to around £170 million per year.

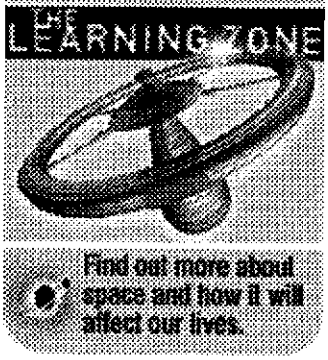
The Partnership Comprises:

Department of Trade and Industry
Office of Science and Technology
Department for Transport
Ministry of Defence
Foreign and Commonwealth Office
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
Rutherford Appleton Laboratory
Natural Environment Research Council
Particle Physics and Astronomy Research Council
Meteorological Office

BNSC believes in putting space to work for the benefit of all citizens, and aims to get the most scientific and economic value out of its activities in space. This is why the UK's civil space policy focuses strongly on cost-effectiveness in space programmes and investment is largely in areas with the greatest commercial potential, such as Earth observation, satellite communication and navigation.

At the centre of UK civil space policy, BNSC facilitates cooperation on the national and international level. By representing both academic and industrial interests, BNSC provides the UK space community with a strong voice in international negotiations.

The UK is one of the world's biggest users of space data and technology. UK civil space industry, with an estimated



workforce of around 6000 people, has a turnover some three times government expenditure, a ratio that compares favourably with the US.

BNSC's principal objectives, aiming to build on this commercial success and to maintain the UK's position at the forefront of space science, are:

- to foster the development of innovative technology, its commercial exploitation and its application in research;
- to assist the UK space industry in maximising business opportunities, particularly in the telecommunications and navigation sectors, for the benefit of society as a whole;
- to pursue highest quality space science;
- to improve knowledge of the environment and its resources through Earth Observation;
- to communicate the results and their significance to a broad audience.

The above policy goals were formulated jointly by all the Departments and Research Councils with interests in civil space and are set out in detail in the 'Space Strategy 1999-2002: New Frontiers'. The new Space Strategy is currently being developed.

Approximately 60 percent of UK civil space expenditure is channelled through the European Space Agency, ESA. The UK was a founder member of ESA, which provides cooperation in space science, technology and applications among European States. A joint European Space Strategy combining EU strength in policy making with ESA's technological expertise was adopted in November 2000, to provide a framework for Europe-wide exploitation of satellite technology in areas as diverse as communications, navigation and Earth observation. Discussions are now underway for the negotiation of a framework agreement to take the strategy forward.

More detailed information on the UK space industry and space research, as

well as recent space-related news, press releases and policy decisions, are also available in English elsewhere on this site.

Copyright | Disclaimer

LOOSE MINUTE

D/DAS/64/1

23 May 2003

InfoExp-Access AD
Info-Access 4
Info(Records)1
DI ISec 4
DI55B
DAO COORD JNCO
DC&L(F&S) – Legal 1
DAS-LA-Ops+Pol1

Copy to:
DAO-AIRC2-SO1
Hd of AHB

REVIEW OF INFORMATION HELD IN MOD ON UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS

Reference A: D/DAS/64/1 dated 16 April 2003

1. I am grateful to those who attended, or were represented, at the meeting held on 15th May to discuss the information the MOD holds on UFOs and the possible release of material into the public domain. The following is a record of discussions and agreed actions.

2. All of those present recognised the continuing public interest in the subject of UFOs and agreed, in principle, with the proposal to release some of the information from currently closed MOD files, in order to reduce the workload likely to be generated by requests for information under the future Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).

3. There was general agreement that any review of files and subsequent release of information should include all the UFO files held by DAS, DAO, DIS and any in archives, subject to resource implications.

4. It was agreed that in order to fulfil MOD obligations to protect personal information under the Data Protection Act 1998, any release of information less than 30 years old, would involve the redaction of all personal data. On review of individual files it may also be necessary to withhold information under exemptions of the Code of Practice on Access to Government Information (the Code) and/or the FOIA. DC&L(F&S)-Legal 1 offered to provide guidance on the definition and redaction of personal data.

5. The following options for release of information were discussed:

The MOD Freedom of Information Publication Scheme
Additional UFO classes of information to be included in the Publication Scheme. InfoExp-Access AD raised the need for someone (possibly DG Info's webmaster) to scan a large number of documents in order for them to be accessible on the internet. She confirmed that the Publication Scheme had the capacity to incorporate a large number of documents, but a decision on who would be responsible for this task and any resource implications would need to be considered.

Early release of files to the Public Record Office
Info(Records)1 advised that files were once retained in the Department for a period of 50 years, but in the early 1990s legal advice was sought and this period was reduced to 30 years, which was seen as a sufficient period of time to protect personal information. Files could be released before they reach the 30 year point, but all the personal data would need to be removed and a dummy file created which would be released to the public. The original would be held closed at the PRO until it reached the 30 year point when the dummy file would be replaced by the original. This could mean that more recent material could be released ahead of some of the older files going through the normal review process. Consultation with the PRO would be necessary.

Copies of files to be published in booklets which could be purchased by the public
HMSO publish a number of booklets such as Parliamentary Debates (Hansard) which can be purchased by the public. UFO Reports and correspondence could be published in a similar way with the costs of production being offset by the purchase charge. Info(Records)1 commented that there could be crown copy write issues to consider. Printing costs and charges would also need to be explored. It was suggested that DGCC may be able to provide advice.

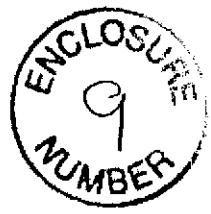
6. The meeting concluded that while everyone agreed that it was desirable to release more UFO information into the public domain, such a course would clearly have resource implications which require further exploration.

7. As a first step I request that all those responsible for holding information on UFOs should examine the list of files attached at Annexes A-D of Reference A and identify those which, from the title, appear to be easily releasable. Please then provide an estimate of the amount of staff time it is likely to take to examine, copy and redact personal data from these files. Also, please indicate whether you believe you have the resources to undertake such a task, baring in mind that we do not intend to release all the files at the same time, but stagger the release over the remaining 19 months before FOIA access.

8. Please send your responses to Section 40 DAS-LA-Ops+Pol1, by COP 13 June.

Section 40

Section 40
DAS-LA-AD
Section 40



AGENDA

Introduction

- The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the material the MOD holds relating to UFOs and what we may be able to release into the FOI Publication Scheme to reduce workload caused by access requests.

Public Interest

- There is a large public interest in the subject of UFOs. Since the launch of the FOI Publication Scheme in November 2002 the three UFO classes of information included in the Scheme have received over ..... hits.

- In addition DAS has received a number of requests for information under the Code, some from those making consecutive requests resulting in a considerable amount of staff time to complete.

Reasons for reviewing UFO material

- Under the FOI Act we will have to state whether we hold the information requested. It is therefore important that we are aware of what we hold and where. Many of the UFO files have been in archives for a long time and current staff are not aware of their contents.

- The Code is not widely known, but the FOI Act is being publicised. Given the public interest in the subject, it is likely that there could be a significant increase in requests when access rights become active in January 2005.

- A significant amount of the information we hold is unclassified and non contentious, and would be released if requested.

- The information currently being released to those making requests under the Code is already putting into the public domain a large amount of previously closed information.

For Discussion / agreement

- The review and release of material should not interfere with the final release of original documents to the PRO. (Info-Records to advise).

- As many requests are likely to be for "everything the MOD holds on .....", do we agree that the review of information for possible release should include all the known files/documents held by DAS, DAO, DIS and in archives?

- Do all branches have the resources to be able to review their own material?

- Any information released into the Publication Scheme must be conducted in a logical order.

- There should be consultation between DAO, DIS & DAS to insure consistency before information is released. i.e. That one branch is not releasing information withheld by another.

- The wording of new classes of information should be considered carefully to insure they reflect the material we intend to put in them.

Action outcome of meeting

- To insure we are aware of all the information held within the MOD on UFOs.

- To decide which files should be reviewed first.

- To decide the title of the class of information in which to put this information. i.e. UFO Reports received by MOD 1980-81.

- To agree what information should be redacted across all files. i.e. Personal data under the DPA.

- Estimated timescale for completion of this initial phase.

Booking Reference : MR49193/1

ENCLOSURE NUMBER 8

ATTENTION: BOOKINGS FOR MEETINGS ON OR AFTER 01/03/04 CAN ONLY BE MADE PROVISIONALLY.

Contact : Section 40
Tel. :
Description : DAS
Booking Status: PR
Booking Notes : ALL ARE PASS HOLDERS. GB

UIN :
Cost Centre :
Cost Code :
Att. : 9

From :	15 MAY 2003 14:00	**Building :**	METROPOLE
To :	15 MAY 2003 16:00	**Location :**	613-MEETING ROOM

Facilities Required	Qty	Cost	Delivery Time

Notes :

Catering Required	Qty	Cost	Delivery Time

Notes :

Total :

Please note: 24hrs notice is required to cancel catering orders and hire of audio visual equipment. Failure to do so may result in a charge being made.

Conference Bookings :

Section 40

Telephone Section 40

Conference Room Keys available from: -		
Building	Room	Telephone
Metropole	G22	Section 40
Northumberland House	G8	
St. Giles Court	015	
Old War Office	046	

OP-BK002

[redacted]

DAS-LA-Ops+Pol1

ENCLOSURE NUMBER 7

From: Info-Records1
Sent: 06 May 2003 13:41
To: DAS-LA-Ops+Pol1
Subject: UFO MEETING

Section 40 [redacted]

Re your recent minute and lists of identifiable records relating to this phenomena.

A quick check thru the Hayes Index has revealed a number of additional files on this subject:

Title	File ref	last enclosure	
1. Sir John Langford Holt MO Section 40 [redacted] UFO enquiry	AF/BJ84/76	1976	
2. Nigel Lawson MP Section 40 [redacted] UFO	AF/JW260/76	1976	
3. Dr Coleman JP MP Section 40 [redacted]	AF/BJ 76/76	1976	
4. Richard Luce MP Section 40 UFOs	MR/12554	1977	
5. UFO reports Jan-Jul 1980 ***(a quick check on your list failed to find this file!)***	DS8/75/2/4 Pt A	1980	
6. UFOs debate House of Lords	DD OPs(GE)10/8 Pt A	1982	Not on DAO's list
7. Admin & Gen - UFOs	DD Ops(GE)10/8 Pt J	1983	" " " "
8. Admin & Gen - UFOs	DD OPs(GE)10/8 Pt K	1983	" " " "
9. ADGE UFO Reports	DAO/113 Pt A	1996	✓ on DAO list
10. UFO policy	MO/9/18 Pt I (?)	1996	
11. ADGE UFO reports	DAO/1/13 Pt B	1997	✓ on DAO list
12. ADGE UFO Reports	DAO1/13 Pt C	1999	✓ on DAO list
13. Security Matters - correspondence UFOs	DPR(RAF)326/2 Pt A	2000	
14. UFO reports	2GP(BP)/888772/10/ISTAR Pt A	2001	
15. ADGE UFO reports	DAO/1/3 Pt D	2001	✓ on DAO list

A word of warning the above information has been taken from the Feb 2003 database of holdings at Hayes. I have not check to see whether there have been any changes during the last couple of months.

Section 40 [redacted]

Loose Minute

DG Info 3/2/3/2

28 April 2003

DAS-LA-AD

Copy to:
DI BCR CG4
DAO AIRC2-SO1
Info(Records)1
DI55B
Hd of AHB
CL(FS) - Legal 1
Access 1
Access 4

RELEASE OF INFORMATION FROM MOD FILES ON UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS

Reference A: D/DAS/9/36/8/1 dated 16 January 2003 (not to all)
Reference B: D/DAS/64/1 dated 16 April 2003

1. You minute at Reference A and Section 40 at Reference B raised some questions relating to the disclosure of information from MOD files on UFOs. The publicity generated by the Classes of Information in the FOI Publication Scheme amply confirmed that this is a subject of significant public interest: I therefore welcome your willingness to look at the possibility of releasing more information proactively. The meeting which Section 40 is convening will provide an opportunity for all concerned to debate the issues which this raises, but I owe you a reply on the specific points raised in Reference A. Taking each in turn:

Ministerial Correspondence

You asked about the legitimacy of releasing correspondence from an MP if it is the subject of a request. The issue here is really as much to do with the principles of data protection as with the Code of Practice on Access to Government Information or the requirements of the FOI Act. In practice the issue is whether this amounts to 'personal data' and therefore information that should not generally be made available to third parties. A key point to bear in mind is that both the Code and the FOI Act give a right of access to *information* rather than an entitlement to specific documents. In many cases the simplest way of providing information will be to disclose a copy of a letter, minute, report or whatever, but there is no requirement to meet the request in this way. When a request involves information that has been received from a third party the Code of Practice under s.45 of the FOI Act advises that a public authority should consult the third party. This does not entitle the third party to veto disclosure of *the information* (assuming it is not otherwise legitimate to claim an exemption), but in the scenario you describe I think it would be appropriate to honour any wish by the MP not to disclose the letter itself or, if it were to be

released, to sanitise it before release - at the very least to remove personal details of the constituent. Of course, as you say, this process will become complicated if the MP is no longer in office. There is also a grey area about whether an MP has 'personal' status when carrying out his professional/public duty. In general, I think the assumption and working practice should be to answer requests by providing information in a way that avoids disclosing details such as names and addresses where there is any reason to doubt that this will be acceptable to the person - including an MP - concerned. I am adding CL(FS)-Legal 1 to the distribution of this minute as some authoritative guidance or case law on the point may well have emerged from operation of the Data Protection Act. However, as with many of the practical issues associated with release of information, I think there will be a need to make pragmatic judgements in the context of individual requests.

Charging for Information

Your question here was related to the ethics of making information freely available when its provision to the original applicant involved the payment of a fee. In particular you asked whether it would be reasonable to delay putting information in the Publication Scheme in order to allow that person a period of exclusive use. I don't see why there should be any objection to this in principle. It is open to a public authority to define Classes of Information in the way it sees fit. Provided information is actually published in accordance with the commitment that has been given then there can be no cause for criticism. The classes in a scheme have to be approved by the Information Commissioner but, unless there is something distinctly unreasonable about the way an obligation is defined (for example, an undertaking to publish information but only after several years have elapsed), it is difficult to envisage objection. So, if you wished, I think it would be possible to say that information released in response to individual requests will be published within, say, 3 months of the request being answered. Since it will presumably be the intention to publish the information electronically I think this is in any case reasonable to allow a lead time for converting the paper records.

Possible need to amend UFO docs in PS.

Voluminous Requests

You are right in saying that, unlike the current Code of Practice, the FOI Act does not include an exemption for voluminous and vexatious requests. There is a provision (s.14 of the Act) which says that a public authority does not have to respond to vexatious requests or "a subsequent identical or substantially similar request", but this does not address the issue of volume. The limiting factor here will be separate Fees Regulations made under the Act. In essence these regulations will allow public authorities to impose a ceiling (known as the 'appropriate limit') on the amount of effort associated with responding to a request: at present the 'appropriate limit' has been set at £600. Under the regulations 10% of the 'prescribed costs' of the effort incurred can be charged to the applicant. These 'prescribed costs' relate solely to the - essentially clerical - tasks associated with locating and retrieving the relevant information, putting it into a format requested by the applicant, reproduction and postage. It is relevant to bear in mind that there is a presumption that public authorities know what information they hold and that, by implication, it should therefore be retrievable without too much effort. It is also important to note that the time and cost of effort involved in reviewing the records (e.g. to decide whether an exemption applies) cannot be taken into account. There

is, therefore, some recognition of a need to limit the resources employed by public authorities to answering requests. Having said this, I should also mention that the Fees Regulations don't prevent a public authority from agreeing to exceed the 'appropriate limit' - in such circumstances it will be possible to pass on to the applicant the full 'prescribed costs' above £600 (the assumption must, I think, be that this will be estimated/agreed in advance with the applicant!). As regards the 20 working days, I think it is again necessary to look at this pragmatically. If a request involves significant effort it will be good practice to advise the applicant that this is the case and keep him informed of progress. Technically it will be a breach of the Act to exceed the 20 day limit, but provided there is ongoing dialogue (and a drip feed of information might be considered), the likelihood of enforcement action will, I think, be minimised.

Future handling of UFO files

As I have already said, I fully endorse your proposal to consider the possibility of more proactive release. Clearly this would require planning and some significant effort but there would be merit in approaching this as a structured exercise rather than waiting for individual requests to chip away at the files. A systematic review will also be an excellent way of confirming exactly what information exists. As your minute indicates, the proactive release of files before the 30 year point does raise an interesting question about the relationship with the Public Record Act and the review process managed by Information(Records). My current view is that a decision to release more information through the Publication Scheme does not really change anything. The purpose of the national archive is to retain for posterity those records deemed to be of lasting value, and MOD's review work helps in the selection process. Accordingly it will be appropriate to continue to transfer original files to Kew regardless of whether their contents have already been made accessible. I think it will be necessary to annotate files in order to make it clear that they already been disclosed, but otherwise I can see no obvious need to change current procedures. This is not something on which I have had any specific discussion, but the very fact that all information held is within the scope of the FOI Act inevitably means that the PRO will be unable to control the timing of release in the customary way. Our own decisions about proactive release have to be guided by the departmental judgement of 'public interest' and the administrative benefit of anticipating requests which will otherwise need to be handled within 20 working days.

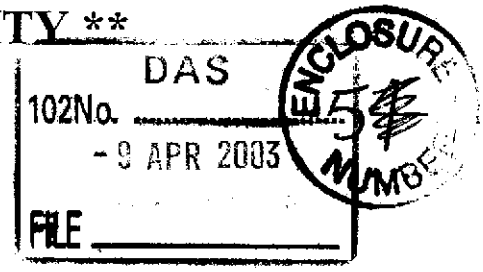
2. I am sorry you have had to wait so long for this reply, but I hope these comments will now help to set the scene for those addressees who are due to attend your forthcoming meeting.

Section 40 [redacted]

Section 40 [redacted]
Info(Exp) – AD Access
Section 40 [redacted]

** TO BE GIVEN A HIGH PRIORITY **

For Info only.
Matter to be handled by Defence Estates.
G/L



Land /E-MAIL

TREAT OFFICIAL CORRESPONDENCE

To Defence Estates

cc. DAS (LA) P+P

TO Ref No 4126 **/2003**

Date 9 4 03

The Prime Minister/SofS/Min(AF)/Min(DP)/USofS/MOD* has received the attached correspondence from a member of the public, which this office has neither retained nor acknowledged. Please send a reply on behalf of the PM/Minister/Department*.

Ministers attach great importance to correspondence being answered promptly, and your reply should be sent **within 15 working days of the above date** *(our target is now to answer 100% of letters from members of the public within this timeframe)*. If, exceptionally, this should prove impossible, an interim reply should be sent within the same timescale. You should be aware that No 10 periodically calls for a sample of letters sent by officials on the PM's behalf for his perusal.

An 'Open Government Code of Practice on Access to Government Information' came into force in 1997. All replies to members of the public must be in accordance with the procedures set out in the Code (a full explanation is contained in DCI(Gen) 232/01; further information is available from DG Info on Section 40

Under 'Service First', all Departments and Agencies must ensure that they have simple systems to record and track correspondence received from members of the public (including details of the correspondent and the nature and date of the reply). This information should be regularly monitored and reviewed against published targets. In addition, we are required to keep information on the number of **requests for information, which specifically refer to the Code of Practice.**

As part of our monitoring procedure, random spot checks on the accuracy of your branch records on correspondence will be performed throughout the year.

Section 40 **Ministerial Correspondence Unit**
Old War Office Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2EU
t: Section 40
f: Section 40 CHOtS: Ministerial Correspondence; e: ministers@defence.mod.uk;
w: http://main.chots.mod.uk/min_parl/

** TO BE GIVEN A HIGH PRIORITY **

* Delete as appropriate.

INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Ministers

From: Section 40

Sent: 07 April 2003 17:37

To: Ministers@defence.mod.uk

Subject: Filming in Rendlesham Forest

Hi there.

Hi,

I am the Information Officer for the British Film Office in Los Angeles and have had in inquiry on what permits may be required for filming there. Suffolk County Council mentioned that I needed to contact the Military of Defense about filming there as a large part of that forest is still owned by the Military.

Who can I speak to about getting appropriate permits for filming?

I appreciate any help you can provide with this.

Best,

Section 40

British Film Office Los Angeles

Section 40

The information transmitted is intended only for the person or entity to which it is addressed and may contain confidential and/or privileged material. Any review, retransmission, dissemination or other use of, or taking any action in reliance upon, this information by persons or entities other than the intended recipient is prohibited. If you receive this in error, please contact the sender and delete the material from any computer.

LOOSE MINUTE

D/DAS/64/1

16 April 2003

InfoExp-Access AD - Section 40
Info-Access 4 Section 40
Info(Records)1 Section 40
DI ISec 4 - Section 40
DI55B - Section 40
DAO-AIRC2-SOI - Wing Commander Section 40
Hd of AHB - Section 40
DAS-AD-LA Section 40

REVIEW OF INFORMATION HELD IN MOD ON UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS (UFO)

1. As you will be aware there has been a long standing public interest in the subject of 'UFOs' and in particular the MOD's involvement with UFO matters. A large number of books and magazine articles have been written in the past few years, many of which speculate about the contents of MOD files, sometimes being referred to as the "real X-files".

2. Since the introduction of the Code of Practice on Access to Government Information and now the publicity about the forthcoming Freedom of Information Act, DAS has seen a shift in the types of correspondence we are receiving, from the public wishing to inform us of their own sightings, to requesting information and documents from our files. A few individuals have made several consecutive requests for information under the Code, each one involving up to 20 hours of DAS staff time to complete. In most cases we have had no reason to withhold the information requested, which means that if these requests continue (and one individual has already indicated his intention to make more requests) in due course most of our files will be in the public domain. It therefore seems appropriate to look at the files we hold and see what information can be added to the Freedom of Information Publication Scheme in order to reduce the workload generated by access requests and fulfil our obligations under the Scheme. For consistency it also seems sensible to take the opportunity to examine the UFO related files held by the other relevant Directorates.

3. I propose that we hold a meeting shortly to discuss this and would be grateful if addressees could inform me of their availability on the 14th or 15th May. In the meantime, I attach at Annexes A-D lists of all the files (and unregistered papers) that I am aware of, held in archives and Directorates. For completeness, I have also included details of files known to have (or thought to have) been destroyed, or already open for viewing at the Public Record Office. This information will be useful at the introduction of the Freedom of Information Act when we will be required to state whether we hold information or not.

4. I should be grateful if DIS and DAO staff could check their lists (Annexes A and B) for any errors or omissions which can be discussed at the meeting. All addressees please advise me of their availability to attend a meeting in Metropole Building on either the 14th or 15th May.

Section 40 [redacted]

Section 40 [redacted]

DAS-LA-Ops+Pol1

Section 40 [redacted]

Annex A to D/DAS/64/1
dated 16 April 2003

UNIDENTIFED FLYING OBJECT (UFO) FILES DEFENCE INTELLIGENCE STAFF

Files open for viewing at the Public Record Office (PRO)

FILE REF	DATE OF CONTENTS	TITLE	STATUS
DEFE 19/9	1948-60	Scientific Intelligence	MOD, Central Defence Scientific Staff and predecessor registered files (CSA, AE 1 & A series) and papers Ref: CSA/ALPH/51 FILE REMAINS CLOSED but included DSI/JTIC Report No7 Extracted and released in DEFE 44 /119
DEFE 41/117	1949-50	Unorthodox Aircraft	Foreign Office & MOD Scientific & Technical Intelligence Branch and Overseas Liaison Branch register file Open at PRO Ref: 9017/8 Vol 1
DEFE 10/496	1950 (April) to 1951 (December)	Minutes of Meetings	Directorate of Scientific Intelligence and Joint Technical Intelligence Committee file Open at PRO
DEFE 41/74	1950	DSI/JTIC Minutes	Foreign Office & MOD Scientific & Technical Intelligence Branch and Overseas Liaison Branch register file Open at PRO Ref:6005/8/D 17 Vol 4
DEFE 44/119	1951	DSI/JSTI Report No.7	MOD Scientific & Technical Intelligence Branch Report. Released under the Code of Practice on Access to Gov Info. Now Open at PRO Released 2002

DEFE 41/75	1951	DSI/JTIC Minutes	Foreign Office & MOD Scientific & Technical Intelligence Branch and Overseas Liaison Branch register file Open at PRO Ref:6005/8/D 17 Vol 5
DEFE 41/76	1952-54	DSI/JTIC Minutes	Foreign Office & MOD Scientific & Technical Intelligence Branch and Overseas Liaison Branch register file Open at PRO Ref:6005/8/D 17 Vol 6
DEFE 10/497	1952 (January) to 1954 (October)	Minutes of Meetings	Directorate of Scientific Intelligence and Joint Technical Intelligence Committee file Open at PRO
DEFE 41/153	1953-54	DSI/JTIC papers	Foreign Office & MOD Scientific & Technical Intelligence Branch and Overseas Liaison Branch register file Open at PRO Ref: D19/ Vol 5
DEFE 31/118	1958-63	UFO Policy	Defence Intelligence Staff Registered file Open at PRO Ref: DI/55/40/9/1 Pt1
DEFE 31/119	1963-67	UFO Policy	Defence Intelligence Staff Registered file Open at PRO Ref: DI/55/40/9/1 Pt 2

Files known or thought to have been destroyed

FILE REF	DATE OF CONTENTS	TITLE	STATUS
D/DI55/108/15 Pt 3	1968-71	UFO Policy	Defence Intelligence Staff Registered file FILE DESTROYED 8 Aug 1984
D/DI55/108/15/1 Pt 10	N/K (but before 1977)	UAP –Incident	Defence Intelligence Staff Registered file PRESUMED DESTROYED- DATE NOT KNOWN
D/DI55/108/15/1 Pt 11	N/K (but before 1977)	UAP –Incident	Defence Intelligence Staff Registered file PRESUMED DESTROYED- DATE NOT KNOWN

D/DI55/108/15/1 Pt 12	N/K (but before 1977)	UAP –Incident	Defence Intelligence Staff Registered file PRESUMED DESTROYED- DATE NOT KNOWN
D/DI55/108/15/1 Pt 13	N/K (but before 1977)	UAP –Incident	Defence Intelligence Staff Registered file PRESUMED DESTROYED- DATE NOT KNOWN
D/DI55/108/15/1 Pt 14	N/K (but before 1977)	UAP –Incident	Defence Intelligence Staff Registered file PRESUMED DESTROYED- DATE NOT KNOWN
D/DI55/108/15/1 Pt 15	N/K (but before 1977)	UAP –Incident	Defence Intelligence Staff Registered file PRESUMED DESTROYED- DATE NOT KNOWN
D/DI55/108/15/1 Pt 14	N/K (but before 1977)	UAP –Incident	Defence Intelligence Staff Registered file PRESUMED DESTROYED- DATE NOT KNOWN
D/DI55/108/15/1 Pt 15	N/K (but before 1977)	UAP –Incident	Defence Intelligence Staff Registered file PRESUMED DESTROYED- DATE NOT KNOWN
D/DI55/108/15/1 Pt 16	N/K (but before 1977)	UAP –Incident	Defence Intelligence Staff Registered file PRESUMED DESTROYED- DATE NOT KNOWN
D/DI55/108/15/1 Pt 17	N/K (but before 1977)	UAP –Incident	Defence Intelligence Staff Registered file PRESUMED DESTROYED- DATE NOT KNOWN
D/DI55/108/15/1 Pt 18	N/K (but before 1977)	UAP –Incident	Defence Intelligence Staff Registered file PRESUMED DESTROYED- DATE NOT KNOWN
D/DI55/108/15/1 Pt 19	N/K (but before 1977)	UAP –Incident	Defence Intelligence Staff Registered file PRESUMED DESTROYED- DATE NOT KNOWN
D/DI55/108/15/1 Pt 20	N/K (but before 1977)	UAP –Incident	Defence Intelligence Staff Registered file PRESUMED DESTROYED- DATE UNKNOWN

D/DI55/108/15/1 Pt 26	N/K (Between 1977 & 1983)	UAP –Incident	Defence Intelligence Staff Registered file PRESUMED DESTROYED – DATE UNKNOWN
D/DI55/108/15/1 Pt 27	N/K (Between 1977 & 1983	UAP –Incident	Defence Intelligence Staff Registered file PRESUMED DESTROYED – DATE UNKNOWN
D/DI55/108/15/1 Pt 28	N/K (Between 1977 & 1983	UAP –Incident	Defence Intelligence Staff Registered file PRESUMED DESTROYED – DATE UNKNOWN
D/DI55/108/15/1 Pt 29	N/K (Between 1977 & 1983	UAP –Incident	Defence Intelligence Staff Registered file PRESUMED DESTROYED – DATE UNKNOWN
DI55/108/15/1 Pt 30	N/K (Between 1977 & 1983	UAP –Incident	Defence Intelligence Staff Registered file PRESUMED DESTROYED – DATE UNKNOWN
D/DI55/108/15/1 Pt 31	N/K (Between 1977 & 1983	UAP –Incident	Defence Intelligence Staff Registered file PRESUMED DESTROYED – DATE UNKNOWN
D/DI55 /108/15/1 Pt 33	N/K (Probably 1983)	UAP Incident	Defence Intelligence Staff Registered File FILE DESTROYED 30.11.1992

Files held in Directorates and Archives

FILE REF	DATE OF CONTENTS	TITLE	STATUS
D/DI55/108/15 Pt 4	1971-96	UFO Policy	Defence Intelligence Staff Registered file Held in DIS
D/DI55/108/15/1 Pt 1	N/K (but before 1977)	**UFO** –Incidents	Defence Intelligence Staff Registered file Held in DIS
D/DI55/108/15/1 Pt 2	N/K (but before 1977)	**UFO** –Incidents	Defence Intelligence Staff Registered file Held in DIS
D/DI55/108/15/1 Pt 3	N/K (but before 1977)	**UFO** –Incidents	Defence Intelligence Staff Registered file Held in DIS

D/DI55/108/15/1 Pt 4	N/K (but before 1977)	**UFO** –Incidents	Defence Intelligence Staff Registered file Held in DIS
D/DI55/108/15/1 Pt 5	N/K (but before 1977)	**UFO** –Incidents	Defence Intelligence Staff Registered file Held in DIS
D/DI55/108/15/1 Pt 6	N/K (but before 1977)	**UFO** –Incidents	Defence Intelligence Staff Registered file Held in DIS
D/DI55/108/15/1 Pt 7	N/K (but before 1977)	**UFO** –Incidents	Defence Intelligence Staff Registered file Held in DIS
D/DI55/108/15/1 Pt 8	N/K (but before 1977)	**UFO** –Incidents	Defence Intelligence Staff Registered file Held in DIS
D/DI55/108/15/1 Pt 9	N/K (but before 1977)	**UFO** –Incidents	Defence Intelligence Staff Registered file Held in DIS
D/DI55/108/15/1 Pt 21	1977	**UFO** – Incidents	Defence Intelligence Staff Registered file Held at Records 1
D/DI55/108/15/1 Pt 22	1977	**UFO** –Incidents	Defence Intelligence Staff Registered file Held at Records 1
D/DI55/108/15/1 Pt 23	1977	**UFO** –Incidents	Defence Intelligence Staff Registered file Held at Records 1
D/DI55/108/15/1 Pt 24	1977	**UFO** –Incidents	Defence Intelligence Staff Registered file Held at Records 1
D/DI55/108/15/1 Pt 25	1977	**UFO**– Incidents	Defence Intelligence Staff Registered file Held at Records 1
D/DI55/108/15/1 Pt 32	1978(Feb) to 1983 (Jan)	**UFO** –Incidents	Defence Intelligence Staff Registered file Held in DIS File is a compilation of papers, not complete for whole period.
D/DI55/108/15/1 Pt 34	1983 (June) to 1985 (March)	**UFO** -Incidents	Defence Intelligence Staff Registered File File held in DIS
D/DI55/108/15/1 Pt 35	1985 (April) to 1986 (Dec)	**UFO** - Incidents	Defence Intelligence Staff Registered File Held in DIS
D/DI55/108/15/1 Pt 36A	1986 (Dec) to 1987 (Nov	**UFO** - Incidents	Defence Intelligence Staff Registered File Held in DIS
D/DI55/108/15/1 Pt 36B	1987 (Nov) to 1988 (July)	**UFO** - Incidents	Defence Intelligence Staff Registered File Held in DIS
D/DI55/108/15/1 Pt 37	1988 (Aug) to 1989 (July)	**UFO** - Incidents	Defence Intelligence Staff Registered File Held in DIS
D/DI55/108/15/1 Pt 38	1989 (July-Dec)	**UFO** - Incidents	Defence Intelligence Staff Registered File Held in DIS

D/DI55/108/15/1 Pt 39	1990 (Jan) to 1991 (June)	**UFO-** Incidents	Defence Intelligence Staff Registered File Held in DIS
D/DI55/108/15/1 Pt 40	1991 (June) to 1992 (Jan)	**UFO-** Incidents	Defence Intelligence Staff Registered File Held in DIS
D/DI55/108/15/1 Pt 41	1992 (Feb) to 1993 (April)	**UFO** -Incidents	Defence Intelligence Staff Registered File Held in DIS
D/DI55/108/15/1 Pt 42	1993 (April – Oct)	**UFO** -Incidents	Defence Intelligence Staff Registered File Held in DIS
D/DI55/108/15/2 Pt 1	1993	Title Unknown	Defence Intelligence Staff Registered File Held in DIS
D/DI55/108/15/1 Pt 43	1993 (Oct) to 1994 (Jan)	**UFO** -Incidents	Defence Intelligence Staff Registered File Held in DIS
D/DDI55/108/15/1 Pt 44	1994 (Jan-May)	**UFO** -Incidents	Defence Intelligence Staff Registered File Held in DIS
D/DI55/108/15/1 Pt 45	1994 (June-Nov)	**UFO** -Incidents	Defence Intelligence Staff Registered File Held in DIS
D/DI55/108/15/1 Pt 46	1994 (Nov) to 1995 (May)	**UFO** -Incidents	Defence Intelligence Staff Registered File Held in DIS
D/DI55/108/15/1 Pt 47	1995 (June) to 1996 (Jan)	**UFO** - Incidents	Defence Intelligence Staff Registered File Held in DIS
D/DI55/108/15/1 Pt 46	1994 (Nov) to 1995 (May)	**UFO** - Incidents	Defence Intelligence Staff Registered File Held in DIS
D/DI55/108/15/1 Pt 47	1995 (June) to 1996 (Jan)	**UFO** - Incidents	Defence Intelligence Staff Registered File Held in DIS
D/DI55/108/15/1 Pt 48	1996 (Feb – July)	**UFO** - Incidents	Defence Intelligence Staff Registered File Held in DIS
D/DI55/108/15/1 Pt 49	1996 (Aug-Oct)	**UFO** -Incidents	Defence Intelligence Staff Registered File Held in DIS
D/DI55/108/15/1 Pt 50	1996 (Nov) to 1997 (Dec)	**UFO-** Incidents	Defence Intelligence Staff Registered File Held in DIS
D/DI55/108/15 Pt 5	1996-2000	UFO Policy	Defence Intelligence Staff Registered File Held in DIS
D/DI55/108/15/1 Pt 51	1997 (Jan) to 2002	**UFO** - Incidents	Defence Intelligence Staff Registered File Held in DIS
D/DI55/108/15 Pt 6	2000 – 2002	UAP – Policy	Defence Intelligence Staff Registered File Held in DIS
D/DI55/108/15/2		**UFO – Cosford Incident Investigation**	**Defence Intelligence Staff Registered File Held in DIS**

Annex B to D/DAS/64/1
Dated 16 April 2003

UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS (UFO) FILES DIRECTOR OF AIR OPERATIONS

Files open for viewing at the Public Record Office (PRO)

None.

Files known or thought to have been destroyed

FILE REF	DATE OF CONTENTS	TITLE	STATUS
D/Air Def /111/6/4 Pt A	1988 (Last Enc 9.4.88)	Command, Control, Communication & Information –Air Traffic Control-Low Flying UFOs	MOD Registered file FILE DESTROYED 15.11.1989
D/Air Def /111/6/4 Pt B	1988(Last Enc 2.8.88)	Command, Control, Communication & Information –Air Traffic Control-Low Flying UFOs	MOD Registered file FILE DESTROYED 2.8.1988
D/Air Def /111/6/4 Pt C	1989(Last Enc 27.1.89)	Command, Control, Communication & Information –Air Traffic Control-Low Flying UFOs	MOD Registered file FILE DESTROYED 15.11.1989
D/Air Def /111/6/4 Pt D	1989(Last Enc 17.10.89	Command, Control, Communication & Information –Air Traffic Control-Low Flying UFOs	MOD Registered file FILE DESTROYED 26.11.1982
D/Air Def /111/6/4 Pt E	1990	Command, Control, Communication & Information –Air Traffic Control-Low Flying UFOs	MOD Registered file FILE DESTROYED 26.11.1991

Files held in Directorates and Archives

FILE REF	DATE OF CONTENTS	TITLE	STATUS
D/Air Def/111/6/4 Pt F	1991 (From 15.3.91)	Command, Control, Communication & Information –Air Traffic Control-Low Flying UFOs	MOD Registered file Held in Records 2 (Hayes)
D/Air Def/ 111/6/4 Pt G	1992 (From 4.1.92)	Command, Control, Communication & Information –Air Traffic Control-Low Flying UFOs	MOD Registered file Held in Records 2 (Hayes)

D/Air Def /111/6/4 Pt H	1995 (From 6.11.95)	Command, Control, Communication & Information –Air Traffic Control-Low Flying UFOs	MOD Registered file Held in Records 2 (Hayes)
D/DAO/1/13 Pt A	1995-96	ADGE – UFO Reports	MOD Registered file Opened 6.1.1995 (Held in Records 2 Hayes)
D/DAO/1/13 Pt B	1996-97	ADGE- UFO Reports	MOD Registered file Opened 8.12.1996 (Held in Records 2 Hayes)
D/DAO/1/13 Pt C	1997-1999	ADGE- UFO Reports	MOD Registered file Opened 13.12.1997 (Held in Records 2 Hayes)
D/DAO/113 Pt D	1999 – 2001	ADGE- UFO Reports	MOD Registered file Opened 16.11.1999 (Held in Records 2 Hayes)
D/DAO/1/13 Pt E	2001 –2002	ADGE- UFO Reports	MOD Registered file Opened 13.12.1997 Held in DAO

Annex C to D/DAS/64/1
dated 16 April 2003

UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS (UFO) FILES
DIRECTORATE OF AIR STAFF

Files Open for viewing at the Public Record Office (PRO)

FILE REF	DATE OF CONTENTS	TITLE	STATUS
AIR 2/18564	1957-71	UFO Reports: West Freugh 1957	Air Ministry / MOD registered file Open at PRO Ref AF/CX1295/72
AIR 2/16918	1961-63	UFO Sightings, reports by members of the public	MOD registered file Open at PRO Ref AF/X59/64 Pt 5
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AIR 2/17984	1966-67	UFO Sightings, reports by members of the public	MOD registered file Open at PRO Ref AF/X59/64 Pt 11
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AIR 20/12402	1972 (March)	UFO Reports	MOD Unregistered papers. Open at PRO Ref ID/48/119
AIR 20/12403	1972 (April)	UFO Reports	MOD Unregistered papers. Open at PRO Ref ID/49/120
AIR 20/12404	1972 (May)	UFO Reports	MOD Unregistered papers. Open at PRO Ref ID/48/121
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AIR 20/12409	1972 (October)	UFO Reports	Air Ministry/ MOD/ AHB Unregistered papers Open at PRO Ref ID/48/126
AIR 20/12410	1972 (November)	UFO Reports	Air Ministry/ MOD/ AHB Unregistered papers Open at PRO Ref ID/48/127
AIR 20/12411	1972 (December)	UFO Reports	Air Ministry/ MOD/ AHB Unregistered papers Open at PRO Ref ID/48/128
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Files known or thought to have been destroyed

AF/X58/64 Pt 1	1968 (Last enclosure 22.2.1968)	UFO Policy & Policy Statements	MOD Registered file FILE DESTROYED 16.3.1990
AF/X58/64 Pt 2	1970 (Last enclosure 31.3.1970)	UFO Policy & Policy Statements	MOD Registered file FILE DESTROYED 15.3.1990
AF/1505 Pt 2	1970 (Last enclosure 1.7.70)	Parliamentary Enquiries on UFOs – Prime Minister's Folders Section 40	MOD Registered File FILE DESTROYED 15.3.1990
AF/1505 Pt 3	1977 (Last Enc 13/1)	Parliamentary Questions and Enquiries on UFOs	MOD Registered file FILE DESTROYED 5.3.1990
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D/DS8/75/2/1 Pt D	1978 (Last Enc 25/8)	UFO Reports & Correspondence	MOD Registered file FILE DESTROYED 19.3.1990
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D/DS8/75/3/1 Pt A	1979 (Last Enc 15/1)	UFOs Parliamentary Correspondence House of Lords Debate January 1979	MOD Registered file FILE DESTROYED 22.3.1990
D/DS8/75/3/1 Pt B	1979 (Last Enc 15/2)	UFOs Parliamentary Correspondence House of Lords Debate January 1979	MOD Registered file FILE DESTROYED 22.3.1990
D/DS8/75/1 Pt A	1979 (Last Enc 18/1)	UFO Policy Statements	MOD Registered file FILE DESTROYED 16.3.1990
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D/DS8/75/5	Not Known	UFOs – Solar Satellite Power Station	MOD Registered file FILE DESTROYED 19.3.1990
D/DS8/75/3 Pt C	1982 (Last Enc 11/2)	UFOs Parliamentary Correspondence	MOD Registered file FILE DESTROYED 22.3.1990
D/DS8/75/2/1 Pt I	?	?	No record of the creation or destruction of this part. Possible error in the lettering of this series of files

D/DS8/75/2/1 Pt J	1982 (Last Enc 12/2)	UFO Correspondence	MOD Registered file FILE DESTROYED 26.3.1990
D/DS8/10/209 Pt H	1984 (Last Enc 24/12)	General Briefs & Reports, UFO Correspondence	MOD Registered file FILE DESTROYED 26.3.1990

Files held in Directorates and Archives

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AIR 20/12544	1973 (January)	UFO Reports	MOD Unregistered papers. At PRO for release 2004 Ref ID/48/129
AIR 20/12545	1973 (February)	UFO Reports	MOD Unregistered papers At PRO for release 2004 Ref ID/48/130
AIR 20/12546	1973 (March)	UFO Reports	Air Ministry/ MOD/ AHB Unregistered papers At PRO for release 2004 Ref ID/48/131
AIR 20/12547	1973 (April)	UFO Reports	Air Ministry/ MOD/ AHB Unregistered papers At PRO for release 2004 Ref ID/48/132
AIR 20/12548	1973 (May)	UFO Reports	Air Ministry/ MOD/ AHB Unregistered papers At PRO for release 2004 Ref ID/48/133
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AIR 20/12550	1973 (July)	UFO Reports	Air Ministry/ MOD/ AHB Unregistered papers At PRO for release 2004 Ref ID/48/135
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AIR 2/18967	1975 (01-31 July)	UFO Reports	Air Ministry/ MOD Registered file At PRO for release 2006 Ref AF/602
AIR 2/18949	1975 (01 August) to 1976 (30 June)	UFO Reports: edited	Air Ministry/ MOD Registered file At PRO for release 2007 Ref AF/447 Edited very badly. Some papers duplicated in AIR 2/18968 : 18969: 18970: 18971: 18972: 18973 & 18974
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D/DS8/25/3	1978	UFOs: Parliamentary Correspondence	MOD Registered file Held at Records 2 in Hayes.
PRO Ref to be Allocated	1978 (Apr – Aug)	UFO Reports: edited	Defence Secretariat Registered File. At PRO for release in 2009. Ref:D/DS8/75/2/2 Pt E
PRO Ref to be Allocated	1978 (Aug – Oct)	UFO Reports: edited	Defence Secretariat Registered File. At PRO for release in 2009. Ref:D/DS8/75/2/2 Pt F
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PRO Ref to be Allocated	1978 (Jan – Mar)	UFO Reports	Defence Secretariat Registered Files At PRO for release in 2009. Ref:D/DS8/2/3 Pt D
DEFE 24/1209	1978 (April-May)	UFO Reports	Defence Secretariat Registered Files At PRO for release in 2009. Ref:D/DS8/75/2/3 Pt E

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D/Sec(AS)12/2/1	1982 ? (Papers cover 1980-96)	UFOs Report of sighting, Rendlesham Forest, December 1981	MOD Registered file Compilation of papers from various files Held in DAS. Released under Code of Practice. Included in FOI Publication Scheme.
D/DS8/10/209/1 Pt A	1983	General Briefs & Reports, UFO Correspondence	MOD Registered file Held at Records 2 in Hayes
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D/Sec(AS)12/2 Pt H	1989	UFO Reports	MOD Registered file Held at Records 2 in Hayes
D/Sec(AS)12/2 Pt I	1990	UFO Reports	MOD Registered file Held at Records 2 in Hayes
D/Sec(AS)12/2 Pt J	1990	UFO Reports	MOD Registered file Held at Records 2 in Hayes
D/Sec(AS)12/2 Pt K	1991	UFO Reports	MOD Registered file Held at Records 2 in Hayes
D/Sec(AS)12/3 Pt I	1991	UFO Correspondence	MOD Registered file Held at Records 2 in Hayes
D/Sec(AS)12/2 Pt L	1992	UFO Reports	MOD Registered file Held at Records 2 in Hayes
D/Sec(AS)12/3 Pt J	1992	UFO Correspondence	MOD Registered file Held at Records 2 in Hayes
D/Sec(AS)12/3 Pt K	1992	UFO Correspondence	MOD Registered file Held at Records 2 in Hayes
D/Sec(AS)12/5	1992	UFOs – Close encounter reports, Alien entities, Abductions etc	MOD Registered file Held at Records 2 in Hayes
D/Sec(AS)12/6	1992	UFOs – Alleged UFO incident- Crash of lightning F6 – 8 Sept 1970	MOD Registered file Held at Records 2 in Hayes
D/Sec(AS)12/2 Pt M	1993	UFO Reports	MOD Registered file Held at Records 2 in Hayes
D/Sec(AS)12/3 Pt L	1993	UFO Correspondence	MOD Registered file Held at Records 2 in Hayes
D/Sec(AS)12/3 Pt M	1993	UFO Correspondence	MOD Registered file Held at Records 2 in Hayes
D/Sec(AS)12/3 Pt N	1993	UFO Correspondence	MOD Registered file Held at Records 2 in Hayes
D/Sec(AS)12/7	1993	UFOs – Alleged UFO incident 31 March 1993	MOD Registered file Held at Records 2 in Hayes

D/Sec(AS)12/2 Pt N	1994	UFO Reports	MOD Registered file Held at Records 2 in Hayes
D/Sec(AS)12/3 Pt O	?	UFO Correspondence	MOD Registered file Held at Records 2 in Hayes
D/Sec (AS)12/3 Pt P	?	UFO Correspondence	MOD Registered file Held at Records 2 in Hayes
D/Sec(AS)12/3 Pt Q	?	UFO Correspondence	MOD Registered file Held at Records 2 in Hayes
D/Sec(AS)12/3 Pt R	?	UFO Correspondence	MOD Registered file Held at Records 2 in Hayes
D/Sec(AS)12/3 Pt S	1995	UFO Correspondence	MOD Registered file Held at Records 2 in Hayes
D/Sec(AS)12/2 Pt O	1995	UFO Reports	MOD Registered file Held at Records 2 in Hayes
D/Sec(AS)/12/4 Pt A	?	UFO-Parliamentary Questions & Enquiries	MOD Registered file Held at Records 2 in Hayes
D/Sec (AS)12/4 Pt B	1995	UFO-Parliamentary Questions & Enquiries	MOD Registered file Held at Records 2 in Hayes
D/Sec(AS) 64/3 Pt A	1995 (Sept-Nov)	UFOs – Public Correspondence	MOD Registered file Held in DAS(LA)Ops + Pol
D/Sec(AS)64/4 Pt A	1995 (Sept) to 1996 (Oct)	UFOs –Parliamentary Questions & Enquiries	MOD Registered file Held in DAS(LA)Ops + Pol
D/Sec(AS)64/1 Pt A	1995-97	UFOs – Policy	MOD Registered file Held in DAS(LA)Ops + Pol
D/Sec(AS) 64/2 Pt A	1995 (Sept) to 1996 (Jan)	UFOs – Sighting Reports	MOD Registered file Held in DAS(LA)Ops + Pol
D/Sec(AS) 64/3 Pt B	1995 (Oct) to 1998 (March)	UFOs – Public Correspondence	MOD Registered file Held in DAS(LA)Ops + Pol
D/Sec(AS)64/2 Pt B	1996 (Jan-June)	UFOs – Sighting Reports	MOD Registered file Held in DAS(LA)Ops + Pol
D/Sec(AS)64/3 Pt C	1996 (Feb – April)	UFOs – Public Correspondence	MOD Registered file Held in DAS(LA)Ops + Pol
D/Sec(AS) 64/3 Pt D	1996 (April-July)	UFOs – Public Correspondence	MOD Registered file Held in DAS(LA)Ops + Pol
D/Sec(AS)64/2 Pt C	1996 (June-Aug)	UFOs – Sighting Reports	MOD Registered file Held in DAS(LA)Ops + Pol
D/Sec(AS) 64/3 Pt E	1996 (July – Aug)	UFOs – Public Correspondence	MOD Registered file Held in DAS(LA)Ops + Pol

D/Sec (AS) 64/3 Pt F	1996 (Aug – Oct)	UFOs – Public Correspondence	MOD Registered file Held in DAS(LA)Ops + Pol
D/Sec(AS)64/2 Pt D	1996 (Aug-Dec)	UFOs – Sighting Reports	MOD Registered file Held in DAS(LA)Ops + Pol
D/Sec(AS) 64/4 Pt B	1996 (Sept-Nov)	UFOs – Parliamentary Questions & Enquiries	MOD Registered file Held in DAS(LA)Ops + Pol
D/Sec(AS) 64/3 Pt G	1996 (Nov) to 1997 (Jan)	UFOs – Public Correspondence	MOD Registered file Held in DAS(LA)Ops + Pol
D/Sec(AS) 64/4 Pt C	1996 (Nov) to 1997 (July)	UFOs – Parliamentary Questions & Enquiries	MOD Registered file Held in DAS(LA)Ops + Pol
D/Sec(AS) 64/3 Pt H	1997 (Jan – Feb)	UFOs – Public Correspondence	MOD Registered file Held in DAS(LA)Ops + Pol
D/Sec(AS)64/2 Pt E	1997 (Jan-July)	UFOs – Sighting Reports	MOD Registered file Held in DAS(LA)Ops + Pol
D/Sec(AS)64/1 Pt B	1997 (Jan-Sept)	UFOs – Policy	MOD Registered file Held in DAS(LA)Ops + Pol
D/Sec(AS) 64/3 Pt I	1997 (March – June)	UFOs – Public Correspondence	MOD Registered file Held in DAS(LA)Ops + Pol
D/Sec(AS) 64/3 Pt J	1997 (June-Aug)	UFOs – Public Correspondence	MOD Registered file Held in DAS(LA)Ops + Pol
D/Sec(AS)64/2 Pt F	1997 (July-Oct)	UFOs – Sighting Reports	MOD Registered file Held in DAS(LA)Ops + Pol
D/Sec(AS) 64/4 Pt D	1997 (July –Oct)	UFOs – Parliamentary Questions & Enquiries	MOD Registered file Held in DAS(LA)Ops + Pol
D/Sec(AS) 64/3 Pt K	1997 (Aug-Dec)	UFOs – Public Correspondence	MOD Registered file Held in DAS(LA)Ops + Pol
D/Sec(AS)64/1 Pt C	1997 (Sept) to 1998 (April)	UFOs – Policy	MOD Registered file Held in DAS(LA)Ops + Pol
D/Sec(AS)64/2 Pt G	1997 (Nov) to 1998 (July)	UFOs – Sighting Reports	MOD Registered file Held in DAS(LA)Ops + Pol
D/Sec(AS) 64/3 Pt L	1997 (Dec) to 1998 (March)	UFOs – Public Correspondence	MOD Registered file Held in DAS(LA)Ops + Pol
D/Sec(AS) 64/4 Pt E	1997-1998	UFOs – Parliamentary Questions & Enquiries	MOD Registered file Held in DAS(LA)Ops + Pol
D/Sec(AS)64/3 Pt M	1998 (March – May)	UFOs – Public Correspondence	MOD Registered file Held in DAS(LA)Ops + Pol
D/Sec(AS)64/1 Pt D	1998 (May) to 2000 (October)	UFOs – Policy	MOD Registered file Held in DAS(LA)Ops + Pol

D/Sec(AS) 64/3 Pt N	1998 (May-Aug)	UFOs – Public Correspondence	MOD Registered file Held in DAS(LA)Ops + Pol
D/Sec(AS) 64/3 Pt O	1998 (Aug –Dec)	UFOs – Public Correspondence	MOD Registered file Held in DAS(LA)Ops + Pol
D/Sec(AS) 64/3 Pt P	1998 (Dec) to 1999 (April)	UFOs – Public Correspondence	MOD Registered file Held in DAS(LA)Ops + Pol
D/Sec(AS) 64/4 Pt F	1998-2001	UFOs – Parliamentary Questions & Enquires	MOD Registered file Held in DAS(LA)Ops + Pol
D/Sec(AS)64/2 Pt H	1998 (July) to 1999 (Feb)	UFOs – Sighting Reports	MOD Registered file Held in DAS(LA)Ops + Pol
D/Sec(AS) 64/2 Pt I	1999 (Feb-Dec)	UFOs- Sighting Reports	MOD Registered file Held in DAS(LA)Ops + Pol
D/Sec(AS) 64/3 Pt Q	1999 (March-Sept)	UFOs – Public Correspondence	MOD Registered file Held in DAS(LA)Ops + Pol
D/Sec(AS) 64/3 Pt R	1999 (Sept –Dec)	UFOs – Public Correspondence	MOD Registered file Held in DAS(LA)Ops + Pol
D/Sec(AS) 64/4 Pt F	1998-2001	UFOs – Parliamentary Questions & Enquires	MOD Registered file Held in DAS(LA)Ops + Pol
D/Sec(AS)64/2 Pt H	1998 (July) to 1999 (Feb)	UFOs – Sighting Reports	MOD Registered file Held in DAS(LA)Ops + Pol
D/Sec(AS) 64/2 Pt I	1999 (Feb-Dec)	UFOs- Sighting Reports	MOD Registered file Held in DAS(LA)Ops + Pol
D/Sec(AS) 64/3 Pt Q	1999 (March-Sept)	UFOs – Public Correspondence	MOD Registered file Held in DAS(LA)Ops + Pol
D/Sec(AS) 64/3 Pt R	1999 (Sept –Dec)	UFOs – Public Correspondence	MOD Registered file Held in DAS(LA)Ops + Pol
D/Sec(AS) 64/4 Pt F	1998-2001	UFOs – Parliamentary Questions & Enquires	MOD Registered file Held in DAS(LA)Ops + Pol
D/Sec(AS)64/2 Pt H	1998 (July) to 1999 (Feb)	UFOs – Sighting Reports	MOD Registered file Held in DAS(LA)Ops + Pol
D/Sec(AS) 64/2 Pt I	1999 (Feb-Dec)	UFOs- Sighting Reports	MOD Registered file Held in DAS(LA)Ops + Pol
D/Sec(AS) 64/3 Pt Q	1999 (March-Sept)	UFOs – Public Correspondence	MOD Registered file Held in DAS(LA)Ops + Pol
D/Sec(AS) 64/3 Pt R	1999 (Sept –Dec)	UFOs – Public Correspondence	MOD Registered file Held in DAS(LA)Ops + Pol
D/Sec(AS) 64/3 Pt S	1999 (November) to 2000 (June)	UFOs – Public Correspondence & Requests for Information	MOD Registered file Held in DAS(LA)Ops + Pol

D/Sec(AS)64/2 Pt J	2000 (Jan-June)	UFOs – Sighting Reports	MOD Registered file Held in DAS(LA)Ops + Pol
D/Sec(AS) 64/3 Pt T	2000 (June –Sept)	UFOs – Public Correspondence & Requests for Information	MOD Registered file Held in DAS(LA)Ops + Pol
D/DAS(Sec) 64/2 Pt k	2000 (July – Dec)	UFOs – Sighting Reports	MOD Registered file Sec(AS) merged with DAS. Change of name to DAS(Sec) Held in DAS(LA)Ops + Pol
D/DAS(Sec) 64/3 Pt U	2000 (Sept) to 2001 Jan)	UFOs – Public Correspondence & Requests for Information	MOD Registered file Held in DAS(LA)Ops + Pol
D/DAS(Sec) 64/2 Pt L	2000 (Dec) to 2001 (March)	UFOs – Sighting Reports	MOD Registered file Held in DAS(LA Ops + Pol
D/Sec(AS)64/1 Pt E	2000 – 2002	UFOs – Policy	MOD Registered file Held in DAS(LA)Ops + Pol
D/DAS(LA Ops + Pol 1)/64/3 Pt V	2001 (Feb – May)	UFOs – Public Correspondence & Requests for Information	MOD Registered file Change of Branch name from DAS(Sec) to DAS(LA)Ops +Pol File held in DAS(LA)Ops + Pol
D/DAS(Sec)64/2 Pt M	2001 (March – Oct)	UFOs – Sighting Reports	MOD Registered file Held in DAS(LA)Ops + Pol
D/DAS(Sec) 64/4 Pt G	2001 (March – Oct)	UFOs –Parliamentary Questions & Enquiries	MOD Registered file Held in DAS(LA)Ops + Pol
D/DAS(LA Ops + Pol 1)/64/3 Pt W	2001 (July – Nov)	UFOs – Public Correspondence & Requests for Information	MOD Registered file Held in DAS(LA)Ops + Pol
D/DAS/64/2 Pt N	2001 (Oct) to 2002	UFOs _ Sighting Reports	MOD Registered file Held in DAS(LA)Ops + Pol
D/DAS(LA Ops + Pol 1)/64/3 Pt X	2001 (Nov –Dec)	UFOs – Public Correspondence & Requests for Information	MOD Registered file Held in DAS(LA)Ops + Pol
D/DAS(LA)Ops+Pol/64/4 Pt H	2001 (Dec) to 2002	UFOs – Parliamentary Questions & Enquiries	MOD Registered file Held in DAS(LA)Ops + Pol
D/DAS/64/3 Pt Y	2002 (June – Nov)	UFOs – Public Correspondence & Requests for Information	MOD Registered file Held in DAS(LA)Ops + Pol
D/DAS/64/3 Pt Z	2002 (Dec) to	UFOs – Public Correspondence & Requests for Information	MOD Registered file Held in DAS(LA)Ops + Pol

D/DAS/64/2 Pt O	2002 (Nov) to	UFOs- Sighting Reports	MOD Registered file Held in DAS(LA)Ops + Pol
PERSISTENT CORRESPONDENTS			
D/Sec(AS) 64/3/1 Pt A	1996-1999	UFO Correspondence – Persistent Correspondent – Section 40	MOD Registered file Held in DAS(LA)Ops + Pol
D/DAS(Sec) 64/3/1 Pt B	1999 – 2001	UFO Correspondence – Persistent Correspondent – Section 40	MOD Registered file Held in DAS(LA)Ops + Pol
D/Sec(AS) 64/3/2 Pt A	1998-2000	UFO Correspondence – Persistent Correspondent – Section 40	MOD Registered file Held in DAS(LA)Ops + Pol MOD
D/DAS(Sec) 64/3/3 Pt A	1997-2001	UFO Correspondence – Persistent Correspondent – Section 40	MOD Registered file Held in DAS(LA)Ops + Pol
D/DAS(Sec)64/3/4 Pt A	1997-1998	UFO Correspondence – Persistent Correspondent- Section 40	MOD Registered file Held in DAS(LA)Ops + Pol
D/Sec(AS) 64/3/5 Pt A	1996-2001	UFO Correspondence – Persistent Correspondent- Section 40	MOD Registered file Held in DAS(LA)Ops + Pol
D/Sec(AS) 64/3/6 Pt A	1998	UFO Correspondence – Persistent Correspondent- Section 40	MOD Registered file Held in DAS(LA)Ops + Pol
D/Sec(AS) 64/3/7 Pt A	1994-1999	UFO Correspondence – Persistent Correspondent- Councillor W F Buchanan	MOD Registered file Held in DAS(LA)Ops + Pol
D/Sec (AS)64/3/8 Pt A	1997-1998	UFO Correspondence – Persistent Correspondent- Section 40	MOD Registered file Held in DAS(LA)Ops + Pol
D/Sec(AS)64/3/10 Pt A	2000	UFO Correspondence – Persistent Correspondent- Mr Eric Morris	MOD Registered file Held in DAS(LA)Ops + Pol
D/DAS(Sec)64/3/11 Pt B	2001- To date	UFO Correspondence – Persistent Correspondent- Section 40	MOD Registered file Held in DAS(LA)Ops + Pol
D/DAS/64/3/12	2001 – To date	UFO Correspondence- Persistent Correspondent- Section 40	MOD Registered file Held in DAS(LA)Ops + Pol

DAS/64/3/13	2000 –To date	UFO Correspondence-Persistent Correspondent- Section 40	MOD Registered file Held in DAS(LA)Ops +Pol

Annex D to D/DAS/64/1
Dated 16 April 2003

UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS (UFO) FILES

FILES ORIGINATED BY BRANCHES OTHER THAN DIS, DAO AND DAS, UNREGISTERED INFORMATION AND INFORMATION THE ORIGIN OF WHICH IS UNCLEAR

Documents open for viewing at the Public Record Office (PRO)

FILE REF	DATE OF CONTENTS	TITLE	STATUS
AIR 14/2800	1943	No115 Squadron: news sheet "Bang On" No 1	Bomber Command Register File Open at PRO (Released 1972)
AIR 20/7390	1950-54	Unidentified aircraft (flying objects):reports	Air Ministry, MOD, Air Historical branch Unregistered Papers Open at PRO Ref 11/127/3/48
AIR 16/1199	1952 (September)	Flying Saucers: Occurrence Reports: service personnel at Topcliffe station, Thirsk and local public sector	Fighter Command Registered File Open at PRO Ref 11/H1/188/1/17 Top/C16/Air
AIR 20/9994	1953-57	Parliamentary questions on UFOs	Air Ministry, MOD, Air Historical Branch Unregistered Papers Open at PRO Ref IIH/273/10/4
AIR 22/93	1955	Air Ministry Secret Summary. Vol 10. No.3 – Article on Flying Saucers	Periodical Returns, Summaries & Bulletins Open at PRO Ref: IIG/101
AIR 20/9320	1957	Parliamentary questions on UFOs	Air Ministry, MOD, Air Historical Branch Unregistered Papers Open at PRO Ref MR 008614/193
AIR 20/9321	1957	Parliamentary questions on UFOs	Air Ministry, MOD, Air Historical Branch Unregistered Papers Open at PRO Ref MR 008614/213
AIR 20/9322	1957	Parliamentary questions on UFOs	Air Ministry, MOD, Air Historical Branch Unregistered Papers Open at PRO Ref MR 008614/220

AIR 20/9322	1957	Parliamentary questions on UFOs	Air Ministry, MOD, Air Historical Branch Unregistered Papers Open at PRO Ref MR 008614/220
CMS/2692/55	1964	SACEURS Rules for the Engagement of Unidentified Aircraft	DAS holds old file docket. Whereabouts of file unknown
AIR 20/11612	1967-68	Unidentified Flying Objects	Air Ministry, MOD, Air Historical Branch Unregistered papers Open at PRO Ref MR 073414
BJ 5/311	1968-70	UFO Meteorological Aspects	Meteorological Office, Administrative Records Open at PRO Ref; AF/M 396/68

Files held in Directorates and Archives

FILE REF	DATE OF CONTENTS	TITLE	STATUS
AIR 2/19173	1970 (September)	Aircraft Accident Report: Lightening F6 XS894 5 Sqdrn Loss of Captain W Shaffner	Awaiting Transfer to the PRO

ENCLOSURE NUMBER 3

DAS-EXEC-FIN

I would like to claim reimbursement of £24.50 for annual subscription to *UFO Magazine* as shown on the attached documents.

As we do not want the publishers to be aware of the MOD's subscription nor to link my name to my home address, a false name has been given.

I certify that the magazine is being purchased for official purposes only.

Name: Section 40 *DAS(LA)Ops+Pol1*

Signed:... Section 40 .....

Date: 7th April 2003 .....

I certify that the above mentioned magazine subscription was taken out for official purposes and that I will have sight of each edition.

Name: Section 40 *DAS AD(LA)*

Signed:..... .....

Date: 9 Apr 2003 .....

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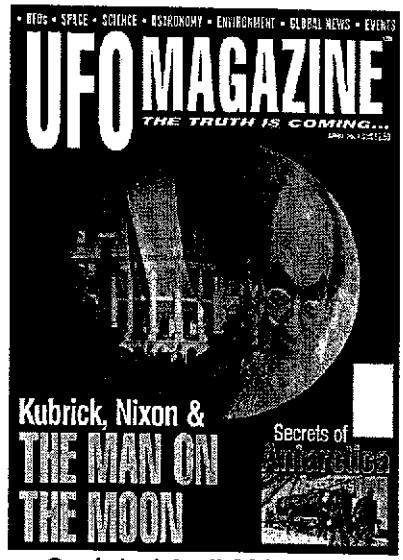

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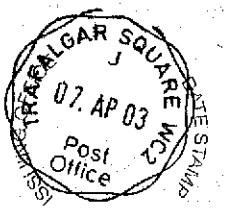

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From: Section 40
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Directorate of Air Staff (Lower Airspace)
Operations and Policy 1
Room 6/73, Metropole Building, Northumberland Avenue,
LONDON WC2N 5BP

Telephone: (Direct dial) Section 40
(Switchboard) 020 7218 9000
(Fax) Section 40
CHOts address: DAS-LA-Ops+Pol1
E-Mail: das-laopspol1@defence.mod.uk

FAX MESSAGE

TO: Section 40 **- Control Room, Force HQ, Northampton Police**

SUBJECT: Computer system update

DATE: 21 February 2003

NUMBER OF PAGES INCLUDING THIS COVER: 1

Thank you for your memorandum concerning the information held on your computer for reporting 'UFO' sightings to the Ministry of Defence. The details are all correct but you may like to add my e-mail address as shown at the head of this message.

Section 40

********** -COMM. JOURNAL- ********** DATE 21-FEB-2003 ***** TIME 15:20 *** P.01

MODE = TRANSMISSION START=21-FEB 15:19 END=21-FEB 15:20

STN NO.	COM	ABBR NO.	STATION NAME/TEL.NO.	PAGES	DURATION
001	OK	8	Section 40	001	00:00'33"

-DIRECTORATE AIR STAFF -

********** Section 40 - ***** - Section 40 *********

Memorandum

From: Section 40
Control Room
Force Headquarters
Wootton Hall
Northampton
Tel Section 40
Fax

Date 21/2/03
Page 1 of 2

To: MOD

Re: AUDIT OF CSCR INFORMATION SOURCES

We are conducting an audit of information held on our computer system. We are Seeking to ensure that the data we hold remains both accurate and current. In some Cases this audit is necessary to ensure compliance with the Data Protection Act 1984.

Attached is a copy of information held by us in respect of AIRCRAFT 16

Could I ask that this information be checked and returned to us within 14 days, Indicating whether or not the information is correct, or whether amendments are Required to be made.

Should you have any queries regarding this please contact Section 40 Force H.Q. Control Room on Section 40 or email: Section 40

Section 40
Systems Manager
pp
Section 40

indets4.rep

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE POLICE

DATE:21-FEB-03

CONTROL ROOM SYSTEM

PAGE:1 OF 1

Information Files Content

Short Title: AIRCRAFT-16
Long Title: UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS (U.F.O'S)
Sub-Division: HQ
Importance: 5
Is Info Private: N
Date Last Updated: 18-SEP-01
Date Last Audited: 18-SEP-01

Associated Keywords: AIR
Associated Keywords: AIRCRAFT
Associated Keywords: DEFENCE
Associated Keywords: FLYING
Associated Keywords: MINISTRY
Associated Keywords: MOD
Associated Keywords: OBJECT
Associated Keywords: UFO
Associated Keywords: UNIDENTIFIED

Information Details:
UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS (UFO). >BLT<
==========
SIGHTINGS OF UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS MAY BE REPORTED
TO THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
DETAILS CAN BE FORWARDED TO:-
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
DIRECTORATE OF AIR STAFF (LOWER AIRSPACE) OPERATIONS + POLICY 1
ROOM 6/73
METROPOLE BUILDING
NORTHUMBERLAND AVENUE
LONDON WC2N 5BP

ALTERNATIVELY REPORTS MAY BE LEFT ON THE MOD ANSWERPHONE.
TEL NO 020 7218 2140
OR FAX Section 40

+++ END +++ >BLT<

D/DAS/9/36/8/1 + D/DAS/64/1

16 Jan 03

Info-Access AD

Copy to: DI BCR CG4
DAO AIRC2-SOI

RELEASE OF INFORMATION FROM MOD FILES ON UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS (UFO)

1. The inclusion of UFO classes of information in the FOI Publication Scheme, has not only raised public awareness of the MOD's involvement with UFO matters, but also informed people of their right to request government information. This has led to a number of new requests for documents not yet included in the Scheme and public speculation as to what may be released into the Scheme in the future. I would be grateful for your advice on the following areas of concern.

Ministerial Correspondence

2. Letters from MPs who write to the Department, either on behalf of a constituent, or on a matter of concern to themselves, have always been treated in confidence and not generally made publicly available. If we receive a request for a copy of an MP's letter should it be for us to decide on release or should we refer the enquirer to the MP's constituency office so they may decide on release? What if the MP has retired?

Charging for information

3. One of our regular correspondents, Section 40 has made a number of requests for information for which he has paid a fee. If this material was immediately made available to others free via the Publication Scheme, he may question why he has had to pay for it. Therefore, would it be reasonable for us to delay adding material to the Publication Scheme for a short period (say three months) after an individual has been sent material for which they have paid?

Voluminous Requests

4. Under the Code, a request likely to take an unreasonable amount of time to complete, is refused under Exemption 9 (Voluminous & Vexatious). I understand that the FOIA has no Voluminous exemption, so how will requests for large amounts of material be handled under the FOIA? Will staff be expected to undertake work regardless of how many hours are required and if so, would it have to be completed within 20 working days or could this period be extended?

Future handling of UFO files

5. Section 40 has made several consecutive requests for information under the Code, each one involving up to 20 hours of DAS staff time to complete. The documents

released to him are gradually chipping away at the information in the closed files and if added to the Publication Scheme, many of our files will eventually be in the public domain. It therefore seems appropriate to look at the files we hold and see which ones may be added to the Publication Scheme in order to reduce the workload generated by access requests and fulfil our obligations under the Scheme. Do you agree?

6. As far as we are aware, there are 265 files currently closed and held within the MOD, which have 'UFO' in their title or are known to contain material referring to UFOs. These include 220 DAS (and predecessor branch) files, 37 DIS files and 8 DAO (and predecessor branch) files - DAS, DIS and DAO being the key branches which deal, or have dealt, with UFO matters. Most of this material is unclassified and if requested under the Code (or the FOIA), is likely to be released.

7. We do not have sight of the DIS or DAO files, but the DAS files can broadly be split into five categories, namely; Reports, Correspondence, Press Cuttings, Policy and Parliamentary. We have not examined all the files as many are held in archives, but we see no reason why the Reports and Correspondence files could not be released providing the personal details of individuals are removed. This would be a time consuming task, as there are many of them, but should be possible over the remaining two years until FOI access. They could then be added to the Publication Scheme in batches of a few at a time, although this would, of course, have to be done in a logical order.

8. The Press Cuttings files contain only cuttings about UFOs that have either been sent to us or we have spotted. They are not a complete collection of everything that has appeared in the press. These, therefore, may be of little public interest, but as this information is already in the public domain, there should be no reason not to release the files in due course.

9. The Policy and Parliamentary files are more sensitive and would require careful consideration before release. We do not propose to make these generally available at this time.

10. Were DAS to begin to release the Report and Correspondence files, would we be committed to releasing the other DAS UFO files? Moreover, would releasing these files before the 30 year point have any impact on our requirement to send files to the Public Record Office in accordance with the Public Record Act or seriously interfere with Information (Records) review process? Finally, would the release of these files mean that DIS and DAO would also have to consider releasing their UFO files?

11. I apologise for the length of this Minute, but I should appreciate your help with these matters that are now confronting us.

[original signed]

Section 40 [redacted]
DAS-LA-AD
Section 40 [redacted]