

the national archives

(c) crown copyright

Registered File Disposal Form

MOD Form 262F
(Revised 9/01)

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

UFO's
Parliamentary Questions and Enquiries

Reference:
(Prefix and Number): D/DAS/64/4

Part: G

PROTECTIVE MARKING (including caveats & descriptors):

Date of last enclosure: 29 OCTOBER 2001

Date closed:

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

	✔
~~Destroy after ____ years~~	
Forward to INFO(EXP)-R after 10 years	
FOR PERMENANT RETENTION ~~No recommendation~~	

FOR DEFENCE INFO(EXP)-R USE ONLY

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

Reviewer's Signature: _____ Reviewer's Signature: _____

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

a. Of no further administrative value and not worthy of permanent preservation. DESTROY IMMEDIATELY (Remember that TOP SECRET and Codeword material cannot be destroyed locally and must be forwarded to INFO(EXP)-R. ☐ ✔

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

	✔		✔	
LEGAL	☐	DEFENCE POLICY + OPERATIONS	☐	
CONTRACTUAL	☐	ORIGINAL COMMITTEE PAPERS	☐	
FINANCE/AUDIT	☐	MAJOR EQUIPMENT PROJECT	☐	[Public Interest
DIRECTORATE POLICY	☐	OTHER (Specify)	✔	For permanent preservation in The National Archive

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. BRA [redacted] **w C2/equivalent)**

Section 40

Signature: _____

Name: _____ (Block Capitals)

Grade/Rank: B2 Date: 29/6/04.

Branch Title and Full Address:

Tel No:

PART 4 DESTRUCTION CERTIFICATE

It is certified that the specified file has been destroyed.

Signature: _____

Name: _____ (Block Capitals)

Grade/Rank: _____ Date: _____

Witnessed by (TOP SECRET* and SECRET only)

Signature: _____

Name: _____ (Block Capitals)

Grade/Rank: _____ Date: _____

*(FOR DR USE ONLY)

Produced by MOD, DSDA(PC) KY Tel. 0117 9376256

MINISTER
FOR DEFENCE
PROCUREMENT

Section 40

DAS [redacted]

Section 40

Copy for information only.

No reply needed

Regards

Section 40

Section 40

Section 40

(There may be other letters around).

Copy to: DASDD

Section 40 [redacted]

FILE 6/1

4.11.05

HOUSE OF LORDS

Admiral of the Fleet The Lord Hill-Norton GCB

36

Personal
The Lord Bach
Ministry of Defence
Old War Office Building
Whitehall
London SW1A 2EU

29th October 2001

Dear Lord Bach,

Thank you for your letter of 16 October and for sending me the copies of the two sheets you are now ready to release.

I understand, and accept, your reasons for withholding the remainder.

As you say, we are not yet likely to agree about what happened at the landing at RAF Bentwaters, the way it was handled both then and subsequently by the MOD, and whether or not this physical invasion of our British Air Space was - or should have been at the time - of Defence significance.

I suspect that you and your officials must soon realise that your stated position is now untenable in the light of what I have so far managed to dig out of you.

I am sure you realise that there is no thing personal, on my part, about our disagreement on matters of fact.

Yours sincerely,

Hill-Norton

Foot and Mouth: Assistance to the Countryside

Russell asked Her Majesty's Government:

hat allocations have been made from the Social d Contingency Reserve to meet costs arising ı the epidemic of foot and mouth disease. [HL773]

l McIntosh of Haringey: The Treasury does not ıin a Social Fund Contingency Reserve. ver, in addition to aid in excess of £1 billion paid mers affected by the outbreak so far, the nment have put in place several measures to help untryside recover from foot and mouth disease ing deferral of tax, VAT and national insurance butions, which has helped over 20,000 esses; establishment of a £50 million Business very Fund; establishment of a rate relief scheme ing affected areas; and establishment of a ıed funding scheme for charitable donations.

e Government have also made additional lending ıble through the Small Firms Loan Guarantee ne.

Snaefell Mountain: Suspected Light Aircraft Crash

ırd Hill-Norton asked Her Majesty's Government:

What is their response to the allegation that on 14 nuary 2001 an unidentified object struck the mmunications mast at the summit of Snaefell ntain on the Isle of Man. [HL731]

he **Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, istry of Defence (Lord Bach):** In the early hours of anuary, and in daylight on 15 January 2001, a tary search and rescue helicopter from RAF Valley ducted a comprehensive search of the area around efell Mountain following a report of a suspected t aircraft crash. However, nothing was found as a ılt of the search.

Northern Ireland: UFO Crash Report

Lord Hill-Norton asked Her Majesty's Government:

What search operation took place following eports of the crash of an unidentified object in Northern Ireland on 13 February 2001. [HL732]

Lord Bach: Following reports of smoke being seen Benaughlin Mountain, near Kinawley on the ernoon of 13 February 2001, police and troops nducted a search of the area, assisted by a helicopter, t nothing was found. A further search was carried ıt the following morning but nothing was found to dicate either a downed aircraft or a fire and the cident was closed.

Sonic Boom Report, North East of England

Lord Hill-Norton asked Her Majesty's Government:

What is their response to the incident on 21 February 2001 when a sonic boom was reported in the north east of England. [HL733]

Lord Bach: Following a report of an incident on 21 February 2001 from a member of the public, the RAF Police undertook an investigation. In the course of their inquiries the British Geographical Society was contacted and confirmed that its equipment gave no indication of either a sonic event or an earthquake occurring in the north east of England on that date. The RAF Police were unable to verify the cause of this reported event.

Rendlesham Forest Incident

Lord Hill-Norton asked Her Majesty's Government:

Whether the United States Air Force investigated and photographed a site in Rendlesham Forest where it was alleged that an unidentified flying object had landed in December 1980; whether the photographs depicted an indentation where the object might have landed; and whether they have a copy of the report and photographs arising from the investigation; and [HL743]

Whether, following an allegation contained in a memorandum dated 13 January 1981 by Lieutenant Colonel Halt of the United States Air Forces that a glowing metallic triangular object had landed in Rendlesham Forest in December 1980, Lieutenant Colonel Halt was questioned about the incident; if not, why not; and whether military radar indicated that a structured craft was involved. [HL744]

Lord Bach: The only USAF material held by Ministry of Defence is that written by Lieutenant Colonel Halt on 13 January 1981 consequent upon his investigation of the incident in Rendlesham Forest. The MoD has no evidence of any other official investigation or documentation.

There is no indication, from the papers held on file that MoD raised any further questions with Lieutenant Colonel Halt following receipt of his memorandum in 1981 and I am unaware of the reason for this. MoD records from the same period document no evidence of unusual radar returns.

Bow Street Police Station Site

Viscount Simon asked Her Majesty's Government:

On what date planning permission was granted to develop the site of the former Bow Street Police Station. [HL534]

The Minister of State for Transport, Local Government and the Regions (Lord Falconer of Thoroton): I understand that a planning application to redevelop the former Bow Street Police Station was

Section 40 Did you speak to Party Branch? It would appear that the question has been answered twice! Section 40 18/10

request to resign, made by the former First Minister of Northern Ireland, David Trimble, in Parliament on 19 July; and whether and when he will be joined by the other Commissioners. [HL666]

Lord Falconer of Thoroton: This is a matter for the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission. The Chief Commissioner has been asked to write to the noble Lord. A copy of his letter will be placed in the Library.

Northern Ireland: Human Rights Abuses

Lord Laird asked Her Majesty's Government:

What steps the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission has taken since 1 March 1999 to highlight human rights abuses carried out by republican and loyalist paramilitaries. [HL724]

Lord Falconer of Thoroton: This is a matter for the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission. The Chief Commissioner has been asked to write to the noble Lord. A copy of his letter will be placed in the Library.

Omagh Bombing: Victims' Relatives

Lord Laird asked Her Majesty's Government:

What the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission has done since 1 March 1999 to help the relatives of the victims of the Omagh bomb on 15 August 1998. [HL725]

Lord Falconer of Thoroton: This is a matter for the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission. The Chief Commissioner has been asked to write to the noble Lord. A copy of his letter will be placed in the Library.

Northern Ireland: UFO Crash

Lord Hill-Norton asked Her Majesty's Government:

What search operation took place following reports of the crash of an unidentified object in Northern Ireland on 13 February 2001. [HL732]

Lord Falconer of Thoroton: I refer my noble friend to a letter from the Army Headquarters Northern Ireland to UFO and Paranormal Research Ireland, a copy of which has been placed in the Library of the House of Lords.

NI Office

Northern Ireland: Prisoner Sentence Plans

Lord Hylton asked Her Majesty's Government:

How many hours per week of (a) education and training and (b) work were carried out by prisoners in Northern Ireland in the most recent years; by how much this will be increased in 2001-02; whether the percentage of sentence plans is being improved; and, if so, by how much and over what period. [HL778]

Lord Falconer of Thoroton: The prisoner population in Northern Ireland received an average of 906 hours education and 2,668 hours work (vocational training and industry workshops) per week in the 2000-01 financial year.

For the year ended March 2001 an average of 65.4 per cent of the eligible prisoner population were following a sentence plan. Up to the end of September 2001 an average of 77.6 per cent of the eligible prisoner population were following a sentence plan.

Public Sector Ombudsmen Review

Lord Lester of Herne Hill asked Her Majesty's Government:

Further to the Written Answer by Lord MacDonald of Tradeston on 11 July (*WA 82*), whether they expect to be able to set out their conclusions in relation to the consultation exercise before the end of this year; and, if not, why not. [HL696]

The Minister for the Cabinet Office and Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (Lord Macdonald of Tradeston): In July this year, the Government made a statement on the consultation exercise on the review of the Public Sector Ombudsmen in England. In this statement the Government reaffirmed their commitment to the renaissance of public services, improving access and delivery and driving up standards. The effective handling of complaints is an important element of this programme of renewal. But there will be times where, having pursued a complaint about a particular public service, a complainant remains dissatisfied. Such cases need to be considered independently and that role is fulfilled by, among others, the public sector ombudsmen in England that were the subject of this review. These ombudsmen comprise the Parliamentary Commissioner for Administration, the Health Service Commissioner and the Commission for Local Administration (which comprises the three Local Government Ombudsmen and the Parliamentary Commissioner for Administration ex officio).

In 1999, following representations from the ombudsmen, the Government announced a review to determine whether the present arrangements are in the best interest of complainants and others, against the background of moves towards more integrated public services and an increasing focus on the needs of the consumers of such services. The review team consulted widely and their report was published in April 2000. A consultation paper seeking views on the review's main recommendations and its other conclusions was published in June 2000. In all we received 174 responses to the consultation paper and copies have been placed in the Library of the House together with a statement of the Government's conclusions.

Briefly, these are that, in light of the responses received to the consultation paper, the Government are satisfied that there is broad support for the review's main recommendations.

We therefore intend to replace the existing arrangements by a unified and flexible ombudsman body for central and local government and the

DAS(LA) OB+P01
MT 6/71

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
OLD WAR OFFICE BUILDING
WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2EU

Telephone Section 40 (Direct Dialling)
020 7218 9000 (Switchboard)
Fax Section 40

MINISTER FOR
DEFENCE PROCUREMENT

35
+1

FROM: LORD BACH

D/MIN(DP)/WB 4281 & 4206/01//P

16 October 2001

Dear Lord Hill-Norton,

Thank you for your letters of 20 and 22 September in which you have raised further questions concerning events in Rendlesham Forest in 1980.

You challenge our judgement that there was no evidence to substantiate an event of defence concern at Rendlesham Forest. However, the information recorded in papers generated early in 1981 supports our conclusion. With regard to your point about radiation readings, while Departmental minutes indicate that some basic enquiries were made and speculative opinion offered, no full assessment was made of the readings. An offer to make further enquiries is recorded in the papers but there is no indication that this was taken up.

With her letter of 16 May 2001, Liz Symons enclosed a number of papers on the events in Rendlesham Forest. Those papers were ones that had recently been supplied to a member of the public on request under the Code of Practice on Access to Government Information but did not include five documents that had been withheld under Code exemptions. That person has recently appealed against the decision and two of the papers are being released to that individual; copies for you are now attached to this letter. The three remaining papers comprise an exchange of letters between an MP and a Minister, a minute between an official and a Minister's office, with a suggested Parliamentary Question response and background note, and a duplicate copy of the front page of the official's minute I have just mentioned. These papers will continue to be withheld under Exemption 2 of the Code of Practice, "whose disclosure would harm the frankness and candour of internal discussion". You will I am sure appreciate that, notwithstanding the unclassified nature of the documents, advice to Ministers is generally not made widely available even within the Department to officials and members of the Services unless they have a need to know the exact nature of the exchange. I wish to maintain this convention in this instance.

I regret that I am unable to answer your questions concerning General Gabriel. There is no evidence of further analysis by the USAF in the papers held by MOD.

Admiral of the Fleet The Lord Hill-Norton GCB

DAS
102No. .....
19 OCT 2001
FILE _____

Private Office

INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Finally, I have read the article from the Ipswich Evening Star but do not consider it to add new information to our correspondence.

I hope this explains our position but I recognise that we shall continue to hold different opinions on this issue.

Yours Sincerely,

Section 40

[redacted]

...ackage: Personnel on ...ercise Saif Sareea II

...oby of Shulbrede asked Her Majesty's ...ment:

...hether they will consider paying retrospectively ...overseas ...ing allowance to the personnel on Exercise Saif Sareea who failed to receive the operational welfare package that was introduced in April of this year. [HL787]

Lord Bach: No. Local overseas allowance is a payment to compensate individuals for the necessary day-to-day costs of serving overseas. It is not part of the military salary nor is it a reward for serving overseas. It offers at best an inefficient method of providing for welfare and is not considered appropriate for service personnel already in receipt of the operational welfare package (OWP).

We undertook a "from first principles" review of operational welfare in 1999 to seek a solution to a legacy of *ad hoc* and inequitable welfare provision in different theatres. The review determined that the most appropriate method of providing welfare support to service personnel deployed on operations was through the delivery of a comprehensive OWP. This was introduced in April 2001.

For Exercise Saif Sareea II the OWP includes: the installation of 676 telephones and a personal allowance of 20 minutes of publicly funded telephone calls per week; free forces aerogrammes and concessionary parcel rates; access to the Internet and e-mail; newspapers and book packs; BFBS TV and radio; televisions, video recorders and video tapes; Expeditionary Forces Institute shops; publicly funded laundry and a combined services entertainment show.

Although there have been occasional difficulties in delivering all elements of the OWP on time in some of the remote locations and in the harsh environment of Oman, service personnel on Exercise Saif Sareea II have generally received the OWP in full and work will continue to refine provision of the OWP.

Radar Data: Retention

Lord Hill-Norton asked Her Majesty's Government:

Further to the Written Answer by Baroness Symons of Vernham Dean on 25 January (*WA 22*) which stated that radar data are only retained for 30 days and paper records for three years, why RAF Watton was able to confirm in writing to a member of the public in 1989 that it had a record of an unidentified flying object report over RAF Bentwaters, timed at 3.25 am on 28 December 1980. [HL730]

Lord Bach: As a general rule recorded radar data is retained for 30 days before being reused and air traffic control watch logs are destroyed after three years. Our searches have not revealed examples of any archived letters between RAF Watton and members of the public on the subject in question dating from 1989. I am, therefore, unable to comment on the correspondence to which the noble and gallant Lord refers.

Race Relations Act 1976: Section 71 Orders

Lord Graham of Edmonton asked Her Majesty's Government:

When they will bring forward secondary legislation under Section 71 of the Race Relations Act 1976. [HL937]

The Minister of State, Home Office (Lord Rooker): We have today laid two orders under Section 71 of the Race Relations Act 1976 (as amended by the Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2000).

The orders bring into effect the proposals set out in the consultation document on implementation of the Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2000 which was published on 22 February this year.

The first order brings some 300 additional bodies (or groups of bodies) within the scope of the general duty to promote race equality. The second imposes specific duties on the policy and service delivery functions of key public bodies to which the general duty applies, to ensure their better performance of the general duty. Separate duties are placed on schools and other educational bodies. It also places duties on the employment functions of bodies to which the general duty applies. The orders will come into force on 3 December 2001.

Passenger Aircraft: Evasive Action

Lord Janner of Braunstone asked Her Majesty's Government:

Whether pilots of British passenger aircraft have the same freedom of evasive action as their United States counterparts if they have to deal with hijack situations. [HL794]

The Minister of State for Transport, Local Government and the Regions (Lord Falconer of Thoroton): We are not aware of any such freedom for US pilots. Extreme manoeuvres by aircraft could pose a significant risk to the safety of an aircraft and its passengers.

Railtrack: Thameslink 2000 Costs

Lord Berkeley asked Her Majesty's Government:

Following the administration order served on Railtrack on 7 October, how they intend to recover the £800 million already paid to Railtrack out of public funds for the construction of Thameslink 2000 and on which no works have yet started. [HL795]

Lord Falconer of Thoroton: It is not correct that £800 million of public funds has been spent on this project;

HL 14th September

34

QUESTIONS FOR WRITTEN ANSWER—*continued*

The Lord Morris of Manchester—To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps were taken to ensure that State Registered chiropodists were properly represented at the meeting of State Registered and non-State Registered chiropodists hosted by the Department of Health on 3rd September; and whether at that meeting the issue of minimum standards was discussed. (HL721)

The Lord Windlesham—To ask Her Majesty's Government what are the terms of reference, functions and membership of the Ministerial Committee set up by the Prime Minister shortly after the general election in June to oversee the modernisation of the criminal justice system and to improve its performance. (HL722)

The Lord Laird—To ask Her Majesty's Government how many people, from 1968 to date, were killed in the "troubles" associated with Northern Ireland, distinguishing civilian, paramilitary and security force victims. (HL723)

The Lord Laird—To ask Her Majesty's Government what actions the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission has taken since 1st March 1999 to highlight human rights abuses carried out by republican and loyalist paramilitaries. (HL724)

The Lord Laird—To ask Her Majesty's Government what the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission has done since 1st March 1999 to help the relatives of the victims of the Omagh bomb of 15th August 1998. (HL725)

The Baroness Thomas of Walliswood—To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have undertaken any research into the reasons for the small number of women elected to the House of Commons during the last 25 years; and, if so, what conclusions they have drawn. (HL726)

The Baroness Thomas of Walliswood—To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have identified good practice within political parties in other Member States of the European Union which have resulted in a significant increase in the number of women elected to their national parliaments; and, if so, whether such practice could be applied in the United Kingdom. (HL727)

URGENT

The Baroness Thomas of Walliswood—To ask Her Majesty's Government what conclusions can be drawn from the number of women elected to the Welsh Assembly, the Scottish Parliament and the European Parliament; and how these conclusions might be applied to elections to the House of Commons. (HL728)

FAO Section 40

The Baroness Thomas of Walliswood—To ask Her Majesty's Government what legislative changes they propose, to ensure that the proportion of women elected to the House of Commons reflects the proportion of women in the population; and what targets would be appropriate to measure progress. (HL729)

YOURS?

Section 40

PS

Section 40

The Lord Hill-Norton—To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by the Baroness Symons of Vernham Dean on 25th January (WA 22) which stated that radar data are only retained for 30 days and paper records for three years, why RAF Watton was able to confirm in writing to a member of the public in 1989 that they had a record of an Unidentified Flying Object report over RAF Bentwaters, timed at 3.25 am on 28th December 1980. (HL730)

The Lord Hill-Norton—To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their response to the allegation that on 14th January 2001 an Unidentified Object struck the communications mast at the summit of Snaefell Mountain on the Isle of Man. (HL731)

The Lord Hill-Norton—To ask Her Majesty's Government what search operation took place following reports of the crash of an Unidentified Object in Northern Ireland on 13th February 2001. (HL732)

The Lord Hill-Norton—To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their response to the incident on 21st February 2001 when a sonic boom was reported in the north east of England. (HL733)

Section 40

The Lord Hill-Norton—To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by the Lord Bassam of Brighton on 26th April (WA 240), whether the examination of the governor's journal at Blundeston Prison revealed any details of an alert during 25th to 30th December 1980; and whether in this period there was any mention of RAF Bentwaters, RAF Woodbridge or Rendlesham Forest. (HL734)

The Lord Hill-Norton—To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their response to the absence of the governor's journals covering the period 25th to 30th December 1980 in respect of Hollesley and Highpoint Prisons; and whether, in the absence of these records, they will consult the then governors about any alert or warning to evacuate during that period. (HL735)

QUESTIONS FOR WRITTEN ANSWER—*continued*

The Lord Lester of Herne Hill—To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they accept the accuracy of the information published in the *Sunday Times* on 22nd July showing how European continental health services compare with those in Great Britain; and, in particular, that the average waiting time for cataract removal, heart by-pass, hernia and knee replacement operations is longer in Britain than in France, Germany or the Netherlands; that health spending as a percentage of Gross Domestic Product is smaller; and that the number of hospital beds per 1,000 of population is smaller; and, if not, whether they will publish what they consider to be accurate information on these matters. (HL742)

The Lord Hill-Norton—To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the United States Air Force investigated and photographed a site in Rendlesham Forest where it was alleged that an Unidentified Flying Object had landed in December 1980; whether the photographs depicted an indentation where the object might have landed; and whether they have a copy of the report and photographs arising from the investigation. (HL743)

The Lord Hill-Norton—To ask Her Majesty's Government whether, following an allegation contained in a memorandum dated 13th January 1981 by Lieutenant Colonel Halt of the United States Air Force that a glowing metallic triangular object had landed in Rendlesham Forest in December 1980, Lieutenant Colonel Halt was questioned about the incident; if not, why not; and whether military radar indicated that a structured craft was involved. (HL744)

The Lord Campbell of Croy—To ask Her Majesty's Government when they will publish a Green Paper on reform of the planning system in England and Wales. (HL745)

The Lord Campbell of Croy—To ask Her Majesty's Government what action they are taking following the recommendation in the report of the inquiry into BSE that there should be more openness in government. (HL746)

The Lord Campbell of Croy—To ask Her Majesty's Government whether free personal care should be available throughout Great Britain for those elderly people who need such care. (HL747)

The Lord Campbell of Croy—To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the system of stakeholder pensions is coming into operation in the way in which the Government had intended it should. (HL748)

The Lord Judd—To ask Her Majesty's Government what progress they have made in their review of the voucher scheme for asylum seekers; and what changes they propose to make. (HL749)

The Lord Judd—To ask Her Majesty's Government when the security implications of proceeding with the Mox development at Sellafield were last considered; and what was the outcome of that consideration. (HL750)

The Baroness Miller of Hendon—To ask Her Majesty's Government why a limited partnership whose registered office is in England must declare that it is in "England and Wales", whereas limited partnerships whose registered office is in Wales or Scotland merely have to declare that they are in Wales or Scotland respectively. (HL751)

The Lord Patten—To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will encourage the introduction of an international standard in passenger aircraft requiring pilots and other aircrew to be totally isolated from passenger cabins by secure bulkheads and lockable bullet-proof doors. (HL752)

The Lord Patten—To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will list the names of all those that they have appointed since May 1997 to *ad hoc* posts or positions bearing the names of "Advocate", "Advisor", "Champion", "Envoy", "Tsar" and similar titles; whether or not in each case they are paid, and, if they are, stating the amounts paid; and to whom they are accountable. (HL753)

The Lord Patten—To ask Her Majesty's Government by what date they expect that the railway line between Salisbury and Yeovil will be of twin tracks throughout its length. (HL754)

The Lord Patten—To ask Her Majesty's Government on how many days since 1st January the police force areas around (a) Somerton and (b) Wincanton, Somerset, have been without dedicated police officer cover in the hours between 3.00 am and 6.00 am. (HL755)

The Lord Northbourne—To ask Her Majesty's Government what is the statutory or other basis for the statement in paragraph 3.38 of their White Paper *Schools Achieving Success* that "Parents are responsible for establishing good behaviour at home, for getting their children to school and for supporting schools and teachers in setting standards for good behaviour at school"; and whether they are confident that all parents, including non-residential fathers, are aware of and accept these responsibilities. (HL756)

MOD Form 174D

RESTRICTED/UNCLASSIFIED

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

33

TEMPORARY ENCLOSURE JACKET

REGISTERED FILE No. D/DAS/64/4

Enclosure Jacket No.....

DATE OPENED.....

DIVISION/DIRECTORATE/BRANCH:

SUBJECT: PQ 0537M – LORD HILL NORTON

Referred to	Date	Referred to	Date

NOTES

1. A Temporary Jacket will only be used when the Registered File is not available.
2. The contents of a Temporary Jacket must be incorporated in the Registered File at the earliest opportunity, and this incorporation recorded on a transit slip or file record sheet.
3. The movements of Temporary Jackets are recorded by the Registry. Transit is to be recorded on transit slips as for Registered Files.

DOWNGRADING

(to be completed when the jacket is incorporated in the Registered File)

This jacket may be downgraded to:— RESTRICTED / UNCLASSIFIED on..... (insert date)

Certifying Officer.....

Date..... Appointment and Branch.....

RESTRICTED/UNCLASSIFIED

[`4A1(SEC)

From: QUESTIONS CLERK2 on behalf of PARLIAMENTARY QUESTIONS
To: DAS4A1(SEC)
Sent: 11 October 2001 12:14
Subject: Read: PQs from Lord Hill-Norton

Your message

To: PARLIAMENTARY QUESTIONS
Subject: PQs from Lord Hill-Norton
Sent: 11/10/01 12:10

was read on 11/10/01 12:14.

TEMPLATE TO BE USED FOR REPLY

Ministry of Defence

FRIDAY 28 SEPTEMBER 2001

Admiral of The Fleet The Lord Hill-Norton CB KCB(-NOTFOUND-) (CB)

LORDS WRITTEN

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their response to the incident on 21st February 2001 when a sonic boom was reported in the north east of England. (HL733)

Minister replying Lord Bach

Following a report of an incident on 21 February 2001 from a member of the public, the RAF Police undertook an investigation. In the course of their enquiries the British Geographical Society were contacted and confirmed that their equipment gave no indication of either a sonic event or an earthquake occurring in the north east of England on that date. The RAF Police were unable to verify the cause of this reported event.

11October 01 PQ Ref 0537M

BACKGROUND NOTE

Lord Hill-Norton, Chief of the Defence Staff from 1971 to 1973, has a long standing interest in 'UFOs'.

Lord Hill-Norton has not in the recent past displayed an interest in sonic events; it is likely that his question is aimed at discovering whether the reported event was ever positively identified, or remains unexplained.

Reports are received on an occasional basis from members of the public who believe they may have heard a sonic event. Complaints of this nature are subject to investigation by the Defence Flying Complaints Investigation Team who will write a short report on the alleged incident. If a member of the public believes they have suffered damage as a result of the event they will be referred to the Ministry of Defence Claims Branch. That Branch is empowered to award compensation in cases where a connection can be established between the overflight of a military aircraft and injury, loss or damage.

In February this year three members of the public reported a suspected sonic event in the north east of England. A number of newspapers also mentioned the report of a loud bang heard around Scarborough in North Yorkshire. Enquiries made by the Defence Flying Complaints Investigation Team concluded that a sonic event could not be substantiated. In the course of their investigation the Team had contacted the British Geographical Society who stated that their own equipment had not indicated evidence of either an earthquake or a sonic event occurring in the area.

REMEMBER you are accountable for the accuracy and timeliness of the advice you provide. Departmental Instructions on answering PQs can be viewed on the CHOTS public area and on DAWN.

DRAFTED BY : Section 40 TEL: Section 40
AUTHORISED BY : [redacted] TEL: Section 40
GRADE/RANK : B1
BRANCH : DAS Deputy Director

6/10/01.

DECLARATION: I have satisfied myself that the a[redacted]ackground note are in accordance with the Government's policy on an[redacted]rtmental instructions (DCI GEN 150/97), and the Open Govern[redacted]GEN 54/98).

MODE = MEMORY TRANSMISSION START=11-OCT 15:38 END=11-OCT 15:39

FILE NO.= 016

STN NO.	COM	ABBR NO.	STATION NAME/TEL.NO.	PAGES	DURATION
001	OK	[redacted]	Section 40	001/001	00:00'41"

-DIRECTORATE AIR STAFF -

********** Section 40 - ***** - Section 40 **********

Parliamentary Branch.

PQ - Lord Hill-Norton

0537

From Section 40

DAT LA/Ops+Pol

Thousands rocked by sonic boom

BY WENDY VUKOSA

TREMORS which rattled windows and shook buildings along a 25-mile stretch of coastline yesterday were believed to have been caused by a sonic boom.

A 'bang, a boom and a rumble' were reported by people living between Scarborough in North Yorkshire and Whitby in East Yorkshire.

Retired police officer John Melville, 51, said: 'I am out in the country having a nice retired life and then today our life was interrupted with the almightiest of shakes under our feet.'

Scarborough District Council said many people believed there had been an earthquake.

But Glenn Ford, a seismologist with the British Geological Survey, said all the evidence pointed to a sonic boom.

'There are various sources of sonic booms. Nine times out of ten it's an aircraft which causes it but it may also be a meteorite.' Mr Ford added that he was trying to find out from the military if they were behind the incident.

The last recorded boom to hit the mainland was in 1997, when 16 F3 Tornados were operating off the coast near Hartlepool.

HOW THEY OCCUR

A SONIC boom is caused by shock waves. These occur when an object, usually a plane, travels faster than the speed of sound. As an aircraft moves, it pushes air molecules out of its way to create waves of compressed and uncompressed air. These waves move away from the plane in all directions. They can travel for hundreds of miles unless impeded by buildings. Factors which influence the intensity of a sonic boom include an aircraft's shape as well as air pressure.

INTERNATIONAL PRESS-CUTTING BUREAU
224/236 Walworth Road, London SE17 1JE
Tel: 020-7708 2113 Fax: 020-7701 4489

Extracts may not be copied or reproduced (even for internal purposes) or resold. The contents of the publication from which this extract has been taken are copyright work and without prior permission

Extract from:
THE GUARDIAN
London
(circ:391,994)

22 [illegible] 01



D.J

Tremors caused by sonic boom

Tremors yesterday rattled windows and shook buildings on the coast from Scarborough to Whitby in North Yorkshire. They probably originated in a sonic boom, said a British Geological Survey.

Dome salems go on disp

More than 17,00 ms from the Millen Dome are on display p o an auction next we pts include diamon dded football boots, a t gull and a 6ft hamst

Internet bies woman a sted

Judith Kilshaw woman at the centre of inter- net babies for sale scandal, was yesterday questioned by police over the alleged theft of travellers' cheques in north Wales. A travel agent alleged she stole them before travelling to the US to get the babies.

Lucie's family fly to Japan

The family of murdered hostess Lucie Blackman will fly to Japan on Sunday, to bring her body home. Her father, Tim Blackman, from the Isle of Wight, will meet police. Suspect Joji Obara, 48, has yet to be charged.

INTERNATIONAL PRESS-CUTTING BUREAU
24/236 Walworth Road, London SE17 1JE
Tel: 020-7708 2113 Fax: 020-7701 4489

Extracts may not be copied or reproduced (even for internal purposes) or resold. The contents of the publication from which this extract has been taken are copyright work and without prior permission

Extract from:
THE INDEPENDENT
London
(circ:224,921)

22 FEB [illegible]

R.M.

Mystery sonic boom rattles coast

A SONIC boom caused tremors that shook buildings along a 25-mile stretch of coast from Scarborough to Whitby in North Yorkshire yesterday, earthquake experts said. The sonic boom was probably caused by aircraft but could have been a meteorite, seismologists said.

0537M – Lord Hill-Norton

To ask HMG what is their response to the incident on 21 Feb 2001 when a sonic boom was reported in the north east of England.

Background

Lord Hill-Norton has not in the recent past displayed an interest in sonic events; it is likely that his question is aimed at discovering whether the reported event was ever positively identified, or remains unexplained.

Reports are received on an occasional basis from members of the public who believe they may have heard a sonic event. Complaints of this nature are subject to investigation by the Defence Flying Complaints Investigation Team who will write a short report on the alleged incident. If a member of the public believes they have suffered damage as a result of the event they will be referred to the Ministry of Defence Claims Branch. That Branch is empowered to award compensation in cases where a connection can be established between the overflight of a military aircraft and injury, loss or damage.

In February this year three members of the public reported a suspected sonic event in the north east of England. A number of newspapers also mentioned the report of a loud bang heard around Scarborough in North Yorkshire. Enquiries made by the Defence Flying Complaints Investigation Team concluded that a sonic event could not be substantiated. In the course of their investigation the Team had contacted the British Geographical Society who stated that their own equipment had not indicated evidence of either an earthquake or a sonic event occurring in the area.

Draft Answer

Following a report of an incident on 21 February 2001 from a member of the public, the RAF Police undertook an investigation. In the course of their enquiries the British Geographical Society was contacted and confirmed that their equipment gave no indication of either a sonic event or an earthquake occurring in the north east of England on that date. The RAF Police were unable to verify the cause of this reported event.

0537M - Lord Hill-Norton

To ask HMG what is their response to the incident on 21 Feb 2001 when a sonic boom was reported in the north east of England.

Background

Lord Hill-Norton has not in the recent past displayed an interest in sonic events; it is likely that his question is aimed at discovering whether the reported event was ever positively identified, or remains unexplained.

Reports are received on an occasional basis from members of the public who believe they may have heard a sonic event. Complaints of this nature are subject to investigation by the Defence Flying Complaints Investigation Team who will write a short report on the alleged incident. If a member of the public believes they have suffered damage as a result of the event they will be referred to the Ministry of Defence Claims Branch. That Branch is empowered to award compensation in cases where a connection can be established between the overflight of a military aircraft and injury, loss or damage.

In February this year three members of the public reported a suspected sonic event in the north east of England. A number of newspapers also mentioned the report of a loud bang heard around Scarborough in North Yorkshire. Enquiries made by the Defence Flying Complaints Investigation Team concluded that a sonic event could not be substantiated. In the course of their investigation the Team had contacted the British Geographical Society who stated that their own equipment had not indicated evidence of either an earthquake or a sonic event occurring in the area.

Draft Answer

Following a report of an incident on 21 February 2001 from a member of the public, an investigation was undertaken by the RAF Police. The investigation concluded that suggestions that a military aircraft generated a sonic event could not be substantiated.

0537M - Lord Hill-Norton

To ask HMG what is their response to the incident on 21 Feb 2001 when a sonic boom was reported in the north east of England.

Background

Reports are received on an occasional basis from members of the public who believe they may have heard a sonic event. Complaints of this nature are subject to investigation by the Defence Flying Complaints Investigation Team who will write a short report on the alleged incident. If a member of the public believes they have suffered damage as a result of the event they will be referred to the Ministry of Defence Claims Branch. That Branch is empowered to award compensation in cases where a connection can be established between the overflight of a military aircraft and injury, loss or damage.

In February this year three members of the public reported a suspected sonic event in the north east of England. A number of newspapers also mentioned the report of a loud bang heard around Scarborough in North Yorkshire. Enquiries made by the Defence Flying Complaints Investigation Team concluded that a sonic event could not be substantiated. In the course of their investigation the Team had contacted the British Geographical Society who stated that their own equipment had not indicated evidence of either an earthquake or a sonic event occurring in the area.

Draft Answer

~~Enquiries were undertaken as a result of~~ reports of ~~an alleged sonic event in the north east of England on 21 February 2001. It was concluded that the allegations~~ that a military aircraft had generated a sonic event could not be substantiated.

Section 40

LORDS WRITTEN PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION - URGENT ACTION REQUIRED

DATE FOR RETURN	:	**12:00 ON 11 October 2001**
PQ REFERENCE	:	PQ 0537M
PQ TYPE	:	LORDS WRITTEN
MINISTER REPLYING	:	-NOTFOUND-
LEAD BRANCH:	:	SEC (AS)
COPY ADDRESSEE(S)	:	

MDP Sec
DI(Sec)
Defence Estates
CS HQ Strike Cmd
D AIR RP

- **The answer and background note must be authorised by a civil servant at Senior Civil Service level or a military officer at one-star level or above who is responsible for ensuring that the information and advice provided is accurate and reflects Departmental Instructions on answering PQs DCI GEN 150/97.**

- **Those contributing information for PQ answers and background notes are responsible for ensuring the information is accurate.**

- **The attached checklist should be used by those drafting PQ answers and background material, those contributing information and those responsible for authorising the answer and background note as an aid to ensuring that departmental policy is adhered to.**

- **If you or others concerned are uncertain about how PQs are answered seek advice from a senior civil servant in or closely associated with your area.**

Peer's DETAIL: **Admiral of The Fleet The Lord Hill-Norton CB KCB**

QUESTION

To ask Her Majesty's Government To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their response to the incident on 21st February 2001 when a sonic boom was reported in the north east of England. (HL733)

Section 40 [redacted]

Reports received occasionally.
She has seen received
one from an Service source.
MOD - investigation undertaken by DFCIT.

CLAIMS

Section 40 [redacted] nil.

Section 40 [redacted] - claim repudiated.

Section 40 [redacted] - no claim ever made.

Headquarters Royal Air Force
Provost and Security Services
Royal Air Force Henlow
Bedfordshire SG16 6DN

Tel: (01462) 851515 Ext Section 40 DFTS: Section 40
Fax Section 40

Reference: PSS/261/L086/01/SIS

See Distribution

Date: 27 Apr 01

ALLEGED BREACH (SONIC EVENT) Section 40 SCARBOROUGH, Section 40 AND Section 40 STAXTON, NORTH YORKSHIRE.

Reference:

A. D/DAS(Sec)56/1 dated 21 Feb 01.

1. Reference A refers to a complaint by Section 40 and Section 40 who alleged that on 21 Feb 01 between 1100Z - 1130Z, a military ac caused a sonic event in the area of their respective properties. Section 40 further alleged that the incident had caused damage to her property. DFCIT were tasked to carry out a Full Field investigation into the alleged incident.

2. The British Geographical Society were contacted and confirmed that they had received enquiries regarding a possible earthquake occurring in the area. They stated that their equipment had not indicated evidence of either an earthquake or a sonic event occurring in the area.

3. The investigation has failed to identify a military ac that may have been responsible for generating these complaints. Although a number of ac were operating in the area, no crews report exceeding Mach 1 and Radar Replays have failed to identify any ac operating at supersonic speed.

4. It is concluded that the allegations that a military ac generated a sonic event cannot be substantiated. This case is now closed.

File Note:-
Claims has already informed Section 40 of RAF Police findings, No letter is required
Action taken up Section 40 1415.

Section 40
WO
for OC

Distribution:

Action:

MoD(DAS 3a(Sec))
Section 40 BSG

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
DAS 3 (SEC)
- 2 MAY 2001
FILE 56/1

UNCLASSIFIED

Information:

MoD(DAS 1e)
MoD(DC&L(F&S)Claims)

UNCLASSIFIED

Section 40 [redacted]

WHITBY

N. YORKS Section 40 [redacted]

Section 40 [redacted]

Phoned 09/03@1405, reference The Big Bang at Whitby on Wed 21st Feb.

This caused cracks to appear in the kitchen and landing ceilings.

Today's local paper, Whitby Gazette, has article on p 8, titled "RAF in 'Sonic Boom' probe", which states that RAF police are to carry out investigations into the (BTO W)? and will contact all those who reported the incident.

Section 40 [redacted] concerned that she hasn't been contacted although she phoned in to the local (Whitby) Police Station, who took down her name, address & phone number on.

Section 40 [redacted]

Telefax

To: Section 40 - Flying Complaints

Fax:

From Section 40 DAS(Sec)

Date: 21-2-01 Pages: 1

Post-it Notes 7669

LOOSE MINUTE

D/DAS(Sec)56/1

21 February 2001

DFICT (By Fax)

Copy to:
DASDD*
C&L(F&S)Claims 3a *
D(News)Pol 2*
DCC(RAF)*
DAS3b(Sec)
DAS4(Sec) *

* By CHOTS

ALLEGED SONIC EVENT - WEDNESDAY 21 FEBRUARY 2001

1. I am writing to confirm that I have received a report of an alleged sonic boom occurring over the Scarborough area at 1130hrs local this morning. Apart from receiving a great deal of interest from the media (and other interested parties), we also received a call from a witness, as follows:

Section 40

Scarborough

Section 40

Tel No: Section 40

2. You may wish to note that although Section 40 called in as "a member of the public" he is also a journalist working for the Scarborough Evening News.

3. I should be grateful if a full field investigation can be undertaken. In the meantime, I will let the witness know that an investigation is underway and that a member of your team may be in touch shortly.

4. Please let me know if you need any further details.

Section 40

DAS 3a(Sec)
MB7249 Section 40

From: Section 40 Directorate of Air Staff 3a(Secretariat)
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Room 7249, Main Building, Whitehall, London, SW1A 2HB

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

Section 40
Scarborough
Section 40

Your Reference

Our Reference
D/DAS(Sec)56/1
Date
22 February 2001

Dear Section 40

I am writing to confirm our telephone conversation about an alleged sonic event over the Scarborough area yesterday morning.

I am very sorry that you were disturbed by possible military activity. As I explained to you the Royal Air Force Police will be conducting an investigation into this incident and they will establish whether a sonic event did take place and, if so, whether it was caused by a military aircraft. As I also mentioned, during the course of their enquiries, it is possible that they will contact you to arrange a convenient time to take a formal statement.

Once the investigation is complete, I will write to you to let you know the outcome.

Yours sincerely

Section 40

From: Section 40 Directorate of Air Staff 3a(Secretariat)
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Room 7249, Main Building, Whitehall, London, SW1A 2HB

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

Section 40
Staxton
Nr Scarborough
Section 40

Your Reference

Our Reference
D/DAS(Sec)56/1
Date
5 March 2001

Dear Section 40

I am writing to confirm our telephone conversation about an alleged sonic event over the Scarborough area on 21 February.

I am very sorry that you were disturbed by possible military activity. As I explained to you the Royal Air Force Police will be conducting an investigation into this incident and they will establish whether a sonic event did take place and, if so, whether it was caused by a military aircraft. During the course of their enquiries, it is possible that they will contact you to arrange a convenient time to take a formal statement.

Once the investigation is complete, I will write to let you know the outcome. In the meantime, if you have any questions or concerns relating to this incident, please give me a call on the above number.

Yours sincerely

Section 40

C&L (F&S) Claims 3.

From: Section 40 Directorate of Air Staff 3a(Secretariat)
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Room 7249, Main Building, Whitehall, London, SW1A 2HB

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

Section 40
Whitby
North Yorkshire
Section 40

Your Reference

Our Reference
D/DAS(Sec)/56/1
Date
23 March 2001

Dear Section 40

I understand you recently spoke to one of my colleagues about the alleged sonic event over the Scarborough area on 21 February. As I am the Desk Officer at the Ministry of Defence responsible for dealing with such incidents, your enquiry has been passed to me.

I am very sorry that you were disturbed by possible military activity. As you may have read in the local press, the Royal Air Force Police will be conducting an investigation into this incident and they will establish whether a sonic event did take place and, if so, whether it was caused by a military aircraft. Part of their enquiries will involve interviewing witnesses, who contacted the Ministry of Defence direct, and I believe this has already taken place. However, I have passed on your details to the RAF Police who may contact you to take a formal statement.

I also understand that you may have incurred some damage to your property. We are anxious that no one should suffer loss or material damage as a result of Service flying, and the Ministry of Defence Claims Branch is empowered to pay compensation in cases where a connection can be established between the overflight of a military aircraft and injury, loss or damage. They can be contacted at the following address:

C&L(F&S) Claims 3
Room 804
Northumberland House
Northumberland Avenue
London
WC2N 5BP Tel: Section 40

Once the investigation is complete, I will write to you to let you know the outcome. In the meantime, if you have any questions or concerns relating to this incident, please give me a call on the above number.

Yours sincerely

Section 40

Telefax
To: Section 40
Fax:
From: Section 40 (DAS(Sec))
Date: 23-3-01 Pages:
We spoke about this at the beginning of the week. Section 40 tells us:- Section 40
Post-it Notes 7669

From: Section 40 Directorate of Air Staff 3a
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Room 7249, Main Building, Whitehall, London, SW1A 2HB

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

ENCLOSURE NUMBER 22/1

Section 40
Scarborough
Section 40

Your Reference

Our Reference
D/DAS/56/1
Date
14 May 2001

Dear Section 40

Further to my letter of 22 February, I am writing to let you know the outcome of the Royal Air Force Police investigation into the alleged sonic event over Scarborough on 21 February.

After a thorough investigation into this incident, the RAF Police concluded that military aircraft were not responsible for generating the noise you heard. Although a number of aircraft were operating in the area, radar evidence has shown that at no time did they operate at supersonic speeds.

As part of their enquiries, the RAF Police also consulted the British Geological Survey in Edinburgh, who monitor atmospheric and seismic activity within the United Kingdom. Their equipment also recorded no evidence of either an earthquake or a sonic event occurring in the area.

I am sorry I cannot be more helpful, but nonetheless, I would like to thank you for assisting the Royal Air Force Police with their enquiries.

Yours sincerely

Section 40

INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

From: Section 40 Directorate of Air Staff 3a
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Room 7249, Main Building, Whitehall, London, SW1A 2HB

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

Section 40
Whitby
North Yorkshire
Section 40

Your Reference

Our Reference
D/DAS/56/1
Date
14 May 2001

Dear Section 40

Further to my letter of 23 March, I am writing to let you know the outcome of the Royal Air Force Police investigation into the alleged sonic event over Scarborough on 21 February.

After a thorough investigation into this incident, the RAF Police concluded that military aircraft were not responsible for generating the noise you heard. Although a number of aircraft were operating in the area, radar evidence has shown that at no time did they operate at supersonic speeds.

As part of their enquiries, the RAF Police also consulted the British Geological Survey in Edinburgh, who monitor atmospheric and seismic activity within the United Kingdom. Their equipment also recorded no evidence of either an earthquake or a sonic event occurring in the area.

I hope this explains the position

Yours sincerely

Section 40

INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Thousands rocked by sonic boom

BY WENDY VUKOSA

TREMORS which rattled windows and shook buildings along a 25-mile stretch of coastline yesterday were believed to have been caused by a sonic boom.

A 'bang, a boom and a rumble' were reported by people living between Scarborough in North Yorkshire and Whitby in East Yorkshire.

Retired police officer John Melville, 51, said: 'I am out in the country having a nice retired life and then today our life was interrupted with the almightiest of shakes under our feet.'

Scarborough District Council said many people believed there had been an earthquake.

But Glenn Ford, a seismologist with the British Geological Survey, said all the evidence pointed to a sonic boom.

'There are various sources of sonic booms. Nine times out of ten it's an aircraft which causes it but it may also be a meteorite.' Mr Ford added that he was trying to find out from the military if they were behind the incident.

The last recorded boom to hit the mainland was in 1997, when 16 F3 Tornados were operating off the coast near Hartlepool.

HOW THEY OCCUR

A SONIC boom is caused by shock waves. These occur when an object, usually a plane, travels faster than the speed of sound. As an aircraft moves, it pushes air molecules out of its way to create waves of compressed and uncompressed air. These waves move away from the plane in all directions. They can travel for hundreds of miles unless impeded by buildings. Factors which influence the intensity of a sonic boom include an aircraft's shape as well as air pressure.

INTERNATIONAL PRESS-CUTTING BUREAU
224/236 Walworth Road, London SE17 1JE
Tel: 020-7708 2113 Fax: 020-7701 4489

Extracts ©The contents of the publication from which this extract has been taken is a copyright work and without prior permission may not be copied or reproduced (even for internal purposes) or resold.

Extract from:
THE GUARDIAN
London
(circ:391, 994)

22 FEB 2001

In brief

D.U.

Tremors caused by sonic boom

Tremors yesterday rattled windows and shook buildings on the coast from Scarborough to Whitby in North Yorkshire. They probably originated in a sonic boom, said British Geological Survey.

Dome sale[illegible] go on disp[illegible]

More than 17,000[illegible]s from the Millen[illegible] Dome are on display p[illegible]o an auction next we[illegible]ots include diamon[illegible]dded football boots, a[illegible]t gull and a 6ft hamst[illegible]

Internet b[illegible]ies woman a[illegible]sted

Judith Kilshaw[illegible] woman at the centre of inter-net babies for sale scandal, was yesterday questioned by police over the alleged theft of travellers' cheques in north Wales. A travel agent alleged she stole them before travelling to the US to get the babies.

Lucie's family fly to Japan

The family of murdered hostess Lucie Blackman will fly to Japan on Sunday, to bring her body home. Her father, Tim Blackman, from the Isle of Wight, will meet police. Suspect Joji Obara, 48, has yet to be charged.

TERNATIONAL PRESS-CUTTING BUREAU
24/236 Walworth Road, London SE17 1JE
Tel: 020-7708 2113 Fax: 020-7701 4489

Extracts ©The contents of the publication from which this extract has been taken is a copyright work and without prior permission may not be copied or reproduced (even for internal purposes) or resold.

Extract from:
THE INDEPENDENT
London
(circ:224, 921)

22 FEB 2001

D.U.

Mystery sonic boom rattles coast

A SONIC boom caused tremors that shook buildings along a 25-mile stretch of coast from Scarborough to Whitby in North Yorkshire yesterday, earthquake experts said. The sonic boom was probably caused by aircraft but could have been a meteorite, seismologists said.

MOD Form 174D

RESTRICTED/UNCLASSIFIED

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

32

TEMPORARY ENCLOSURE JACKET

REGISTERED FILE No. D/DAS/64/4

Enclosure Jacket No.....

DATE OPENED.....

DIVISION/DIRECTORATE/BRANCH:

SUBJECT: PQ 0536M - LORD HILL NORTON

Referred to	Date	Referred to	Date

NOTES

1. A Temporary Jacket will only be used when the Registered File is not available.
2. The contents of a Temporary Jacket must be incorporated in the Registered File at the earliest opportunity, and this incorporation recorded on a transit slip or file record sheet.
3. The movements of Temporary Jackets are recorded by the Registry. Transit is to be recorded on transit slips as for Registered Files.

DOWNGRADING

(to be completed when the jacket is incorporated in the Registered File)

This jacket may be downgraded to:— RESTRICTED / UNCLASSIFIED on..... (insert date)

Certifying Officer.....

Date..... Appointment and Branch.....

RESTRICTED/UNCLASSIFIED

DAS4A1(SEC)

From: QUESTIONS CLERK2 on behalf of PARLIAMENTARY QUESTIONS
To: DAS4A1(SEC)
Sent: 11 October 2001 12:14
Subject: Read: PQs from Lord Hill-Norton

Your message

To: PARLIAMENTARY QUESTIONS
Subject: PQs from Lord Hill-Norton
Sent: 11/10/01 12:10

was read on 11/10/01 12:14.

TEMPLATE TO BE USED FOR REPLY

Ministry of Defence

FRIDAY 28 SEPTEMBER 2001

Admiral of The Fleet The Lord Hill-Norton CB KCB

LORDS WRITTEN

To ask Her Majesty's Government what search operation took place following reports of the crash of an Unidentified Object in Northern Ireland on 13th February 2001. (HL 732)

Minister replying Lord Bach

Following reports of smoke being seen on Benaughlin Mountain, near Kinawley on the afternoon of 13th February 2001, Police and troops conducted a search of the area, assisted by a helicopter, but nothing was found. A further search was carried out the following morning but nothing was found to indicate either a downed aircraft or a fire and the incident was closed.

October 01 PQ Ref 0536M

BACKGROUND NOTE

Lord Hill-Norton, Chief of the Defence Staff from 1971 to 1973, has a long standing interest in 'UFOs'.

On this occasion Lord Hill-Norton is enquiring about what search operation following reports of a crash in Northern Ireland on 13th February 2001.

HQNI confirmed that Police in Co Fermanagh received reports of smoke being seen on Benaughlin Mountain, near Kinawley on the afternoon of 13 February. A number of military units, including RAF Aldergrove were informed. No military aircraft had been involved in an incident, so civil authorities in both Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland were contacted. These confirmed that no flight plans had been filed for civil light aircraft or helicopters to fly in the general area. However, a small number of light aircraft conduct short flights without the need to file flight plans and as such it was thought that perhaps such an aircraft had been involved in an accident on the high ground at Benaughlin Mountain. A number of Police and troops conducted a search of the area, assisted by a helicopter but nothing was found. The weather was particularly poor, with low cloud and mist and was deteriorating, so the search was continued the following morning. Once again, nothing was found to indicate either a downed aircraft or any form of fire and the incident was closed. There have been no subsequent reports of a missing aircraft.

REMEMBER you are accountable for the accuracy and timeliness of the advice you provide. Departmental Instructions on answering PQs can be viewed on the CHOTS public area and on DAWN.

DRAFTED BY : Section 40 TEL: Section 40

AUTHORISED BY : Section 40 TEL:
GRADE/RANK : B1
BRANCH : DAS Deputy Director

Section 40

DECLARATION: I have satisfied myself that the [redacted] ground note are in accordance with the Government's policy on a [redacted] ental instructions (DCI GEN 150/97), and the Open Gove[redacted] 54/98).

TEMPLATE TO BE USED FOR REPLY

Ministry of Defence

FRIDAY 28 SEPTEMBER 2001

Admiral of The Fleet The Lord Hill-Norton CB KCB

LORDS WRITTEN

To ask Her Majesty's Government what search operation took place following reports of the crash of an Unidentified Object in Northern Ireland on 13th February 2001. (HL 732)

Minister replying Lord Bach

Following

~~Police in Co Fermanagh received~~ reports of smoke being seen on Benaughlin Mountain, near Kinawley on the afternoon of 13th February 2001, ~~and a number of military units in the area were informed. No military aircraft had been involved in an incident and civil flying agencies were contacted in both Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland. These enquiries revealed that no flight plans had been submitted for a light aircraft or helicopter to fly in the general area. A small number of light aircraft conduct short flights without the requirement to submit flight plans and it was thought that perhaps such an aircraft had been involved in an accident on the high ground at Benaughlin Mountian. A number of~~ Police and troops conducted a search of the area, assisted by a helicopter, but nothing was found. ~~Due to deteriorating weather conditions~~ A further search was carried out the following morning. Nothing was found to indicate either a downed aircraft or a fire and the incident was closed. ~~There have been no subsequent reports of a missing aircraft.~~

October 01 PQ Ref 0536M

BACKGROUND NOTE

Lord Hill-Norton, Chief of the Defence Staff from 1971 to 1973, has a long standing interest in 'UFOs'.

On this occasion Lord Hill-Norton is enquiring about what search operation following reports of a crash in Northern Ireland on 13th February 2001.

HQNI confirmed that Police in Co Fermanagh received reports of smoke being seen on Benaughlin Mountain, near Kinawley on the afternoon of 13 February. A number of military units, including RAF Aldergrove were informed. No military aircraft had been involved in an incident, so civil authorities in both Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland were contacted. These confirmed that no flight plans had been filed for civil light aircraft or helicopters to fly in the general area. As a small number of light aircraft conduct short flights without the need to file flight plans, a number of Police and troops conducted a search of the area, assisted by a helicopter. Nothing was found. The weather was particularly poor, with low cloud and mist and was deteriorating, so the search was continued the following morning. Once again, nothing was found to indicate either a downed aircraft or any form of fire and the incident was closed. There have been no subsequent reports of a missing aircraft.

REMEMBER you are accountable for the accuracy and timeliness of the advice you provide. Departmental Instructions on answering PQs can be viewed on the CHOTS public area and on DAWN.

DRAFTED BY : Section 40 TEL: Section 40

AUTHORISED BY : Section 40 TEL: Section 40
GRADE/RANK : B1
BRANCH : DAS Deputy Director

DECLARATION: I have satisfied myself that the above answer and background note are in accordance with the Government's policy on answering PQs, Departmental instructions (DCI GEN 150/97), and the Open Government Code (DCI GEN 54/98).

11 OCT 2001 09:16 FROM

Caveat:

Covering:

FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION COVER SHEET

Serial Number:	**Transmission:** **Date:** **Time:**
From: POLICY BRANCH **Fax No:** Section 40 Section 40 **Tel No:** Section 40	**To:** DAS (LA) Ops & Pol **Fax No:** Section 40
Authorised by: **Rank** **Name:** **Appt:** H60 Section 40 (POLICY)	**Transmitted by:** **Rank:** **Name:** **Tel No:**
Signature: Section 40	**Signature:**

Subject: REPORT OF C AIR CRASH) KINAWLEY

Please find papers as requested.

Classification:

Caveat:

Covering:

ARMY

Policy Branch
Headquarters Northern Ireland
British Forces Post Office 825

Section 40 [redacted]

Ireland

Reference: Policy/20/11

Date: 25 Jun 2001

REPORT OF 'AIR CRASH' KINAWLEY – 13 FEB 01

1. Thank you for your letter of 22 May 2001 in which you request information which may shed light on the unexplained report of an possible 'air crash' on Benaughlin Mountain, near Kinawley on 13 February 2001.

2. This incident, if it indeed was one, remains as much a mystery to us as it does to any one else. Reports of smoke were passed to the Police in Co Fermanagh in the afternoon of 13 February 2001. This information was then forwarded to a number of military units in the area and to RAF Aldergrove. It was very quickly confirmed that no military aircraft had been involved in an incident. Following this, civil flying agencies were contacted in both Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland in an attempt to ascertain whether any flight plans had been submitted for a light aircraft or helicopter whose path would have taken them in the general area of Enniskillen. This also proved to be negative.

3. A small number of light aircraft conduct short flights without the requirement to submit flight plans and as such it was thought that perhaps such an aircraft had been involved in an accident on the high ground at Benaughlin Mountain and consequently no air traffic services or airfield would have been aware of the flight. The weather was particularly poor, with low cloud and mist, which would have made flight conditions difficult. A number of Police and troops conducted a search of the area where smoke was reported, assisted by a helicopter. Nothing was found, but due to the deteriorating conditions it was not until the following morning that a further search was carried out. Once again, absolutely nothing was found to indicate either a downed aircraft of any form of fire and the 'incident' was closed. There have clearly been no subsequent reports of a missing aircraft. There is the possibility that the

persons who reported seeing signs of smoke were in fact observing mist and condensation coming from the vegetation, a common phenomena in woods and moorland areas in damp and drizzly weather conditions.

4. The incident at Tempo was totally unconnected. Police and troops were involved in a clearance operation on 14 February 2001 of a suspect package, which had been found by a farmer in his field.

5. I am sorry that I cannot be more helpful.

Section 40 [redacted]

Section 40 [redacted]
POLICY BRANCH

CHECKED 22 MAY 2001

U.P.R.I.

U.F.O. AND PARANORMAL RESEARCH IRELAND

(INDEPENDENT AND OBJECTIVE RESEARCH)

Section 40 [redacted] Ireland.

E-mail Section 40 [redacted]

Tuesday, May 22, 2001.

Press / Public Information Office, Army HQ,
Thiepval Barracks, Lisburn, Northern Ireland.

Dear Sir / Madam,

I'm writing to you in the hope that you may be of assistance to me. As you can see from the heading, the aim of UPRI is to look into reports and claims of so-called 'UFO' incidents, in as unbiased and down-to-earth a manner as possible. Broadly speaking, our outlook on these incidents is that they have, in all probability, quite mundane explanations.....certainly, we neither blindly believe nor promote the 'extraterrestrial' hypothesis for any UFOs.

Also, we understand your Ministry of Defence's standpoint on their view that they cannot spend time (or taxpayers' money!) trying to identify each and every reported UFO, unless a perceived possible threat to the UK's Air Defence Region exists.

Nonetheless, there is one quite recent incident which has come to our attention, upon which you may be able to shed some light. On the evening of Tuesday, February 13th last, members of the public contacted the emergency services to report that smoke and flames were seen on Benaughlin Mountain, near Kinawley in Co. Fermanagh. A thorough search by police and troops was carried out, but nothing was found. That night, and early the next day, the story was carried on RTE radio, and details appeared in newspapers in both the Republic and Northern Ireland.

The only air crash we could trace for that time frame was that of a privately-owned Jet Provost, which crash-landed in the mudflats near the mouth of the River Foyle. Luckily, no one was hurt, and an RAF Chinook later lifted the stricken craft clear.

Could you please let us know what the conclusion was, as far as the Kinawley incident is concerned? Was it deemed to be a meteorite impact? On Wednesday, February 14th, less than 24 hours after the reported 'aircrash', the media reported that troops sealed off an area of land near Tempo, to investigate a suspicious object. For obvious security reasons, we are not asking for specific details in relation to which unit(s) were involved - but could you let us know if this operation related in any way to the previous night's events?

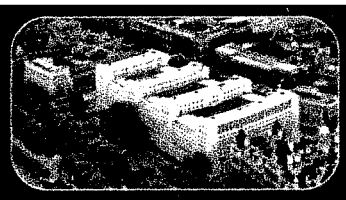
Thank you very much for your time, and here's hoping that you can help solve what has become something of a mystery!

Yours faithfully,

Section 40 [redacted]

Section 40 [redacted]

Help Desk 85000



Section 40

13 Feb 2001

No military crashes on that date in NI – database.

Also checked with RAF Kinloss who keep a log of all search + Rescue – none in Northern Ireland → GB + NI. / UK.

– this only applies to military a/c

Civ Sec NI.

Section 40

Any Wessex / active

Section 40

MBR

Modus

amey

SKANSKA

cab commit RNLI / Coastguard etc.

LORDS WRITTEN PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION - URGENT ACTION REQUIRED

DATE FOR RETURN	:	**12:00 ON 11 October 2001**
PQ REFERENCE	:	PQ 0536M
PQ TYPE	:	LORDS WRITTEN
MINISTER REPLYING	:	-NOTFOUND-
LEAD BRANCH:	:	SEC (AS)
COPY ADDRESSEE(S)	:	

MDP Sec
DI(Sec)
Defence Estates
CS HQ Strike Cmd
D AIR RP

- **The answer and background note must be authorised by a civil servant at Senior Civil Service level or a military officer at one-star level or above who is responsible for ensuring that the information and advice provided is accurate and reflects Departmental Instructions on answering PQs DCI GEN 150/97.**

- **Those contributing information for PQ answers and background notes are responsible for ensuring the information is accurate.**

- **The attached checklist should be used by those drafting PQ answers and background material, those contributing information and those responsible for authorising the answer and background note as an aid to ensuring that departmental policy is adhered to.**

- **If you or others concerned are uncertain about how PQs are answered seek advice from a senior civil servant in or closely associated with your area.**

Peer's DETAIL: **Admiral of The Fleet The Lord Hill-Norton CB KCB**

QUESTION

To ask Her Majesty's Government To ask Her Majesty's Government what search operation took place following reports of the crash of an Unidentified Object in Northern Ireland on 13th February 2001. (HL 732)

Section 40 [redacted]

2 - Nothing found - returned to base

3 - Naval Ireland - Dep. Cdr Sec

4 Sonic boom -

MOD Form 174D

RESTRICTED/UNCLASSIFIED

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

31

TEMPORARY ENCLOSURE JACKET

REGISTERED FILE No. D/DAS/64/4

Enclosure Jacket No. .....

DATE OPENED .....

DIVISION/DIRECTORATE/BRANCH:

SUBJECT: PQ 0535M - LORD HILL NORTON

Referred to	Date	Referred to	Date

NOTES

1. A Temporary Jacket will only be used when the Registered File is not available.
2. The contents of a Temporary Jacket must be incorporated in the Registered File at the earliest opportunity, and this incorporation recorded on a transit slip or file record sheet.
3. The movements of Temporary Jackets are recorded by the Registry. Transit is to be recorded on transit slips as for Registered Files.

DOWNGRADING

(to be completed when the jacket is incorporated in the Registered File)

This jacket may be downgraded to:— RESTRICTED / UNCLASSIFIED on ..... (insert date)

Certifying Officer .....

Date ..... Appointment and Branch .....

RESTRICTED/UNCLASSIFIED

\S4A1(SEC)

From: QUESTIONS CLERK2 on behalf of PARLIAMENTARY QUESTIONS
To: DAS4A1(SEC)
Sent: 11 October 2001 12:14
Subject: Read: PQs from Lord Hill-Norton

Your message

To: PARLIAMENTARY QUESTIONS
Subject: PQs from Lord Hill-Norton
Sent: 11/10/01 12:10

was read on 11/10/01 12:14.

TEMPLATE TO BE USED FOR REPLY

Ministry of Defence

FRIDAY 28 SEPTEMBER 2001

Admiral of The Fleet The Lord Hill-Norton CB KCB(-NOTFOUND-) (CB)

LORDS WRITTEN

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their response to the allegation that on 14th January 2001 an Unidentified Object struck the communications mast at the summit of Snaefell Mountain on the Isle of Man. (HL731)

Minister replying Lord Bach

In the early hours of 14 January, and in daylight on 15 January 2001, a military Search and Rescue helicopter from RAF Valley conducted a comprehensive search of the area around Snaefell Mountain following a report of a suspected light aircraft crash. However, nothing was found as a result of the search.

11 October 01 PQ Ref 0535M

BACKGROUND NOTE

Lord Hill-Norton, Chief of the Defence Staff from 1971 to 1973, has a long standing interest in 'UFOs'.

It is likely that Lord Hill-Norton has asked this question because of his interest in 'UFOs'. The Peer has characterised the reported event as involving an Unidentified Object rather than, for example, a micro-light aircraft.

In the early hours of 14 January, and during daylight on the following day, a Search and Rescue helicopter from RAF Valley was tasked with conducting a search for a suspected crashed micro-light aircraft on the Isle of Man. A comprehensive search of the area around Snaefell Mountain was undertaken but no evidence of any light aircraft was discovered.

REMEMBER you are accountable for the accuracy and timeliness of the advice you provide. Departmental Instructions on answering PQs can be viewed on the CHOTS public area and on DAWN.

DRAFTED BY : Section 40 TEL Section 40
AUTHORISED BY : [redacted] TEL [redacted]
GRADE/RANK : B1 Section 40
BRANCH : DAS Deputy Director

[redacted] 11/10/01

DECLARATION: I have satisfied myself that t[redacted] background note are in accordance with the Government's policy on [redacted] epartmental instructions (DCI GEN 150/97), and the Open Government Code (DCI GEN 54/98).

0535M – Lord Hill-Norton

To ask HMG what is their response to the allegation that on 14 Jan 01 an Unidentified Object struck the communications mast at the summit of Snaefell Mountain on the Isle of Man.

Background

It is likely that Lord Hill-Norton has asked this question because of his long-term interest in the subject of Unidentified Flying Objects. The Peer has characterised the reported event as involving an Unidentified Object rather than, for example, a micro-light aircraft.

At 1.30pm on 14 January, and during daylight on the following day, a Search and Rescue helicopter from RAF Valley was tasked with conducting a search for a suspected crashed micro-light aircraft on the Isle of Man. A comprehensive search of the area around Snaefell Mountain was undertaken but no evidence of any light aircraft was discovered.

Draft Answer

In the early hours of 14 January and again on 15 January 2001, a military Search and Rescue helicopter from RAF Valley conducted a comprehensive search of the area around Snaefell Mountain following a report of a suspected light aircraft crash. However, nothing was found as a result of the search.

0535M – Lord Hill-Norton

To ask HMG what is their response to the allegation that on 14 Jan 01 an Unidentified Object struck the communications mast at the summit of Snaefell Mountain on the Isle of Man.

Background

It is likely that Lord Hill-Norton has asked this question because of his long-term interest in the subject of Unidentified Flying Objects. The Peer has characterised the reported event as involving an Unidentified Object rather than, for example, a micro-light aircraft.

At 1.30pm on 14 January a Search and Rescue helicopter from RAF Valley was tasked with conducting a search for a suspected crashed micro-light aircraft on the Isle of Man. A comprehensive search of the area around Snaefell Mountain was undertaken but no evidence of any light aircraft was discovered.

Draft Answer

On 14 January 2001, a military Search and Rescue helicopter from RAF Valley conducted a comprehensive search of the area around Snaefell Mountain for a suspected crashed micro-light aircraft. Nothing was found as a result of the search.

LORDS WRITTEN PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION - URGENT ACTION REQUIRED

DATE FOR RETURN	:	**12:00 ON 11 October 2001**
PQ REFERENCE	:	PQ 0535M
PQ TYPE	:	LORDS WRITTEN
MINISTER REPLYING	:	-NOTFOUND-
LEAD BRANCH:	:	SEC (AS)
COPY ADDRESSEE(S)	:	

MDP Sec
DI(Sec)
Defence Estates
CS HQ Strike Cmd
D AIR RP

- **The answer and background note must be authorised by a civil servant at Senior Civil Service level or a military officer at one-star level or above who is responsible for ensuring that the information and advice provided is accurate and reflects Departmental Instructions on answering PQs DCI GEN 150/97.**

- **Those contributing information for PQ answers and background notes are responsible for ensuring the information is accurate.**

- **The attached checklist should be used by those drafting PQ answers and background material, those contributing information and those responsible for authorising the answer and background note as an aid to ensuring that departmental policy is adhered to.**

- **If you or others concerned are uncertain about how PQs are answered seek advice from a senior civil servant in or closely associated with your area.**

Peer's DETAIL: **Admiral of The Fleet The Lord Hill-Norton CB KCB**

QUESTION

To ask Her Majesty's Government To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their response to the allegation that on 14th January 2001 an Unidentified Object struck the communications mast at the summit of Snaefell Mountain on the Isle of Man. (HL731)

Information from file 64/3/3. - 18 Jun '01.

[redacted] rang re masts: "there is a CAA mast, but there may be multiple masts inc MoD" [illegible].

mapping + Charts. [redacted]

MOD Form 174D

RESTRICTED/UNCLASSIFIED

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

30

TEMPORARY ENCLOSURE JACKET

REGISTERED FILE No. D/DAS/64/4

Enclosure Jacket No.....

DATE OPENED.....

DIVISION/DIRECTORATE/BRANCH:

SUBJECT: PQ 0534M – LORD HILL NORTON

Referred to	Date	Referred to	Date

NOTES

1. A Temporary Jacket will only be used when the Registered File is not available.
2. The contents of a Temporary Jacket must be incorporated in the Registered File at the earliest opportunity, and this incorporation recorded on a transit slip or file record sheet.
3. The movements of Temporary Jackets are recorded by the Registry. Transit is to be recorded on transit slips as for Registered Files.

DOWNGRADING

(to be completed when the jacket is incorporated in the Registered File)

This jacket may be downgraded to:— RESTRICTED / UNCLASSIFIED on..... (insert date)

Certifying Officer.....

Date..... Appointment and Branch.....

RESTRICTED/UNCLASSIFIED

DAS4A1(SEC)

From: QUESTIONS CLERK2 on behalf of PARLIAMENTARY QUESTIONS
To: DAS4A1(SEC)
Sent: 11 October 2001 12:14
Subject: Read: PQs from Lord Hill-Norton

Your message

To: PARLIAMENTARY QUESTIONS
Subject: PQs from Lord Hill-Norton
Sent: 11/10/01 12:10

was read on 11/10/01 12:14.

TEMPLATE TO BE USED FOR REPLY

Ministry of Defence

FRIDAY 28 SEPTEMBER 2001

Admiral of The Fleet The Lord Hill-Norton CB KCB(-NOTFOUND-) (CB)

LORDS WRITTEN

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by the Baroness Symons of Verham Dean on 25th January (WA 22) which stated that radar data are only retained for 30 days and paper records for three years, why RAF Watton was able to confirm in writing to a member of the public in 1989 that they had a record of an Unidentified Flying Object report over RAF Bentwaters, timed at 3.25 am on 28th December 1980. (HL730)

Minister replying Lord Bach

As a general rule recorded radar data is retained for 30 days before being reused and Air Traffic Control Watch Logs are destroyed after three years. Our searches have not revealed examples of any archived letters between RAF Watton and members of the public on the subject in question dating from 1989. I am, therefore, unable to comment on the correspondence to which the Noble Lord refers.

11 October 01 PQ Ref. 0534M

BACKGROUND NOTE

(attached to PQ 0532)

REMEMBER you are accountable for the accuracy and timeliness of the advice you provide. Departmental Instructions on answering PQs can be viewed on the CHOTS public area and on DAWN.

DRAFTED BY : Section 40 TEL Section 40
AUTHORISED BY : TEL
GRADE/RANK : B1
BRANCH : DAS Deputy Director

Section 40

1/10/01.

DECLARATION: I have satisfied myself that the d background note are in accordance with the Government's policy on a epartmental instructions (DCI GEN 150/97), and the Open Government Code (DCI GEN 54/98).

0534M

To ask HMG further to WA 22 (25 January) which stated that radar data are only retained for 30 days and paper records for three years, why RAF Watton was able to confirm in writing to a member of the public in 1989 that they had a record of an Unidentified Flying Object report over RAF Bentwaters, timed at 3.25 am on 28 December 1980.

Draft Answer

As a general rule recorded radar data is retained for 30 days before being reused and Air Traffic Control Watch Logs are destroyed after three years. Our searches have not revealed examples of any archived letters between RAF Watton and members of the public on the subject in question dating from 1989. I am, therefore, unable to comment on the correspondence to which the Noble Lord refers.

0534M

To ask HMG further to WA 22 (25 January) which stated that radar data are only retained for 30 days and paper records for three years, why RAF Watton was able to confirm in writing to a member of the public in 1989 that they had a record of an Unidentified Flying Object report over RAF Bentwaters, timed at 3.25 am on 28 December 1980.

Draft Answer

As a general rule recorded radar data is retained for 30 days before being reused and Air Traffic Control Watch Logs are destroyed after three years. I am unable to comment on the correspondence referred to in this question as searches have not revealed examples of any archived letters between RAF Watton and members of the public on the subject in question dating from 1989. I am sure you

0534M

To ask HMG further to WA 22 (25 January) which stated that radar data are only retained for 30 days and paper records for three years, why RAF Watton was able to confirm in writing to a member of the public in 1989 that they had a record of an Unidentified Flying Object report over RAF Bentwaters, timed at 3.25 am on 28 December 1980.

Background

RAF Watton, a military Air Traffic Control Unit and part of the eastern radar, closed in

Lord Hill-Norton's question in January 2001 (WA 22 of 25 January) addressed the subject of radar records generally. He now makes reference to correspondence between RAF Watton and a member of the public in 1989. It is possible that he is referring to correspondence said to have taken place between Nicholas Redfern and RAF Watton that is printed in Mr Redfern's book "A Covert Agenda – The British Government's UFO Top Secrets Exposed", published in 1997. The authenticity of the letter from RAF Watton has not been verified.

The answer to the peer's question in January is correct. Although it is always possible that an individual record may be kept, as a general rule recorded radar data is retained for 30 days before being reused and Air Traffic Control Watch Logs are destroyed after three years. In an attempt to trace the papers to which the peer may refer, further enquires have been made but have failed to trace archived files of correspondence between RAF Watton and members of the public on the subject in question dating from 1989. Files from that period now lodged with the Defence Records Archives relate largely to estate matters.

Draft Answer

I am unable to comment on the correspondence referred to in the question. No ~~files have been identified from 1989 on the subject in question containing~~ letters between RAF Watton and members of the public ~~dating~~ from 1989.

LORDS WRITTEN PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION - URGENT ACTION REQUIRED

DATE FOR RETURN	:	**12:00 ON 11 October 2001**
PQ REFERENCE	:	PQ 0534M
PQ TYPE	:	LORDS WRITTEN
MINISTER REPLYING	:	-NOTFOUND-
LEAD BRANCH:	:	SEC (AS)
COPY ADDRESSEE(S)	:	

MDP Sec
DI(Sec)
Defence Estates
CS HQ Strike Cmd
D AIR RP

- **The answer and background note must be authorised by a civil servant at Senior Civil Service level or a military officer at one-star level or above who is responsible for ensuring that the information and advice provided is accurate and reflects Departmental Instructions on answering PQs DCI GEN 150/97.**

- **Those contributing information for PQ answers and background notes are responsible for ensuring the information is accurate.**

- **The attached checklist should be used by those drafting PQ answers and background material, those contributing information and those responsible for authorising the answer and background note as an aid to ensuring that departmental policy is adhered to.**

- **If you or others concerned are uncertain about how PQs are answered seek advice from a senior civil servant in or closely associated with your area.**

Peer's DETAIL: Admiral of The Fleet The Lord Hill-Norton CB KCB

QUESTION

To ask Her Majesty's Government To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by the Baroness Symons of Verham Dean on 25th January (WA 22) which stated that radar data are only retained for 30 days and paper records for three years, why RAF Watton was able to confirm in writing to a member of the public in 1989 that they had a record of an Unidentified Flying Object report over RAF Bentwaters, timed at 3.25 am on 28th December 1980. (HL730)

DAS4A(SEC)

From: STC-OPSSPT-ATC-AREA2/SO2
Sent: 10 October 2001 10:13
To: DAS4A(SEC)
Subject: RE: 0534M - Lord Hill-Norton

Importance: High

Section 40

We are content that your proposed answer covers the situation. We can confirm that there are no records/watch logs held within the ATC department at HQ STC . Furthermore, you might wish to know that ATC Watch Logs are retained at individual units for 3 years prior to destruction and are not archived. As you know radar recordings are retained for a period of 30 days before being re-used. Records are only retained beyond these time periods if they are required for ATC incident investigation and/or Boards of Enquiry.

We understand that the ASACS staff report sightings of UFOs to MOD. We suggest that, as a first POC, you might wish to contact Wg Cdr Section 40 (DAO ADGE 1 Ext Section 40 to ascertain whether or not he holds any records of UFO sightings etc.

We trust that you find this to be of some assistance.

Regards

Section 40

Section 40
Sqn Ldr
SO2 ATC (Area) 2
HQ STC Section 40

-----Original Message-----
From: DAS4A(SEC)
Sent: 09 October 2001 17:26
To: STC-OPSSPT-ATC-AREA2/SO2
Subject: 0534M - Lord Hill-Norton
Importance: High

<< File: 0534MHill-Norton01.doc >>

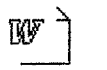
You originally supplied us with information on 16 Jan 01 16:07. Lord H-N is now returning to the charge. I believe the attached will probably suffice in answering his question but I would like to be certain that there is no type of radar log book that is frequently kept beyond the 3 year period.

Your adivce would be appeciated. Section 40

DAS4A(SEC)

From: DAS4A(SEC)
Sent: 09 October 2001 17:26
To: STC-OPSSPT-ATC-AREA2/SO2
Subject: 0534M - Lord Hill-Norton

Importance: High



0534MHill-Norton01.doc

You originally supplied us with information on 16 Jan 01 16:07. Lord H-N is now returning to the charge. I believe the attached will probably suffice in answering his question but I would like to be certain that there is no type of radar log book that is frequently kept beyond the 3 year period.

Your adivce would be appeciated. Section 40

Taken from - Nicholas Redfern "A covert agenda" 1997

just a small part of a very large jigsaw. Shortly before the UFO was seen at close quarters in Rendlesham Forest, its movements were tracked in the East Anglian skies by staff at RAF Watton, Norfolk.[15] Not without some personal risk, one member of staff at Watton entrusted East Anglian author, Paul Begg, with the details.

Begg's informant had not been on duty on the night of the encounter but a colleague had, and it was this person's account that finally reached Begg. According to the source, an unidentified target had been picked up by the radar operators at the base and was tracked heading towards Suffolk, specifically a region to the east of Ipswich. The target was duly reported to other facilities, both civilian and military, and was checked against all known air movements. No identification was forthcoming; the target was uncorrelated.

So far as is known, the base took no further part in the encounter (although it was generally known that other bases had tracked the UFO's movements), yet within days representatives from the US Air Force arrived at the base and removed all of the relevant radar tapes.[16]

Those radar tapes have not resurfaced, at least not outside official channels. However, Squadron Leader E.E. Webster of RAF Watton has admitted to me that the base was implicated in the later encounter of December 28: 'Our log book for the period does indeed say that a UFO was reported to us by RAF Bentwaters at 0325 GMT on 28 December 1980 but that is all the information we have.'[17]

Having been informed of this, I was determined to resolve the issue, and was later given the actual details of Watton's log entry written at the time, which reads as follows: 'Bentwaters Command Post contacted Eastern Radar and requested information of aircraft in the area – UA37 traffic southbound – UFO sightings at Bentwaters. They are taking reporting action.'[18] To clarify, 'UA37' refers to 'Upper Air Route, Upper Amber 37' which runs approximately north–south some forty miles east of Bentwaters and is used by civilian airliners.[19]

An intriguing account, which may well be related to the Rendlesham affair, comes from Graham Birdsall, one of Britain's leading UFO researchers and editor of *UFO Magazine*. Birdsall's source of information is George Wild,

Chapter 11. Ref page 148

14 Ibid.
15 *People*, December 4, 1994.
16 *Flying Saucer Review*, Vol. 27, No. 6, 1982.
17 Letter to the author from Squadron Leader E.E. Webster, RAF Watton, October 25, 1988.
18 Letter to the author from Squadron Leader E.E. Webster, RAF Watton, January 16, 1989.
19 Ibid.
20 *UFO Magazine*, January/February 1995.
21 *UFO Magazine*, Vol. 11, No. 3, 1992.
22 Letters to the author from Suffolk Constabulary, 25 and 27 October 1988.
23 *East Anglian Daily Times*, December 7, 1984.
24 Jenny Randles, *UFO Retrievals* (Blandford Press, London, 1995), pp. 133–134.
25 *News of the World*, October 2, 1983.
26 A.J.S. Rayl, 'Inside the Military Underground', *OMNI* magazine, April 1994.
27 *UFO Magazine*, March/April 1996.
28 Jenny Randles, *From out of the Blue* (Global Communications [Box 753, New Brunswick, NJ, 08903, USA], 1991), pp. 55–56.
29 Jenny Randles, op. cit., p. 56.
30 Interview with Nick Pope, Secretariat (Air Staff) 2a, Ministry of Defence, March 29, 1994.
31 Ibid.
32 Letter to the author from Jenny Randles, (undated) 1993.
33 *News of the World*, October 2, 1983.
34 Ralph Noyes, 'UFO lands in Suffolk – and that's Official!', *The UFO Report 1990*, edited by Timothy Good (Sidgwick and Jackson Ltd, London, 1989), p. 54.

CHAPTER 12 – THE 1980s AND BEYOND

1 Interview with the author, January 12, 1993.
2 Statistical information made available to the author by the Ministry of Defence on September 24, 1992.
3 *Sun*, March 25, 1982.
4 *Flying Saucer Review*, Vol. 28, No. 2, 1982.
5 *News of the World*, October 23, 1983.
6 Civil Aviation Authority records made available to the author in 1995.
7 'Britain's Civil Aviation Authority', Public Relations Department of the CAA, December 1986, p. 13.

From Squadron Leader E E Webster RAF

ROYAL AIR FORCE
Eastern Radar Watton Thetford Norfolk

Telephone Watton 881691 Ext 223

Mr N Redfern
20 Paradise Lane
Pelsall
WALSALL
West Midlands
WS3 4HH

Please reply to The Officer Commanding
Your reference

Our reference ERD/205/1/Org

Date 16 January 1989

Dear Mr Redfern

Thank you for your letter requesting further information about the UFO report on 28 December 1980.

I am afraid that we are not able to provide you with copies of our log books. However, I can offer you a verbatim statement of the only entry regarding the subject incident in the log for that period. The entry is timed at 0325 on 28 December 1980 and states:

> "Bentwaters Command Post contacted Eastern Radar and requested information of aircraft in the area - UA37 traffic southbound FL370 - UFO sightings at Bentwaters. They are taking reporting action."

"UA37" means the Upper Air Route Upper Amber 37 which runs approximately North/South some 40 miles east of Bentwaters and is used by civilian airliners. FL370 means 37,000 feet in altitude.

As I said in my previous letter, all tape recordings from the period - both sound and radar - have been routinely disposed of. You now have as much information as we have.

Stupid!

Eric Webster
for Officer Commanding

- RAF Watton, Norfolk admits that records relating to the Woodbridge landing are on file.

DAS4A(SEC)

To: Info Exp Records 1
Subject: Lord Hill-Norton - PQ 0534 - RAF WATTON

Importance: Low

Spoke to Section 40 9 Oct) - he will run a check of the archives to see if there are any files from RAF WATTON circa 1989 containing correspondence with members of the public.

Suggested line for background note:

"Non Headquarter areas have responsibility for their own first review of files. It is not expected that their records will be routinely passed to the main MOD archives for preservation."

ADGE1 -

RAF Watton(Radar) - was a military Air Traffic Control Unit at the time - was Eastern Radar.

ADGE 1.

Watton - Military ATC Unit - Eastern Radar (c 1990)

Written Answers

Thursday, 25th January 2001.

Chinook Helicopter Mk II: Conversion Training

Lord Chalfont asked Her Majesty's Government:

When the Chinook helicopter simulator training facility and its related training programme were upgraded to cater for the Mk. II version of the helicopter; and when Flight Lieutenants Tapper and Cook completed their upgraded training programme. [HL324]

The Minister of State, Ministry of Defence (Baroness Symons of Vernham Dean): The reconfiguration of the Chinook simulator to Mk2 standard was completed in the last quarter of 1993. The instructing training staff of the Operational Conversion Flight had completed conversion to the Mk2 version in August 1993.

Flt Lt Tapper and Flt Lt Cook completed their conversion training programmes on 28 February 1994 and 17 March 1994 respectively.

European Security and Defence Policy: Intelligence Management

Lord Shore of Stepney asked Her Majesty's Government:

What are the commitments which the United Kingdom has entered into, under the European Security and Defence Policy, for the gathering, analysis and distribution of intelligence material for European Union purposes. [HL405]

Baroness Symons of Vernham Dean: At the European Council at Nice, EU member states agreed the terms of reference of the EU Military Staff, which would perform "early warning, situation assessment and strategic planning for Petersberg tasks".

To carry out this task the staff will rely on appropriate national and multinational intelligence capabilities. The detailed arrangements for handling intelligence material will be subject to stringent safeguards and will take full account of existing national and multinational agreements.

Rendlesham Forest Incident

Lord Hill-Norton asked Her Majesty's Government:

Whether they are aware of any involvement by Special Branch personnel in the investigation of the 1980 Rendlesham Forest incident. [HL303]

Baroness Symons of Vernham Dean: Special Branch officers may have been aware of the incident but would not have shown an interest unless there was evidence of a potential threat to national security. No such interest appears to have been shown.

Lord Hill-Norton asked Her Majesty's Government:

Whether personnel from Porton Down visited Rendlesham Forest or the area surrounding RAF Walton in December 1980 or January 1981; and whether they are aware of any tests carried out in either of those two areas aimed at assessing any nuclear, biological or chemical hazard. [HL301]

Baroness Symons of Vernham Dean: The staff at the Defence Evaluation and Research Agency (DERA) Chemical and Biological Defence (CBD) laboratories at Porton Down have made a thorough search of their archives and have found no record of any such visits.

Lord Hill-Norton asked Her Majesty's Government:

Whether they are aware of any uncorrelated targets tracked on radar in November or December 1980; and whether they will give details of any such incidents. [HL302]

Baroness Symons of Vernham Dean: Records dating from 1980 no longer exist. Paper records are retained for a period of three years before being destroyed. Recordings of radar data are retained for a period of thirty days prior to re-use of the recording medium.

Unidentified Flying Objects

Lord Hill-Norton asked Her Majesty's Government:

What is the highest classification that has been applied to any Ministry of Defence document concerning Unidentified Flying Objects. [HL304]

Baroness Symons of Vernham Dean: A limited search through available files has identified a number of documents graded Secret. The overall classification of the documents was not dictated by details of specific sightings of "UFOs".

Arms Brokering and Trafficking: Licensing

Lord Hylton asked Her Majesty's Government:

When they expect to implement licensing for arms brokering and trafficking, which they announced at last year's Labour Party Conference. [HL343]

The Minister for Science, Department of Trade and Industry (Lord Sainsbury of Turville): The new licensing controls on arms brokering and trafficking announced last September will be introduced under new powers on trafficking and brokering to be contained in an Export Control Bill; The Queen's Speech announced that the Government will publish this Bill in draft during this session of Parliament. Full details of the new controls proposed on arms

MOD Form 174D

RESTRICTED/UNCLASSIFIED

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

29

TEMPORARY ENCLOSURE JACKET

REGISTERED FILE No. D/DAS/64/4

Enclosure Jacket No.....

DATE OPENED.....

DIVISION/DIRECTORATE/BRANCH:

SUBJECT: PQ 0533M - LORD HILL NORTON

Referred to	Date	Referred to	Date

NOTES

1. A Temporary Jacket will only be used when the Registered File is not available.
2. The contents of a Temporary Jacket must be incorporated in the Registered File at the earliest opportunity, and this incorporation recorded on a transit slip or file record sheet.
3. The movements of Temporary Jackets are recorded by the Registry. Transit is to be recorded on transit slips as for Registered Files.

DOWNGRADING

(to be completed when the jacket is incorporated in the Registered File)

This jacket may be downgraded to:— RESTRICTED / UNCLASSIFIED on..... (insert date)

Certifying Officer.....

Date..... Appointment and Branch.....

RESTRICTED/UNCLASSIFIED

S4A1(SEC)

From: QUESTIONS CLERK2 on behalf of PARLIAMENTARY QUESTIONS
To: DAS4A1(SEC)
Sent: 11 October 2001 12:14
Subject: Read: PQs from Lord Hill-Norton

Your message

To: PARLIAMENTARY QUESTIONS
Subject: PQs from Lord Hill-Norton
Sent: 11/10/01 12:10

was read on 11/10/01 12:14.

TEMPLATE TO BE USED FOR REPLY

Ministry of Defence

THURSDAY 18 OCTOBER 2001

Admiral of The Fleet The Lord Hill-Norton CB KCB(-NOTFOUND-) (CB)

LORDS WRITTEN

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether, following an allegation contained in a memorandum dated 13th January 1981 by Lieutenant Colonel Halt of the United States Air Forces that a glowing metallic triangular object had landed in Rendlesham Forest in December 1980, Lieutenant Colonel Halt was questioned about the incident; if not, why not; and whether military radar indicated that a structured craft was involved. (HL744)

Minister replying Lord Bach

I would refer the Noble Lord to my answer to his question 0532. There is no indication, from the papers held on file, that MOD raised any further questions with Lt Col Halt following receipt of his memorandum in 1981 and I am unaware of the reason for this. MOD records from the same period document no evidence of unusual radar returns.

11 October 01 PQ Ref 0533M

BACKGROUND NOTE

(attached to PQ 0532)

REMEMBER you are accountable for the accuracy and timeliness of the advice you provide. Departmental Instructions on answering PQs can be viewed on the CHOTS public area and on DAWN.

DRAFTED BY : Section 40 TEL: Section 40
AUTHORISED BY : TEL:
GRADE/RANK : B1 Section 40
BRANCH : DAS Deputy Director

11/10/01

DECLARATION: I have satisfied myself that the above answer and background note are in accordance with the Government's policy on answering PQs, Departmental instructions (DCI GEN 150/97), and the Open Government Code (DCI GEN 54/98).

0533M - Lord Hill-Norton

To ask HMG whether, following an allegation contained in a memorandum dated 13 January 1981 by LT Col Halt of the USAF that a glowing metallic triangular object had landed in Rendlesham Forest in December 1980, Lt Col Halt was questioned about the incident; if not, why not; and whether military radar indicated that a structured craft was involved.

Draft Answer

I would refer the Noble Lord to my answer to his question 0532. There is no indication, from the papers held on file, that MOD raised any further questions with Lt Col Halt following receipt of his memorandum in 1981 and I am unaware of the reason for this. MOD records from the same period document no evidence of unusual radar returns.

0533M - Lord Hill-Norton

To ask HMG whether, following an allegation contained in a memorandum dated 13 January 1981 by LT Col Halt of the USAF that a glowing metallic triangular object had landed in Rendlesham Forest in December 1980, Lt Col Halt was questioned about the incident; if not, why not; and whether military radar indicated that a structured craft was involved.

Draft Answer

I would refer the Lord Hill-Norton to my answer to his question 0532. There is no indication, from the papers held on file, that MOD raised any further questions with Lt Col Halt following receipt of his memorandum in 1981; we cannot speculate as to the reasons for this. MOD records from the same period document no evidence of unusual radar returns.

0533M - Lord Hill-Norton

To ask HMG whether, following an allegation contained in a memorandum dated 13 January 1981 by Lt Col Halt of the USAF that a glowing metallic triangular object had landed in Rendlesham Forest in December 1980, Lt Col Halt was questioned about the incident; if not, why not; and whether military radar indicated that a structured craft was involved.

Background

Lord Hill-Norton appears to be asking, indirectly, if there is any record of MOD having questioned Lieutenant Colonel Halt. There is no indication from the papers available on file, and supplied to Lord Hill-Norton, that MOD raised any question with the Lieutenant Colonel following receipt of his memorandum in 1981. Following the answer of his question in January (WA 22 of 25 January), the supplying of papers to him in May 2001 and subsequently in October (DP 4206 and 4281), the peer will also be aware that MOD holds no evidence of unusual radar returns.

Draft Answer

I would refer the Lord Hill-Norton to the answer to his question 0532. There is no indication, from the papers held on file, that MOD raised any further questions with Lt Col Halt following receipt of his memorandum in 1981. MOD records from 1981 document no evidence of unusual radar returns.

LORDS WRITTEN PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION - URGENT ACTION REQUIRED

DATE FOR RETURN	:	**12:00 ON 11 October 2001**
PQ REFERENCE	:	PQ 0533M
PQ TYPE	:	LORDS WRITTEN
MINISTER REPLYING	:	-NOTFOUND-
LEAD BRANCH:	:	SEC (AS)
COPY ADDRESSEE(S)	:	

MDP Sec
DI(Sec)
Defence Estates
CS HQ Strike Cmd
D AIR RP

- **The answer and background note must be authorised by a civil servant at Senior Civil Service level or a military officer at one-star level or above who is responsible for ensuring that the information and advice provided is accurate and reflects Departmental Instructions on answering PQs DCI GEN 150/97.**

- **Those contributing information for PQ answers and background notes are responsible for ensuring the information is accurate.**

- **The attached checklist should be used by those drafting PQ answers and background material, those contributing information and those responsible for authorising the answer and background note as an aid to ensuring that departmental policy is adhered to.**

- **If you or others concerned are uncertain about how PQs are answered seek advice from a senior civil servant in or closely associated with your area.**

Peer's DETAIL: Admiral of The Fleet The Lord Hill-Norton CB KCB

QUESTION

To ask Her Majesty's Government To ask Her Majesty's Government whether, following an allegation contained in a memorandum dated 13th January 1981 by Lieutenant Colonel Halt of the United States Air Forces that a glowing metallic triangular object had landed in Rendlesham Forest in December 1980, Lieutenant Colonel Halt was questioned about the incident; if not, why not; and whether military radar indicated that a structured craft was involved. (HL744)

MOD Form 174D

RESTRICTED/UNCLASSIFIED

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

28

TEMPORARY ENCLOSURE JACKET

REGISTERED FILE No. D/DAS/64/4

Enclosure Jacket No.....

DATE OPENED.....

DIVISION/DIRECTORATE/BRANCH:

SUBJECT: PQ 0532M - LORD HILL NORTON

Referred to	Date	Referred to	Date

NOTES

1. A Temporary Jacket will only be used when the Registered File is not available.
2. The contents of a Temporary Jacket must be incorporated in the Registered File at the earliest opportunity, and this incorporation recorded on a transit slip or file record sheet.
3. The movements of Temporary Jackets are recorded by the Registry. Transit is to be recorded on transit slips as for Registered Files.

DOWNGRADING

(to be completed when the jacket is incorporated in the Registered File)

This jacket may be downgraded to:— RESTRICTED / UNCLASSIFIED on..... (insert date)

Certifying Officer.....

Date..... Appointment and Branch.....

RESTRICTED/UNCLASSIFIED

DAS4A1(SEC)

From: QUESTIONS CLERK2 on behalf of PARLIAMENTARY QUESTIONS
To: DAS4A1(SEC)
Sent: 11 October 2001 12:14
Subject: Read: PQs from Lord Hill-Norton

Your message

To: PARLIAMENTARY QUESTIONS
Subject: PQs from Lord Hill-Norton
Sent: 11/10/01 12:10

was read on 11/10/01 12:14.

TEMPLATE TO BE USED FOR REPLY

Ministry of Defence

THURSDAY 18 OCTOBER 2001

Admiral of The Fleet The Lord Hill-Norton CB KCB(-NOTFOUND-) (CB)

LORDS WRITTEN

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the United States Air Force investigated and photographed a site in Rendlesham Forest where it was alleged that an Unidentified Flying Object had landed in December 1980; whether the photographs depicted an indentation where the object might have landed; and whether they have a copy of the report and photographs arising from the investigation. (HL743)

Minister replying Lord Bach

The only USAF material held by MOD is that written by Lieutenant Colonel Holt on 13 January 1981 consequent upon his investigation of the incident in Rendlesham Forest. The MOD has no evidence of any other official investigation or documentation.

11 October 01 PQ Ref 0532M

BACKGROUND NOTE

Lord Hill-Norton, Chief of the Defence Staff from 1971 to 1973, has a long standing interest in 'UFOs'.

During 2001 the Peer has tabled eleven PQs and written six items of Ministerial Correspondence for answer by MOD Ministers on the subject of a well known 'UFO' sighting in Rendlesham Forest, Suffolk in December 1980. His most recent letters on the subject are dated 20 and 22 September (DP 4206 and 4281). He has now tabled for answer by MOD three further questions relating to events in Rendlesham Forest in 1980; two other questions, relating to prison records for the period, are for answer by the Home Office.

PQ 0532 –

A note held on file and a defensive press line, produced in 1983, record that, once the initial report from Lieutenant Colonel Halt had been sent to MOD, the US authorities carried out no further investigation. There is no mention, in the documentation held by MOD, of any official photographs having been taken. Lord Hill-Norton has, of course, recently supplied photographs and a CD to the Minister. The status of this material is not known.

PQ 0533 -

Lord Hill-Norton appears to be asking, indirectly, if there is any record of MOD having questioned Lieutenant Colonel Halt. There is no indication from the papers available on file, and supplied to Lord Hill-Norton, that MOD raised any question with the Lieutenant Colonel following receipt of his memorandum in 1981. Following the answer of his question in January (WA 22 of 25 January), the supplying of papers to him in May 2001 and subsequently in October (DP 4206 and 4281), the Peer will also be aware that MOD holds no evidence of unusual radar returns.

PQ 0534 -

A question tabled by Lord Hill-Norton in January 2001 (WA 22 of 25 January) addressed the subject of radar records generally. He now makes reference to correspondence between RAF Watton and a member of the public in 1989. It is possible that he is referring to correspondence said to have taken place between Nicholas Redfern and RAF Watton that is printed in Mr Redfern's book "A Covert Agenda – The British Government's UFO Top Secrets Exposed",

published in 1997. The authenticity of the letter from RAF Watton has not been verified.

The answer to the Peer's question in January is correct. Although it is always possible that an individual record may be kept, as a general rule recorded radar data is retained for 30 days before being reused and Air Traffic Control Watch Logs are destroyed after three years. In an attempt to trace the papers to which the Peer may refer, further enquires have been made but have failed to trace archived files of correspondence between RAF Watton and members of the public on the subject in question dating from 1989. Files from that period now lodged with the Defence Records Archives relate largely to estate matters.

REMEMBER you are accountable for the accuracy and timeliness of the advice you provide. Departmental Instructions on answering PQs can be viewed on the CHOTS public area and on DAWN.

DRAFTED BY : Section 40 TEL: Section 40
AUTHORISED BY : TEL:
GRADE/RANK : B1
BRANCH : DAS Deputy Director Section 40 11/10/01.

DECLARATION: I have satisfied myself that and background note are in accordance with the Government's policy on answering PQs, Departmental instructions (DCI GEN 150/97), and the Open Government Code (DCI GEN 54/98).

Q532M – Lord Hill-Norton

To ask HMG whether the USAF investigated and photographed a site in Rendlesham Forest where it was alleged that an Unidentified Flying Object had landed in December 1980; whether the photographs depicted an indentation where the object might have landed; and whether they have a copy of the report and photographs arising from the investigation.

Draft Answer

The only USAF material held by MOD is that written by Lieutenant Colonel Holt on 13 January 1981 consequent upon his investigation of the incident in Rendlesham Forest. The MOD has no evidence of any other official investigation or documentation.

O532M – Lord Hill-Norton

To ask HMG whether the USAF investigated and photographed a site in Rendlesham Forest where it was alleged that an Unidentified Flying Object had landed in December 1980; whether the photographs depicted an indentation where the object might have landed; and whether they have a copy of the report and photographs arising from the investigation.

Draft Answer

~~My department~~ The MOD is not aware of any ~~such~~ USAF official investigation. The memorandum from Lieutenant Colonel Halt, dated 13 January 1981, reporting events in Rendlesham Forest in December 1980, is the only ~~official~~ document supplied by the United States Air Force to MOD.

The USAF material held by the MOD is that written by Lt Col Holt and consequent upon his investigation of the alleged UFO incident. The MOD has no evidence that any other official investigation or documentation. The photographs were supplied by Lt Col Halt.

D/DAS/64/4

3 October 2001

Ministerial Correspondence Unit

through DAS AD (LA)

MINISTERIAL CORRESPONDENCE – DP 4206 AND DP 4281 – THE LORD HILL-NORTON

1. This year Lord Hill-Norton has tabled eleven PQs and written five items of Ministerial Correspondence for answer by MOD Ministers on the subject of a well known 'UFO' sighting in Rendlesham Forest, Suffolk in December 1980. In an answer dated 16 May to two of his letters, Minister (DP)'s predecessor sent the peer a number of papers on the Rendlesham Forest incident.

2. Lord Hill-Norton's two latest letters on the subject (of 20 and 22 September and signed on his behalf by his Secretary), challenges the view that there was no evidence to substantiate an event of defence concern and includes a copy of a short press article he cites as being relevant.

3. The Department's interest in reports of 'unexplained' aerial sightings is to establish whether there is anything that might be of defence significance, such as hostile air activity in UK airspace. (An event that has "no defence significance" is one that is regarded as presenting no direct military threat against sovereign territory.) As part of the MOD assessment of reports, contact is made as necessary with appropriate Departmental experts. To our knowledge in 1981, any report from a Service source received in MOD would have been passed as a matter of course to air defence experts, to assess whether there was anything that might be of defence concern. Until 2000 this would have included the Directorate of Intelligence Scientific and Technical (DIST). Towards the end of 2000 DIST decided that these reports were of no intelligence interest and should no longer be sent to them.

4. The peer queries the answer to a PQ tabled by him in 1997 on the subject of radiation readings (Flag A), however, the internal minute written at the time (Flag B) shows that no assessment was made of the normal levels of background radiation in Rendlesham Forest.

5. Lord Hill-Norton asks if he might he provided with the documents that have been withheld from members of the public who have requested the papers we hold on the event under the Code of Practice on Access to Government Information. Five documents were withheld of which two have recently been cleared for issue; those are now attached to the draft reply. The remaining three comprise advice to Ministers and an exchange of letters between a MP and a Minister. A decision has been taken to maintain the exemption on these documents as disclosure would "harm the frankness and candour of internal discussion" (Exemption 2 to the Code of Practice). Enquiries made with appropriate areas indicate no requirement to make an exception in the case of Lord Hill-Norton due to his status.

6. In his penultimate paragraph, Lord Hill-Norton suggests that Minister seek a briefing from Defence Intelligence staff. This is not considered necessary, the incident is not a matter of current intelligence interest and, as explained above, DIST no longer receives reports of unexplained aerial sightings.

7. Some twenty years after the alleged occurrence it is not possible to answer all of Lord Hill-Norton's questions without resorting to speculation. The content of the papers now marshalled together support the conclusion that the event did not present a military threat. The article from the Ipswich Evening Star, to which the letter of 22 September refers, contains no new information but puts its own interpretation on the content of the Departmental papers, describing the unclassified pages as "secret files".

8. Lord Hill-Norton may not be happy with the answer to his letters but it really is all we can say.

Signed

Section 40 [redacted]

DAS (LA) Ops + Pol

Section 40 [redacted]

Drafted by: Section 40 [redacted] DAS (LA) Ops + Pol

Authorised by: [redacted] DAS AD (LA)

DP 4206 & 4281

October 2001

Thank you for the letters of 20 and 22 September in which you have raised further questions concerning an event in Rendlesham Forest in 1980.

You challenge the conclusion that there was no evidence to substantiate an event of defence concern. Reports of unexplained aerial sightings have been and are currently copied, if deemed appropriate, to those within the Ministry of Defence (MOD) with an interest in air defence matters. The papers on Rendlesham Forest indicate that the memorandum sent by Lt Col Halt to the RAF Liaison Officer at RAF Bentwaters was one of those papers about which further enquiries were made and that MOD concluded there was nothing of defence interest in the event.

You refer to WA 169, answered on 14 October 1997; Departmental minutes produced in the months following the receipt of Lt Col Halt's memorandum indicate that while some basic enquiries were made and speculative opinion offered, no full assessment was made of the radiation readings. An offer to undertake enquiries is recorded in the papers but there is no indication that this was taken up.

I am unable to answer your questions concerning General Gabriel; there is no evidence of further analysis by the USAF in the papers held by MOD.

In her letter of 16 May 2001, my predecessor mentioned that she was attaching a number of papers on the event in Rendlesham Forest. These papers were the ones that had recently been supplied to a member of the public on request under the Code of Practice on Access to Government Information. Five papers had been withheld from that individual, under Code exemptions. That person has recently appealed against the decision and two of the papers are being released to that individual; copies of those papers are now attached to this letter. The three remaining papers comprise an exchange of letters between an MP and a Minister, a minute between an official and a Minister's office, with a suggested Parliamentary Question response and background note, and a duplicate copy of the front page of the official's minute I have just mentioned. These papers are to continue to be withheld under Exemption 2 of the Code of Practice, "whose disclosure would harm the

frankness and candour of internal discussion". You will I am sure appreciate that, notwithstanding the unclassified nature of the papers, advice to Ministers is generally not made widely available even within the Department to officials and members of the Services unless they have a need to know the exact nature of the exchange. I should like to continue to maintain this convention in this instance and, therefore, have not instructed that the papers be attached to this letter.

In conclusion, I would like to thank you for sending me a copy of the article in the Ipswich Evening Star.

THE LORD BACH

Admiral of the Fleet the Lord Hill-Norton GCB

O532M – Lord Hill-Norton

To ask HMG whether the USAF investigated and photographed a site in Rendlesham Forest where it was alleged that an Unidentified Flying Object had landed in December 1980; whether the photographs depicted an indentation where the object might have landed; and whether they have a copy of the report and photographs arising from the investigation.

Background

A note held on file and a defensive press line, produced in 1983, record that, once the initial report from Lieutenant Colonel Halt had been sent to MOD, the US authorities carried out no further investigation. There is no mention, in the documentation held by MOD, of any official photographs having been taken. Lord Hill-Norton has, of course, recently supplied photographs and a CD to the Minister. The status of this material is not known.

Draft Answer

My department is not aware of any such official investigation.

The memorandum from Lieutenant Colonel Halt, dated 13 January 1981, reporting events in Rendlesham Forest in December 1980, is the only official document supplied by the United States Air Force to MOD.

LORDS WRITTEN PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION - URGENT ACTION REQUIRED

DATE FOR RETURN	:	**12:00 ON 11 October 2001**
PQ REFERENCE	:	PQ 0532M
PQ TYPE	:	LORDS WRITTEN
MINISTER REPLYING	:	-NOTFOUND-
LEAD BRANCH:	:	SEC (AS)
COPY ADDRESSEE(S)	:	

MDP Sec
DI(Sec)
Defence Estates
CS HQ Strike Cmd
D AIR RP

- **The answer and background note must be authorised by a civil servant at Senior Civil Service level or a military officer at one-star level or above who is responsible for ensuring that the information and advice provided is accurate and reflects Departmental Instructions on answering PQs DCI GEN 150/97.**

- **Those contributing information for PQ answers and background notes are responsible for ensuring the information is accurate.**

- **The attached checklist should be used by those drafting PQ answers and background material, those contributing information and those responsible for authorising the answer and background note as an aid to ensuring that departmental policy is adhered to.**

- **If you or others concerned are uncertain about how PQs are answered seek advice from a senior civil servant in or closely associated with your area.**

Peer's DETAIL: Admiral of The Fleet The Lord Hill-Norton CB KCB

QUESTION

To ask Her Majesty's Government To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the United States Air Force investigated and photographed a site in Rendlesham Forest where it was alleged that an Unidentified Flying Object had landed in December 1980; whether the photographs depicted an indentation where the object might have landed; and whether they have a copy of the report and photographs arising from the investigation. (HL743)

Note - Lord H-N -
CD + photos (Phill held here).

MODE = MEMORY TRANSMISSION START=11-OCT 08:51 END=11-OCT 08:52

FILE NO.= 253

27

STN NO.	COM	ABBR NO.	STATION NAME/TEL.NO.	PAGES	DURATION
001	OK	[redacted]	Section 40	003/003	00:00'45"

-DIRECTORATE AIR STAFF -

********** Section 40 - ***** - Section 40 *********

From: Section 40 DAS (LA) Ops+Pol
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Directorate Air Staff
Room 6/71, Metropole Building,
Northumberland Avenue
LONDON WC2N 5BP.

Telephone (Direct dial) Section 40
(Switchboard) 020 7218 9000
(Fax) Section 40
CHOTS - DAS4A(SEC)

3 pages.

FAX MESSAGE

To: APS - MA (OP)
Date: 11 October 01.
Subject: MINISTERIAL CORRESPONDENCE – THE LORD HILL-NORTON

For: Section 40

To be attached to DP 4206 and 4281.

Additional documents released under the Code of Practice*

Section 40

*2 Restricted papers, released under the Code of Practice. Letter from Ops (GE) to Meachishead and the reply from Meachishead.

Section 40

DAS4

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
OLD WAR OFFICE BUILDING WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2EU

Telephone Section 40 (Direct Dialling)

020 7218 9000 (Switchboard)

MINISTER OF STATE FOR
THE ARMED FORCES

26

D/MIN(AF)/AI/4185/01/V

10 October 2001

Dear Lord Hill-Norton

Turning to your letter of 4 September, I can only reiterate the points made in my letter of 14 August. The Ministry of Defence has assessed that Section 40 report does not substantiate an event of defence concern. However, my offer to have MOD officials view the video recordings remains extant.

Yours sincerely

Section 40 [redacted]

The Rt Hon Adam Ingram JP MP

Admiral of the Fleet The Lord Hill-Norton GCB
House of Lords
London
SW1A 0WW

DAS
102No. .....
11 OCT 2001
FILE
Private Office

INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

25

D/DAS/64/4

4 October 2001

Ministerial Correspondence Unit

through DAS AD (L Section 40 [redacted] /10

MINISTERIAL CORRESPONDENCE – DP 4206 AND DP 4281 – THE LORD HILL-NORTON

1. This year Lord Hill-Norton has tabled eleven PQs and written five items of Ministerial Correspondence for answer by MOD Ministers on the subject of well known 'UFO' sightings in Rendlesham Forest, Suffolk in December 1980. In an answer dated 16 May to two of his letters, Minister (DP)'s predecessor sent the peer a number of papers on the Rendlesham Forest incident.

2. Lord Hill-Norton's two latest letters on the subject (of 20 and 22 September and signed on his behalf by his Secretary) ask the Minister to look into the initial investigation early in 1981 and challenge the judgement that there was no evidence to substantiate an event of defence concern. The letter of 22 September encloses a copy of a short press article he cites as being relevant.

3. Some twenty years after the alleged events it is not possible to answer all of Lord Hill-Norton's questions without resorting to speculation. The Department's interest in reports of 'unexplained' aerial sightings is to establish whether there is anything that might be of defence significance, such as hostile air activity in UK airspace. An event that has "no defence significance" is one that is regarded as presenting no direct military threat against sovereign territory. In 1981, all available substantiated evidence was looked at the in the usual manner by those within MOD with a responsibility for air defence matters and the judgement made that there was no indication that a breach of the United Kingdom's air defences had occurred.

4. In his letter of 20 September, Lord Hill-Norton referred to a Departmental minute from February 1981 which was among the papers sent to him by the Minister's predecessor. He notes the comment that the peak radiation reading recorded at the time appeared "significantly higher" than the average background reading. He asks for an explanation of the apparent discrepancy between this comment and the reply given by Lord Gilbert, to a PQ tabled by the peer in 1997 (Flag A), that there was no record of an official assessment of the radiation readings reported. Both the minute from 1981, and a later file note written by a member of the Secretariat staff (also included in the papers released to the peer), indicate that while some basic enquiries were undertaken and speculative opinion offered, no full assessment was made of the radiation readings. Lord Gilbert's reply was correct.

5. Lord Hill-Norton asks if he might he provided with the documents that have been withheld from members of the public who have requested the papers we hold on the events under the Code of Practice on Access to Government Information. Five documents were withheld of which two have recently been cleared for issue; those are now attached to the draft reply. The remaining three comprise advice to Ministers and an exchange of letters between a MP and a Minister. A decision has been taken to maintain the exemption on these documents as disclosure would

"harm the frankness and candour of internal discussion" (Exemption 2 to the Code of Practice). Enquiries made with DS Sec and CNS' office indicate no requirement to make an exception in the case of Lord Hill-Norton due to his status.

6. In his penultimate paragraph, Lord Hill-Norton suggests that Minister seek a briefing from Defence Intelligence staff. This is not considered necessary as incident is not a matter of current intelligence interest.

7. The article from the Ipswich Evening Star, to which the letter of 22 September refers, contains no new information but puts its own interpretation on the content of the Departmental papers, describing the largely unclassified pages as "secret files". The only two classified papers, graded 'Restricted', are now being released under the Code of Practice on Access to Government Information and are being sent to Lord Hill-Norton with this latest reply.

8. A draft reply is attached. Lord Hill-Norton may be disappointed with the answer to his letters but this really is all there is to say.

Signed
Section 40
DAS (LA) Ops + Pol
MT 6/71 Section 40

Drafted by: Section 40 DAS (LA) Ops + Pol

Authorised by: [redacted] DAS AD (LA)

DP 4206 & 4281

October 2001

Thank you for the letters of 20 and 22 September in which you have raised further questions concerning events in Rendlesham Forest in 1980.

You challenge the judgement that there was no evidence to substantiate an event of defence concern; the information recorded in papers generated early in 1981 does, however, support that conclusion. With regard to your point about radiation readings, while Departmental minutes indicate that some basic enquiries were made and speculative opinion offered, no full assessment was made of the readings. An offer to undertake further enquiries is recorded in the papers but there is no indication that this was taken up.

I regret that I am unable to answer your questions concerning General Gabriel; there is no evidence of further analysis by the USAF in the papers held by MOD.

In her letter of 16 May 2001, my predecessor mentioned that she was attaching a number of papers on the events in Rendlesham Forest. The papers were ones that had recently been supplied to a member of the public on request under the Code of Practice on Access to Government Information and five documents had been withheld, under Code exemptions. That person has recently appealed against the decision and two of the papers are being released to that individual; copies are now attached to this letter. The three remaining papers comprise an exchange of letters between an MP and a Minister, a minute between an official and a Minister's office, with a suggested Parliamentary Question response and background note, and a duplicate copy of the front page of the official's minute I have just mentioned. These papers will continue to be withheld under Exemption 2 of the Code of Practice, "whose disclosure would harm the frankness and candour of internal discussion". You will I am sure appreciate that, notwithstanding the unclassified nature of the documents, advice to Ministers is generally not made widely available even within the Department to officials and members of the Services unless they have a need to know the exact nature of the exchange. I should like to continue to maintain this convention in this instance and, therefore, have not instructed that the papers be attached to this letter.

In conclusion, I would like to thank you for sending me a copy of the article in the Ipswich Evening Star.

THE LORD BACH

Admiral of the Fleet the Lord Hill-Norton GCB

MODE = MEMORY TRANSMISSION START=04-OCT 18:52 END=04-OCT 18:54

FILE NO.= 146

STN NO.	COM	ABBR NO.	STATION NAME/TEL.NO.	PAGES	DURATION
001	OK	S	Section 40	004/004	00:01'17"

-DIRECTORATE AIR STAFF -

********** Section 40 - ***** - Section 40 **********

From: Section 40 DAS (LA) Ops+Pol
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Directorate Air Staff
Room 6/71, Metropole Building,
Northumberland Avenue
LONDON WC2N 5BP.

Telephone (Direct dial) Section 40
(Switchboard) 020 7218 9000
(Fax) Section 40
CHOTS - DAS4A(SEC)

FAX MESSAGE

To: Parliamentary Enquiries
Date: 4 Oct 01.
Subject: MINISTERIAL CORRESPONDENCE – THE LORD HILL-NORTON

For DP 4206 + 4281.

Section 40

DAS4A(SEC)

From: System Administrator
To: PARLIAMENTARY ENQUIRIES
Sent: 04 October 2001 18:33
Subject: Delivered: DP4206 (FORMERLY AF4206) and DP4281 - the Lord Hill-Norton

Your message

To: PARLIAMENTARY ENQUIRIES
Cc: DAS4A1A(SEC)
Subject: DP4206 (FORMERLY AF4206) and DP4281 - the Lord Hill-Norton
Sent: 04/10/01 18:33

was delivered to the following recipient(s):

PARLIAMENTARY ENQUIRIES on 04/10/01 18:33

✳ Lieutenant Colonel Charles Halt: Memorandum

Lord Hill-Norton asked Her Majesty's Government:

Whether the Ministry of Defence replied to the 1981 memorandum from Lieutenant Colonel Charles Halt, which reported the presence of an unidentified craft that had landed in close proximity to RAF Bentwaters and RAF Woodbridge, witnessed by United States Air Force personnel; and if not, why not; and

How the radiation readings reported to the Ministry of Defence by Lieutenant Colonel Charles Halt in his memorandum dated 13 January 1981 compare to the normal levels of background radiation in Rendelsham Forest.

Lord Gilbert: The memorandum, which reported observations of unusual lights in the sky, was assessed by staff in the MoD responsible for air defence matters. Since the judgment was that it contained nothing of defence significance, no further action was taken.

There is no record of any official assessment of the radiation readings reported by Lieutenant Colonel Halt. From a Defence perspective some 16½ years after the alleged events, there is no requirement to carry out such an assessment now.

Joint Services Command and Staff College

Lord Kennet asked Her Majesty's Government:

Whether the site at Camberley, in favour of which the Greenwich site was rejected for the JSCSC, is to be cleared of asbestos, and, if so, at what cost; why was the presence of asbestos not ascertained before plans to move the JSCSC there were finalised and then changed; and what plans do the Ministry of Defence have for the Camberley site once it has been cleared of asbestos; and

Why, given that the consultation document on the future location of the JSCSC that was issued in January 1995 did not address the possibility of setting the college up on a greenfield site, there has been no consultation on the Shrivenham option; and

What is the anticipated total cost of the interim accommodation for the JSCSC until the work on Shrivenham is completed, and what date is being required for completion; and

Whether the anticipated overall cost to the taxpayer of the PFI scheme currently being considered for the new site of the JSCSC will be declared to Parliament; and

Further to the Written Answers by Lord Gilbert on 21 July *(WA 147–148)* on the future of the Joint Services Command and Staff College (JSCSC), whether apart from the provision of married accommodation, the Greenwich site would be at least £200 million cheaper than accommodation at the proposed greenfield site at Shrivenham; and whether the cost of the Shrivenham site is expected to be around £500 million.

Lord Gilbert: I am advised that the asbestos identified at the Camberley site presents no threat to health if left undisturbed. Its removal would be required if buildings were to be demolished, which was the case when the JSCSC was to have been based at Camberley. At that stage it was estimated that survey and removal together would cost no more than £87K. The presence of asbestos was not the reason for exploring a PFI solution for the JSCSC. Until a decision is reached on the future use of the Camberley site, it is not clear whether action will be needed to deal with the asbestos. It remains our intention to identify a fitting and appropriate military use for the historic Staff College building at Camberley and work is currently under way to this end.

Although the January 1995 Consultative Document did not consider greenfield sites for the permanent JSCSC, for the reasons given in paragraph 9 of the Document, the two further Consultative Documents of March 1996 and July 1996 indicated, inter alia, that interim arrangements would last for two years, that proposals for the permanent site would be dealt with separately, and that work in hand "to determine the best way of providing (a permanent JSCSC), on a site yet to be identified, includes a development under Private Finance Initiative (PFI) arrangements". Since then, the trades unions have been informed of the choice of a PFI Preferred Bidder and provided with extracts from the Invitation To Negotiate which are currently under discussion. In accordance with normal procedures, staff will be consulted again, after a contract has been placed, about the possible transfer arrangements for civilian staff working at interim sites.

The anticipated total cost of the JSCSC in its interim accommodation is approximately £70 million over the period 1996–97 to 1999–2000. The required completion date for the permanent JSCSC, as given in the published Statement of Requirement, is September 1999.

The estimated total, undiscounted and VAT inclusive, cost of the PFI contract over a 30-year period is approximately £500 million at current prices. This information was widely reported at the time of the announcement of the Preferred Bidder, and given out in another place on 26 February in response to a specific question. This estimate excludes the ongoing costs of MoD-provided teaching and directing staff of around £10 million per annum.

The last time that Greenwich costs were subjected to formal assessment was around the end of 1994. The results of this assessment were published in the Consultative Document of January 1995. These showed the Greenwich option, leaving aside the cost of providing the necessary married accommodation, to be more than 25 per cent. more expensive than the Camberley option. There is no evidence to suggest that, if the costs of the Greenwich option were revisited, they would prove anything other than significantly more expensive than both the Camberley option and the Preferred Shrivenham Bid submitted in the course of the PFI competition.

UNCLASSIFIED

RESTRICTED

7274

FILE
26

RAF Neatishead
Eastern Radar
RAF Watton

D/DD Ops(GE)/10/8

26 January 1981

UNEXPLAINED LIGHTS

1. The Deputy Base Commander of RAF Bentwaters has reported sightings of airborne phenomena on the evening of 29 Dec 80 in the Rendlesham forest area near Woodbridge. We would appreciate a statement of radar observations, or lack of them, in the area and at the time concerned.

T D BAMBOCK
Squadron Leader
Ops(GE)2b(RAF)

RESTRICTED

UNCLASSIFIED

Neatishead Norwich Norfolk NR12 8YB
Telephone NORWICH 737361 ext 7-413

36

MOD (Ops(GE)2b(RAF))

Please reply to the Officer Commanding
Your reference
Our reference NEAT/12/1/AIR
Date 3 Feb 81

UNEXPLAINED LIGHTS

Reference:

A. D/DD Ops (GE)/10/8 Dated 26 Jan 81. - E26.

1. At Reference A you asked us to provide a statement of radar observations, or lack of them, regarding a reported sighting of airborne phenoma on the evening of 29 Dec 80.

2. I regret that, in accordance with local procedures, our radar camera recorder was switched off on cessation of normal flying activities at 1527Z on 29 Dec 80. An examination of executive logs revealed no entry in respect of unusual radar returns or other unusual occurrences.

S D SHARPE
Sqn Ldr
for OC

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
- 9 FEB 1981
DD OPS (RAF)

RESTRICTED

UNCLASSIFIED

MOD Form 174D

RESTRICTED/UNCLASSIFIED

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

24

TEMPORARY ENCLOSURE JACKET

REGISTERED FILE No. D/DAS/64/4

Enclosure Jacket No.....

DATE OPENED.....

DIVISION/DIRECTORATE/BRANCH:

SUBJECT: ~~AF~~ 4206/2001 - DRAFT REQ BY 31/10/2001 DP
LORD HILL NORTON

Referred to	Date	Referred to	Date

NOTES

1. A Temporary Jacket will only be used when the Registered File is not available.
2. The contents of a Temporary Jacket must be incorporated in the Registered File at the earliest opportunity, and this incorporation recorded on a transit slip or file record sheet.
3. The movements of Temporary Jackets are recorded by the Registry. Transit is to be recorded on transit slips as for Registered Files.

DOWNGRADING

(to be completed when the jacket is incorporated in the Registered File)

This jacket may be downgraded to:— RESTRICTED / UNCLASSIFIED on..... (insert date)

Certifying Officer.....

Date..... Appointment and Branch.....

RESTRICTED/UNCLASSIFIED

Lord Hill-Norton

PQ + Min Corresp.
2001.

2001 - January.

PQ 0348L - Read.
PQ 0349L - Read.
PQ. 0350L - Read.
PQ 0355L - Read
PQ 0358L - Read
PQ 0351L - Read
PQ 0359L - Read
PQ 0392L - Read.
PQ. 0393L - Read.
PQ 0394L - Read

MOD / 10 = + 1 to Home Office Read. Related

Min Corresp.

1. DP 1197 - Feb. 01. - Read.

PQ

Read + 1 = 11

PQ 1432L - Apr. 01 - (Familiar to 0315L above).
PQ 1436L - Apr. 01 - NOT Read Tesham (keeping files)
PQ 1438L - Apr. 01 - NOT " (no. of sightings)
1437L - May 01 - NOT " - article in Focus

NOT MOD
DP + Corresp. - May 01 - Forestry Com - Read Tesham

2- DP 2632 - June 01 - Rend. - CO.

3- DP 3005 - } CO related

4+5 2891 - May 01 - (2 letters) further

MOD amended - 11 pg

on Rendlesham 5 MC.

DAS4A(SEC)

From: InfoExp-Access2
Sent: 01 October 2001 17:15
To: DAS4A(SEC)
Subject: Code

Importance: High

Section 40

As we discussed on the phone, the decision has been made to maintain the exemption on the three remaining documents as disclosure would "harm the frankness and candour of internal discussion" (exemption 2). This is extant for the public at large, including Lord Hill-Norton. "Need to know" is not an issue as whatever the practice may have been in the past, cases are judged on their individual merits, regardless of the motives of the requester.

Regards,

Section 40

InfoExp-Access2
St Giles 819
Tel: Section 40
Fax:

DAS4A(SEC)

From: DI ISEC SEC7
Sent: 01 October 2001 15:59
To: DAS4A(SEC)
Subject: Lord Hill-Norton letter

I apologise for failing to address the issue of a DIS member briefing Ministers on the Rendlesham Forest incident. We suggest the following line to take:

As the incident took place over twenty years ago, it is not of current intelligence interest and we therefore see no necessity to brief the Minister.

LOOSE MINUTE

D/DI SEC/10/8/3

1 October 2001



LETTER FROM LORD HILL-NORTON TO LORD BACH

1. In response to your query about a letter sent by Lord Hill-Norton to Minister DP about papers the DIS might hold on an alleged 'UFO' incident in late 1980 in Rendlesham forest, we have searched all the relevant files and no further information has been found.

3. If you have any queries between now and Thursday, please contact Section 40 Section 40 on Section 40 After Thursday, I will be back in office and you can contact me on the extension below.

2. Many thanks.

Section 40 [redacted]
DI ISEC 7
WH306

DAS4A(SEC)

From: DI ISEC SEC7
Sent: 01 October 2001 15:44
To: DAS4A(SEC)
Subject: Lord Hill-Norton letter

PSALM
Thanks,

Section 40
DI SEC 7



lord hill nortonresp.doc

Section 40

DAS4A(SEC)

From: DAS4A(SEC)
Sent: 27 September 2001 12:10
To: Info(Exp)-Access1; InfoExp-Access2
Subject: CODE OF ACCESS

Importance: High

Section 40
We would appreciate some fairly speedy advice on a question related to the Code.

The matter concerns our Rendlesham Forest material currently held by [redacted] following his consideration of a request from a Section 40 [redacted] for a wiaver of the exemption on material (5 documents) in that file.

Lord-Hill Norton (ex CDS) is a frequent correspondent on the subject of UFOs. He is one of the people who have received the Rendlesham correspondence - minus the 5 documents - via Minister DP. You have indicated that two may be released, three, comprising advice to Ministers, will continue to be whithheld.

Lord H-N has indicated that, as he remains on the Active List, he hopes we shall be able to release all the papers to him.

I made prelimenary enquiries with DS Sec and CNS' office. DS Sec was consulted and advised that we should look at the question in the light of whether Lord HN needed to know this information. DS Sec personally thought it unlikely that there was a need to know in this instance.

I was referred to CNS' office also in view of CNS' tradition of briefing retired 2* and above. I was advised that CNS had not continued the briefing tradition of his predecessors.

Do you, with your lead interest in the Code, have any additional advice or instruction? I would be grateful for your response by COP 1 October, to allow us to meet the deadline on this Ministerial correspondence.

Section 40
[redacted]

DS Sec - consulted Mr. Section 40 [redacted] - advice from DS Sec himself.

CNS' - consulted Mr Cdre. Section 40 [redacted] (Cdre asked they recd. queries on/or d-correspondence from Lord H-N.)

From: Section 40 DAS (LA) Ops+Pol
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Directorate Air Staff
Room 6/71, Metropole Building,
Northumberland Avenue
LONDON WC2N 5BP.

Telephone (Direct dial) Section 40
(Switchboard) 020 7218 9000
(Fax) Section 40
CHOTS - DAS4A(SEC)

Attachments:
letter Lord H-N dated 20 Sep.
Ops GE. 9.3.81
DI55 - 2 Mar 81
DI52 - 23 Feb 81

FAX MESSAGE – 7 PAGES

To: Section 40 **– DI ISEC SEC4**
Copy to:
Date: 26 September 01
Subject: MINISTERIAL CORRESPONDENCE – THE LORD HILL-NORTON

Section 40

I attach a copy of a letter sent by Lord Hill-Norton to Minister DP. It relates to papers on an alleged 'UFO' incident from late 1980 in Rendlesham forest in the vicinity of RAF Woodbridge/RAF Bentwaters. The incident was the subject of a book by Ms Georgina Bruni published shortly before Christmas 2000.

Lord Hill-Norton, an ex-CDS with a long-standing interest in the subject of 'UFOs', is asking a range of questions on the papers held by this Directorate. One question concerns unclassified correspondence from AD DI152 and DI55 (copies of the two papers are attached) supplied to Lord Hill-Norton under the Code of Practice on Access to Government Information. The papers we still hold on 'Rendlesham Forest' indicate no further correspondence on the subject [of background radioactivity] but we would appreciate confirmation from yourselves that the letters of 23 February and 2 March are the last you hold on the incident in 1981. (I raise this question as the 'file' we hold is a compilation of papers possibly drawn together in 1983 and we cannot be certain that we hold all relevant correspondence.)

In the penultimate paragraph of his letter Lord Hill-Norton suggests that a member of the DI staff might brief Minister DP on 'Rendlesham Forest' specifically and, more generally, on 'UFOs'. PS to Minister DP has confirmed that they are content to take advice on this matter; perhaps you would let me know whether or not you would consider a briefing by DI necessary or appropriate. As you will know, the line taken by this Directorate, in the light of the correspondence we answer and any advice we have received from air defence staff, has been over many years that:

"MOD's only interest in reports of 'unexplained' aerial sightings is to establish whether there is anything which might be of defence concern."

" MOD does not have any expertise or role in respect of 'UFO' matters or to the question of the existence or otherwise of extraterrestrial life forms, about which it remains totally open-minded. To date, MOD knows of no evidence that substantiates the existence of these alleged phenomena."

I would be grateful if I could have your response by 1 October.

Section 40 [redacted]

********** -COMM. JOURNAL- ********** DATE 26-SEP-2001 ***** TIME 10:35 *** P.01

MODE = MEMORY TRANSMISSION START=26-SEP 10:29 END=26-SEP 10:35

FILE NO.= 014

STN NO.	COM	ABBR NO.	STATION NAME/TEL.NO.	PAGES	DURATION
001	OK	☎	Section 40	007/007	00:01'50"

-DIRECTORATE AIR STAFF -

**********Section 40 - ***** - Section 40 *********

From Section 40 DAS (LA) Ops+Pol
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Directorate Air Staff
Room 6/71, Metropole Building,
Northumberland Avenue
LONDON WC2N 5BP.

Telephone (Direct dial) Section 40
(Switchboard) 020 7218 9000
(Fax) Section 40
CHOTS - DAS4A(SEC)

FAX MESSAGE – 7 PAGES

To Section 40 **DI ISEC SEC4**
Copy to:
Date: 26 September 01
Subject: MINISTERIAL CORRESPONDENCE – THE LORD HILL-NORTON

Section 40

I attach a copy of a letter sent by Lord Hill-Norton to Minister DP. It relates to papers on an alleged 'UFO' incident from late 1980 in Rendlesham forest in the vicinity of RAF Woodbridge/RAF Bentwaters. The incident was the subject of a book by Ms Georgina Bruni published shortly before Christmas 2000.

Lord Hill-Norton, an ex-CDS with a long-standing interest in the subject of 'UFOs', is asking a range of questions on the papers held by this Directorate. One question concerns unclassified correspondence from AD DI152 and DI55 (copies of the two papers are attached) supplied to Lord Hill-Norton under the Code of Practice on Access to Government Information. The papers we still hold on 'Rendlesham Forest' indicate no further correspondence on the subject [of background radioactivity] but we would appreciate confirmation from yourselves that the letters of 23 February and 2 March are the last you hold on the incident in 1981. (I raise this question as the 'file' we hold is a compilation of papers possibly drawn together in 1983 and we cannot be certain that we hold all relevant correspondence.)

** TO BE GIVEN PRIORITY AT ALL TIMES ** UFO

86622.

MINISTERIAL CORRESPONDENCE

FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION

IMPORTANT - YOU MUST READ THIS GUIDANCE

TO: DAS 4 SEC MC REF NUMBER: ~~AF~~ DP 4206/2001

Copy to:

MINISTER REPLYING: Min (AF) DP transferred DRAFT REQUIRED BY: 3/10/2001

DATE: 24/9/2001 FROM: Section 40 Ministerial Correspondence Unit

Room 222WH TEL: Section 40 FAX: Section 40

YOU WILL BE HELD ACCOUNTABLE FOR THE DRAFT ANSWER AND ADVICE, WHICH MUST BE ACCURATE AND NOT MISLEADING IN ANY WAY.

ENSURE THE DEADLINE IS MET: THE DEPARTMENT IS COMMITTED TO ANSWERING 90% OF IT'S MINISTERIAL CORRESPONDENCE WITHIN 15 WORKING DAYS; OUR PERFORMANCE IN FY 2000/01 – WHILE MUCH IMPROVED – WAS SIGNIFICANTLY LOWER THAN THIS.

A NAMED OFFICIAL AT PAY BAND B2 LEVEL OR ABOVE MUST CLEAR ALL DRAFTS. OTHER GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS OR MOD DIVISIONS SHOULD BE CONSULTED AS NECESSARY.

IF YOU ARE AN AGENCY, THE MINISTER'S OFFICE HAS DIRECTED THAT THIS LETTER SHOULD RECEIVE A MINISTERIAL – NOT CHIEF EXECUTIVE – REPLY.

E-MAIL DRAFTS TO *'PARLIAMENTARY ENQUIRIES'*, NOT TO PE CLERKS OR PRIVATE OFFICES.

(Please ensure sensitivity of your email message is 'Normal'.)

IF THIS CORRESPONDENCE SHOULD BE DEALT WITH BY ANOTHER BRANCH, PLEASE PASS IT ON AND INFORM US IMMEDIATELY.

Number of pages sent by fax: 5

** TO BE GIVEN PRIORITY AT ALL TIMES **

** TO BE GIVEN PRIORITY AT ALL TIMES **

** TO BE GIVEN PRIORITY AT ALL TIMES **

INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

** TO BE GIVEN PRIORITY AT ALL TIMES **

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

- **DEADLINES**: It is important that your draft is with us by the date shown at the top of this notice, as Ministers must send a written reply within **15 WORKING DAYS OF RECEIPT**. The Department's performance is reported each year to Parliament. If you cannot meet the deadline, you should therefore provide an interim reply that apologises for the delay, sets out the action being taken to answer the letter, and advises when a substantive reply can be expected. You should aim to provide a substantive draft reply within a further 8 working days. Interim replies should be used infrequently, as every effort must be made to reply to Ministerial Correspondence promptly.

- **Action at official level on the same case should be held until the Minister has sent a full reply. Please discuss any questions about the substance of the drafts, or other policy aspects, direct with the relevant Private Office.**

- **LAYOUT**: Draft replies should be double-spaced. Always include the full reference number at the top left of the draft. Put the MP's full title at the bottom left of the first page. Only add the address if the letter is from the Minister direct to a constituent.

- **MINISTER RESPONDING**: SofS will usually reply to Cabinet colleagues, Privy Councillors (the Rt Hon) and Opposition Defence spokesmen, unless they have written direct to a junior Minister. Correspondence from other MPs, MEPs and Peers will generally be handled by a junior Minister with relevant policy responsibility.

- **OPENING AND CLOSING**: All Ministers prefer to start: *"Thank you for your letter of ...(MP's ref if given) on behalf of/enclosing one from your constituent, Mr ... of ... about ..."*
  If a Minister is replying on behalf of another, start: *"Thank you for your letter of ... to Geoff Hoon/Adam Ingram/Willy Bach/Lewis Moonie on behalf etc"*
  For Mr Ingram, add: *"I am replying in view of my responsibility for ..."*
  For Lord Bach, add: *"I am responding because of my responsibility for this issue." (or, in the case of letters from fellow Peers: "I have been asked to respond.")*
  For Dr Moonie, add: *"I am replying as this matter falls within my area of responsibility."*
  Choose an appropriate ending (except for Dr Moonie, who will add his own) - such as:
  "I hope this is helpful"; "I hope this explains the position/situation"; "I am sorry I cannot be more helpful"; or *"I am sorry to send what I know will be a disappointing reply"*.

- **OPEN GOVERNMENT**: Replies **MUST** be drafted in accordance with the Code of Practice on Access to Government Information. It is set out in **DCI 223/99**. If you are recommending to a Minister that some or all information is withheld, the answer must specify the law or exemption in the Code under which it is being withheld - eg "I am withholding the information requested under exemption 1 of Part II of the *Code of Practice on Access to Government Information.*" It is **NOT** acceptable to rely on past practice. Further information is available from DG Info on Section 40

- **INTERIM REPLIES**: If it is obvious on receipt of a piece of Ministerial Correspondence that you cannot reply in full, an interim **MUST** be provided by the deadline stated. **REMEMBER**: an interim reply covering the majority of the issues raised could help our performance statistics.

** TO BE GIVEN PRIORITY AT ALL TIMES **

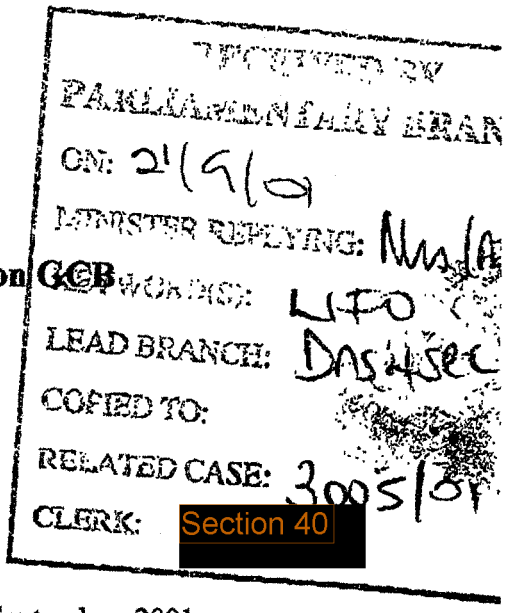
** TO BE GIVEN PRIORITY AT ALL TIMES **

INVESTOR IN PEOPLE



In the past, MOD (unlike some other Government departments) has counted only substantive replies to Ministerial Correspondence in its performance statistics. To more accurately reflect the efforts that are being made to respond on time to enquiries, Parliamentary Branch will now consider the inclusion of 'substantive interims' – that is, replies (provided within the deadline) that answer the majority of the questions put to the Minister, or go as far as they possibly can at that particular point in time. Any such draft should make clear that the Department would need longer than 15 working days to answer the questions that remain outstanding, but that the Minister would follow up on those points as soon as he was able. A sensible and realistic bring forward date would also be required to enable Parliamentary Branch to monitor such cases.

This initiative should be useful where the points being raised include a redress or grievance case, or a policy review. It should also contribute to the Department's effort to meet the challenging performance target of answering 90% of all Ministerial Correspondence within 15 working days in the current financial year.



Admiral of the Fleet The Lord Hill-Norton GCB

Personal
The Lord Bach
Ministry of Defence
Old War Office Building
Whitehall
London SW1A 2EU

20th September, 2001

Dear Lord Bach,

Thank you for your letter dated 9th September. I am glad that you have made the time to listen yourself to the CD made by Halt. I felt sure that you would find it as convincing as I and several others who have heard did. I do not share your view that after more than 20 years it is no longer worthwhile to re-open the matter, and what follows may, I hope persuade you to change your views.

You will be aware of my long-standing interest in the Rendlesham Forest incident, on which I have corresponded with your predecessors Lord Gilbert and Lady Symons.

MOD civil servants have consistently tried to down play these events, using phrases such as "unexplained lights", when they know very well that the original United States Air Force report referred to a "strange glowing object" which was described as being "metallic in appearance and triangular in shape".

Lady Symons kindly sent me copies of various MOD documents on this incident, and I would ask that you read the 1981 papers concerning the initial investigation. I think you will find them very revealing. They illustrate that despite your Department's public position that the incident was adjudged to be of "no defence significance", your own Air Defence and Defence Intelligence Staff divisions took a very different view.

In commenting on the radiation readings taken at the landing site, D152 said that the peak reading "seems significantly higher than the average background". Yet in previous PQs (e.g. WA 169 of 14 October 1997) the MOD have denied that any official assessment of the radiation readings was carried out. Please explain this discrepancy.

The MOD documents also reveal that tape recordings of the incident were handed to General Gabriel, who "happened to be visiting the station". At the time, General Gabriel was Commander in Chief of the United States Air Forces in Europe. So what was the purpose of his visit; who handed him the tape recordings; what further analysis took place and was this data shared with UK authorities?

Continued:

When Lady Symons sent me the documents, she omitted to mention that several had been withheld. I understand that some members of the public have applied for them under the terms of the Code of Practice for Access to Government Information, and were told that five were being withheld under Exemptions 1 & 2. I hope that as I am still on the Active List and thus still bound by my clearance at any level up to Top Secret and beyond, and that as I am a former Chief of the Defence Staff and Chairman of the NATO Military Committee, you will feel able to send me these missing documents.

According to two USAF witnesses, Colonel Charles I Halt and former Staff Sergeant Jim Penniston; after the incident, the American witnesses were debriefed by what they say was a "British Agent". I appreciate that in drawing up a response to this letter your Private Office Staff will seek advice and a draft from DAS. I would request, however, that you ask the appropriate DIS specialists to brief you privately on this matter and on the UFO phenomenon more generally. I would also ask that you take a personal look at the 1981 papers before replying to me.

Your letter has been sent to me at my holding address so I have to ask my secretary, after she has typed this to sign it on my behalf, in order to save time.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40 [redacted]

Secretary to Lord Hill-Norton

MOD Form 174D

RESTRICTED/UNCLASSIFIED

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

23

TEMPORARY ENCLOSURE JACKET

REGISTERED FILE No. D/DAS/64/4

Enclosure Jacket No.....

DATE OPENED.....

DIVISION/DIRECTORATE/BRANCH:

DAS (OPS+POL) 1

SUBJECT: DP4281/2001 - LORD HILL NORTON
DRAFT REQ BY 8/10/2001

Referred to	Date	Referred to	Date

NOTES

1. A Temporary Jacket will only be used when the Registered File is not available.
2. The contents of a Temporary Jacket must be incorporated in the Registered File at the earliest opportunity, and this incorporation recorded on a transit slip or file record sheet.
3. The movements of Temporary Jackets are recorded by the Registry. Transit is to be recorded on transit slips as for Registered Files.

DOWNGRADING

(to be completed when the jacket is incorporated in the Registered File)

This jacket may be downgraded to:— RESTRICTED / UNCLASSIFIED on..... (insert date)

Certifying Officer.....

Date..... Appointment and Branch.....

RESTRICTED/UNCLASSIFIED

** TO BE GIVEN PRIORITY AT ALL TIMES **

MINISTERIAL CORRESPONDENCE

FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION

IMPORTANT - YOU MUST READ THIS GUIDANCE

TO: DAS2 sec MC REF NUMBER: DP4281/2001

Copy to:

MINISTER REPLYING: MinDP DRAFT REQUIRED BY: 8/10/2001

DATE: 27/9/2001 FROM: Section 40 Ministerial Correspondence Unit

Room 222WH TEL: Section 40 FAX: Section 40

YOU WILL BE HELD ACCOUNTABLE FOR THE DRAFT ANSWER AND ADVICE, WHICH MUST BE ACCURATE AND NOT MISLEADING IN ANY WAY.

ENSURE THE DEADLINE IS MET: THE DEPARTMENT IS COMMITTED TO ANSWERING 90% OF IT'S MINISTERIAL CORRESPONDENCE WITHIN 15 WORKING DAYS; OUR PERFORMANCE IN FY 2000/01 – WHILE MUCH IMPROVED – WAS SIGNIFICANTLY LOWER THAN THIS.

A NAMED OFFICIAL AT PAY BAND B2 LEVEL OR ABOVE MUST CLEAR ALL DRAFTS. OTHER GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS OR MOD DIVISIONS SHOULD BE CONSULTED AS NECESSARY.

IF YOU ARE AN AGENCY, THE MINISTER'S OFFICE HAS DIRECTED THAT THIS LETTER SHOULD RECEIVE A MINISTERIAL – NOT CHIEF EXECUTIVE – REPLY.

E-MAIL DRAFTS TO *'PARLIAMENTARY ENQUIRIES'*, NOT TO PE CLERKS OR PRIVATE OFFICES.

(Please ensure sensitivity of your email message is 'Normal'.)

IF THIS CORRESPONDENCE SHOULD BE DEALT WITH BY ANOTHER BRANCH, PLEASE PASS IT ON AND INFORM US IMMEDIATELY.

Number of pages sent by fax: 5

** TO BE GIVEN PRIORITY AT ALL TIMES **

DAS
27 SEP 2001
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Revised 12 June 2001

** TO BE GIVEN PRIORITY AT ALL TIMES **

** TO BE GIVEN PRIORITY AT ALL TIMES **

** TO BE GIVEN PRIORITY AT ALL TIMES **

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

- **DEADLINES:** It is important that your draft is with us by the date shown at the top of this notice, as Ministers must send a written reply within **15 WORKING DAYS OF RECEIPT**. The Department's performance is reported each year to Parliament. If you cannot meet the deadline, you should therefore provide an interim reply that apologises for the delay, sets out the action being taken to answer the letter, and advises when a substantive reply can be expected. You should aim to provide a substantive draft reply within a further 8 working days. Interim replies should be used infrequently, as every effort must be made to reply to Ministerial Correspondence promptly.

- **Action at official level on the same case should be held until the Minister has sent a full reply. Please discuss any questions about the substance of the drafts, or other policy aspects, direct with the relevant Private Office.**

- **LAYOUT:** Draft replies should be double-spaced. Always include the full reference number at the top left of the draft. Put the MP's full title at the bottom left of the first page. Only add the address if the letter is from the Minister direct to a constituent.

- **MINISTER RESPONDING:** SofS will usually reply to Cabinet colleagues, Privy Councillors (the Rt Hon) and Opposition Defence spokesmen, unless they have written direct to a junior Minister. Correspondence from other MPs, MEPs and Peers will generally be handled by a junior Minister with relevant policy responsibility.

- **OPENING AND CLOSING:** All Ministers prefer to start: *"Thank you for your letter of ...(MP's ref if given) on behalf of/enclosing one from your constituent, Mr ... of ... about ..."*
  If a Minister is replying on behalf of another, start: *"Thank you for your letter of ... to Geoff Hoon/Adam Ingram/Willy Bach/Lewis Moonie on behalf etc"*
  For Mr Ingram, add: *"I am replying in view of my responsibility for ..."*
  For Lord Bach, add: *"I am responding because of my responsibility for this issue." (or, in the case of letters from fellow Peers: "I have been asked to respond.")*
  For Dr Moonie, add: *"I am replying as this matter falls within my area of responsibility."*
  Choose an appropriate ending (except for Dr Moonie, who will add his own) - such as:
  "I hope this is helpful"; "I hope this explains the position/situation"; "I am sorry I cannot be more helpful"; or *"I am sorry to send what I know will be a disappointing reply"*.

- **OPEN GOVERNMENT:** Replies **MUST** be drafted in accordance with the Code of Practice on Access to Government Information. It is set out in **DCI 223/99**. If you are recommending to a Minister that some or all information is withheld, the answer must specify the law or exemption in the Code under which it is being withheld - eg "I am withholding the information requested under exemption 1 of Part II of the *Code of Practice on Access to Government Information*." It is **NOT** acceptable to rely on past practice. Further information is available from DG Info on Section 40

- **INTERIM REPLIES:** If it is obvious on receipt of a piece of Ministerial Correspondence that you cannot reply in full, an interim **MUST** be provided by the deadline stated. **REMEMBER:** an interim reply covering the majority of the issues raised could help our performance statistics.

** TO BE GIVEN PRIORITY AT ALL TIMES **

** TO BE GIVEN PRIORITY AT ALL TIMES **

** TO BE GIVEN PRIORITY AT ALL TIMES **

INVESTOR IN PEOPLE



In the past, MOD (unlike some other Government departments) has counted only substantive replies to Ministerial Correspondence in its performance statistics. To more accurately reflect the efforts that are being made to respond on time to enquiries, Parliamentary Branch will now consider the inclusion of 'substantive interims' – that is, replies (provided within the deadline) that answer the majority of the questions put to the Minister, or go as far as they possibly can at that particular point in time. Any such draft should make clear that the Department would need longer than 15 working days to answer the questions that remain outstanding, but that the Minister would follow up on those points as soon as he was able. A sensible and realistic bring forward date would also be required to enable Parliamentary Branch to monitor such cases.

This initiative should be useful where the points being raised include a redress or grievance case, or a policy review. It should also contribute to the Department's effort to meet the challenging performance target of answering 90% of all Ministerial Correspondence within 15 working days in the current financial year.

420601

Admiral of the Fleet The Lord Hill-Norton GCB

Personal
The Lord Bach
Ministry of Defence
Old War Office Building
Whitehall
London SW1A 2EU

22nd September 2001

Dear Lord Bach,

Lord Hill-Norton thinks you may not have seen this cutting from the Ipswich Evening Star and asked me to send it to you in continuation of his letter to you dated 20th September, 2001. He regards it as extremely relevant, and emphasizes the views he has just expressed.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40 [redacted]

Secretary to Lord Hill-Norton

RECEIVED BY
PARLIAMENTARY BRANCH
26/9/01
LETTER REPLYING: LP
RECORD(S): UFO'S
TO BRANCH: DAS 4
PASSED TO:
RELATED CASE: 420601 + 485/01 + 300510
CLERK: Section 40 [redacted]

.27 SEP 2001 8:57 AM FR PARLIAMENTARY BRANCH Section 40 TO DAS(SEC) P.05/05

** TOTAL PAGE.05 **

INTERNATIONAL PRESS-CUTTING BUREAU
224/226 Walworth Road, London SE17 1JE
Tel 020-7708 2111 Fax 020-7701 1489

Extract from
IPSWICH EVENING STAR
(circ:30, 039)

- 8 SEP 2001

Calls grow for inquiry into Rendlesham UFO sightings

2374

PRESSURE is growing on the Ministry of Defence to hold a fresh inquiry into the UFO sightings in East Anglia more than 20 years ago.

It follows the opening of secret files relating to the sightings by American servicemen of objects near the east gate of Woodbridge airfield in 1980.

The documents tell how the Ministry of Defence and the Royal Air Force dealt with the accounts of the sightings after they were made.

Until now public requests for information concerning the Government's role in the subject have been met with a response the incident was not considered to be of defence significance.

Author Georgina Bruni, who wrote a book entitled You Can't Tell the People on the subject, said the documents revealed defence intelligence staff had got involved in an investigation. She added the most important documents were the internal exchanges of correspondence between MoD departments.

Nick Pope, who headed the MoD's UFO department in the early 90s, told Ms Bruni: "I'm pleased, though surprised, that the MoD has released these papers, particularly as they include ones from specialist intelligence staffs.

"The papers concerning the radioactivity at the landing site are hugely significant and show how the MoD's experts acknowledged that this UFO incident was corroborated by hard scientific evidence.

"You've now got the proof that this incident raised serious defence and national security issues. These revelations are sensational and I'm sure there will be pressure for an inquiry into both the incident itself and the subsequent actions of both the MoD and the United States Air Force. There are certainly some important – and as yet unanswered – questions about this whole affair."

A memo from Lt Col Charles Halt, deputy base commander at Woodbridge and Bentwaters, referred to radiation readings discovered after a triangular object landed in Rendlesham Forest. The object was hovering or was on legs and it vanished when patrolmen approached it, but later reappeared.

Defence staff were keen to discover if the radioactivity readings in three depressions made by the object were unusual. Staff later considered the readings were significantly higher than average background readings and an internal report said staff "cannot offer any explanation for the phenomena".

MOD Form 174D

RESTRICTED/UNCLASSIFIED

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

22

TEMPORARY ENCLOSURE JACKET

REGISTERED FILE No. / Enclosure Jacket No. / DATE OPENED	DIVISION/DIRECTORATE/BRANCH:

SUBJECT: DP 4185 – Lord Hill Norton

Referred to	Date	Referred to	Date

NOTES

1. A Temporary Jacket will only be used when the Registered File is not available.
2. The contents of a Temporary Jacket must be incorporated in the Registered File at the earliest opportunity, and this incorporation recorded on a transit slip or file record sheet.
3. The movements of Temporary Jackets are recorded by the Registry. Transit is to be recorded on transit slips as for Registered Files.

DOWNGRADING

(to be completed when the jacket is incorporated in the Registered File)

This jacket may be downgraded to:— RESTRICTED / UNCLASSIFIED on..... (insert date)

Certifying Officer.....

Date..... Appointment and Branch.....

RESTRICTED/UNCLASSIFIED

DAS4A(SEC)

From: PARLIAMENTARY TYPIST3 on behalf of PARLIAMENTARY ENQUIRIES
To: DAS4A(SEC)
Sent: 28 September 2001 15:02
Subject: Read: MC - DP 4185 - THE LORD HILL-NORTON

Your message

To: PARLIAMENTARY ENQUIRIES
Subject: MC - DP 4185 - THE LORD HILL-NORTON
Sent: 28/09/01 15:01

was read on 28/09/01 15:02.

FAX Section 40 Min Corresp. Unit - DP-4185 & Hachments.

DAS(LA)Ops/Pol.

6 28/09/01

20

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
OLD WAR OFFICE BUILDING
WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2EU

Telephone (020) Section 40 (Direct Dialling)
(020) [redacted] (Fax)
(020) 7218 9000 (Switchboard)

PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE FOR DEFENCE
AND MINISTER FOR VETERANS' AFFAIRS

D/US of S/LM 3345/01/I

14 August 2001

Dear Lord Hill-Norton

Thank you for your letter of 23 July to Lord Bach, enclosing one from Section 40 of Section 40 Southampton, regarding two occasions when he saw lights he could not identify in the sky over Southampton Water. I am replying on behalf of Lewis Moonie, who is absent on leave.

Section 40 has corresponded with my officials about 'unidentified flying objects' on several occasions and in August 2000 his MP, David Chidgey, wrote to Dr Moonie about Section 40 sighting on 19 May 2000. Section 40 will know that the Ministry of Defence examines reports of 'UFOs' solely to establish whether there is any evidence of a breach of UK airspace by unauthorised military aircraft. His report was examined when it was received last year and no such evidence was found. Following your letter, my officials have looked again at Section 40 report of 19 May 2000 and 5 May 2001 and have confirmed that there is no evidence of a breach of UK airspace on either of these dates. As you will be aware, once it is established that there is nothing of defence concern, we do not attempt to identify what might have been seen. We believe that it is possible that rational explanations, such as aircraft lights or natural phenomena, could be found for these sightings, but it is not the function of the MOD to provide this kind of aerial identification service.

Admiral of the Fleet The Lord Hill-Norton GCB

Private Office

If Section 40 would like to send Lewis the two video recordings referred to in his letter, officials will view them to ascertain whether the material is of defence interest. However, no attempt will be made to positively identify what might have been seen.

I hope this is helpful.

Yours ever

Section 40

Rt Hon Adam Ingram JP MP
Minister of State for the Armed Forces

Admiral of the Fleet The Lord Hill-Norton GCB

The Lord Bach
Ministry of Defence
Old War Office Building
London SW1A 2EU

RECEIVED IN
27 JUL 2001
FILE:
MINISTER OF STATE FOR
DEFENCE PROCUREMENT

23rd July 2001

Dear Lord Bach,

Now that I have taken the Oath I can resume my pursuit of the truth about some of the UFO events in this country. I shall be sending you a list of Questions for Written Answer fairly soon.

I think that this pair of events, which are the subject of a letter which I enclose, can not be properly dealt with in that way.

The letter, from a Section 40 demands formal investigation, as I think you will agree.

Section 40 is not known to me, but we have exchanged letters since he first wrote to me last month. I am satisfied that he is a serious person, and that he is reporting truthfully events which he has, himself, witnessed. He has been unable to obtain an explanation of them from what seem to be all the right authorities. He has a number of named witnesses for each event. He has two videos which record what he describes. Surely these should be viewed by some qualified person (not one of your secretaries of course)?

I do most sincerely hope that you will have this report given the study it deserves. I am pretty sure that Section 40 is neither a fool nor a knave, and he is much too old to be seeking publicity.

I am copying this letter to Section 40

Yours sincerely,

Hill-Norton.

RECEIVED BY
[illegible] BRANCH
27/7/01
MINISTER REPLYING: Min(DP)
KEYWORD(S): UFOs
LEAD BRANCH: DAS4(Sec)
COPIED TO:
RELATED CASE: 3005/01.
CLERK Section 40

Thursday 5th July 2001

Section 40
[redacted]
Southampton
Section 40
Tel: Section 40 [redacted]

Lord Hill-Norton;

Further to my previous letter in connection with filmed UFO sightings over Southampton Water and your kind offer to bring up the subject in The House..herewith the details you requested;

May 19th 2000; Witnessess..members of Southampton UFO Group (sufog). Section 40 [redacted] (secretary) Section 40 [redacted] (group leader) Section 40 [redacted] The event took place at approx. 10.30pm amd continued for nine minutes, filmed on video. A bright light appeared over the western shore of Southampton Water, seen by the group who were situated on a hilltop in the centre of the village of Netley Abbey on the eastern side. The light moved about..fairly low..back and forth and over or in the vicinity of Fawley Refinery. No noise heard. Quite soon a small single wing aircraft approached the light from the Southampton City direction. It circled the light as if inspecting it, twice. We thought, quite firmly, this was our police spotter plane..we are quite used to it here! It then withdrew to a short distance away..eventually we lost it. The light continued to move along the coastline..a strobe appeared at one stage from the light and then stopped. Eventually the light gradually vanished into the distance..we are unable to ascertain if it moved away over the New Forest, entered the water, or just "vanished"

Two days later..having seen the video twice myself..I set out to enquire of various authorities with a view to identifying the light. I began my phone calls with the Lymington Coastguard..they checked and came back with `nothing up that night`. Hythe Police (western side of Southampton Water) ditto reply. MOD Police at Central Control same answer Section 40 [redacted] Portsmouth) MOD RAF/USA/ Hythe Section 40 [redacted]) also on western shore asked me I was describing a UFO! In an amused tone! I replied all I was asking was `what was it`? as it was `unidentified`.`No reports` came the reply. But put me on to Air Traffic Control Section 40 [redacted] same answer; `no reports`. Air Sea Rescue at Lee on Solent came next Section 40 [redacted] .no reports, they suggested might be a couple of lads having fun in a helicopter over Southampton Water! `anyone can do ANYTHING as it is not a restricted area`! Really? God help our national security! I said I didnt believe them. Lastly, I tried Special Air Service Reports which one authority put me

onto..controls ALL air movements UK. Section 40 [redacted] same answer...'nothing reported.'

You already have the local MP letters and the one from Dr Moonie of the MOD which was the end of the protracted enquiry . No mention of the video we possess from him or indeed ANYONE! Yes, my Lord, I AM serious! Have been since 1960!

10·30 pm 5th May 2001 event; Southampton Water again..this time the group consisted of Section 40 [redacted] Section 40 [redacted] and was filmed and observed from the old jetty at the Royal Victoria Country Park, Netley Abbey..you can hear the waves on the 15 minute video! Similar "light" moving back and forth over western shore..low..but also moved up and down or just stood still. What seemed to be the same police spotter 'plane appeared..again circled light..twice..this time the light went out as the plane overflew it and came on again when the plane moved off some distance. The 'plane used a strobe light at one stage. Eventually the light just dimmed and vanished, much as before. Only one enquiry...unofficial..was made and an evasive answer was given. We would prefer this is not used as evidence of any kind. Currently, via the good services of the Chief Constable of Hampshire I am awaiting assured replies to both incidents from the Police Air Support authorities. Should this arrive at any moment I will enclose copies.

Concludes.

I might add that I had some six UFO etc books on my 77th birthday June 14th..two of which were Timothy Good's Beyond Top Secret and Steven Greer's Extraterrestial Contact...both people I have been aware of and following for some years since incidents match EXACTLY my own from previous and now CURRENT experiences! I have taken on board your own mentions in both, and other books, my Lord.

I am also studying transcripts and video of the May 9th Disclosure Project held in Washington DC by Steven Greer et al. Totally..TOTALLY..ignored by the UK media in review and only three papers actually mentioned it beforehand. The Times, The Sunday Express, and the Scottish Daily Record..the latter fell into my hands by a strange "coincidence" which as you may know are a phenomenom of the whole enigma! Whether Steven Greer will achieve his aim of a Congressional Exposure of THE TRUTH is, I speculate, unlikely..but we must ALL TRY..harder! Before our planet descends further into the moral chaos that is becoming more prevalent. The Disclosure Project video and the UFO MAGAZINE for July are stunning! Where do we begin to cleanse our world of all that is evil? How?

Like millions of us, I do my humble best.

I enclose latest media article from the Portsmouth News which I trust will make interesting and inspiring reading.

My late father, by the way, was 21 years in the Royal Navy..he finished up as a writer PO..I "inherited" his writing attributes and his gold nib fountain pen! He is still "encouraging" me from his current vantage point!

Hence my attachement to Portsmouth!

Best Wishes for continued success..fight the good fight! We NEED such as you, my Lord.

Sincerely.

Section 40 [redacted]

P.R.O. S.U.F.D.G.

PS: I am currently invited on to SKY TV, LONDON, in company (illustrious!) with Timothy Good, Nick Pope, Jenny Randles, et al — Wednesday 11th July!

********** -COMM. JOURNAL- ********** DATE 28-SEP-2001 ***** TIME 15:17 *** P.01

MODE = MEMORY TRANSMISSION START=28-SEP 15:15 END=28-SEP 15:17

FILE NO.= 063

STN NO.	COM	ABBR NO.	STATION NAME/TEL.NO.	PAGES	DURATION
001	OK	[redacted]	Section 40	006/006	00:01'47"

-DIRECTORATE AIR STAFF -

********** Section 40 - ***** - Section 40 **********

FAX Section 40 Min Corresp. Unit DP-4185
Section 40 Attachments.
DAS(LA)OPS/Pol.
6 28/09/01

PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE FOR DEFENCE
AND MINISTER FOR VETERANS' AFFAIRS

20

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
OLD WAR OFFICE BUILDING
WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2EU

Telephone Section 40 (Direct Dialling)
(Fax)
(020) 7218 9000 (Switchboard)

D/US of S/LM 3345/01/I

14 August 2001

Dear Lord Hill-Norton

Thank you for your letter of 23 July to Lord Bach, enclosing one from Section 40 of Section 40 Southampton, regarding two occasions when he saw lights he could not identify in the sky over Southampton Water. I am replying on behalf of Lewis Moonie, who is absent on leave.

Section 40 has corresponded with my officials about 'unidentified flying objects' on several occasions and in August 2000 his MP, David Chidgey, wrote to Dr Moonie about Section 40 sighting on 19 May 2000. Section 40 will know that the Ministry of Defence examines reports of 'UFOs' solely to establish whether there is any evidence of a breach of UK airspace by unauthorised military aircraft. His report was examined when it was received last year and no such evidence was found. Following your letter, my officials have looked again at Section 40 report of 19 May 2000 and 5 May 2001 and have confirmed that there is no evidence of a breach of UK airspace on either of these dates. As you will be aware, once it is established that there is nothing of defence concern, we do not attempt to identify what might have been seen. We believe that it is possible that rational explanations, such as aircraft lights or natural phenomena, could be found for these sightings, but it is not the function of the MOD to provide this kind of aerial identification service.

Admiral of the Fleet The Lord Hill-Norton GCB

Private Office

Section 40 [redacted] 8/9 for info.

Lord Bach has finally replied to Lord Hill-Norton. He decided not to return the CD & photographs which we have in our office for safekeeping.

Section 40 [redacted]

)EFENCE
CE BUILDING
)NDON SW1A 2EU

Section 40 [redacted] (Direct Dialling)
9000 (Switchboard)
Section 40 [redacted]

21

D/MIN(DP)/ WB 3005 & 2632-3/01/P

9 September 2001

Dear Lord Hill-Norton,

Further to my letter of 3 August, I am now in a position to provide a substantive reply to your letters of 2 July and 24 May about the events in Rendlesham Forest in 1980.

I have listened with care to the compact disc and it does indeed provide a graphic account of the comments contained in Lieutenant Colonel Halt's letter dated 13 January 1981.

But notwithstanding the fact that the recording will no doubt be of great interest to those who have made a study of these matters, I do not believe it offers any clear evidence that the UK's Air Defence Region was compromised by whatever occurred all those years ago. As has been said before, following examination of Lt Col Halt's memorandum and contemporary records, the conclusion at the time was that this was not the case and that is the key issue for us in any investigation of reported UFO sightings. Given this, and the length of time that has elapsed, I do not believe it would now be appropriate to commit MOD resources to any further enquiries that would be unlikely to be productive.

Nonetheless, in light of the passing of the Freedom of Information Act, my officials are undertaking a review of UFO files in anticipation of an increase in enquiries on these matters. In the course of this review they will consult the Home Office, although it seems unlikely that they are holding any papers of defence interest. Please be assured that I will write to you again should anything new on the Rendlesham Forest incident be revealed.

In the meantime, I understand that you intend to table questions in the House in the forthcoming session and I shall, of course, answer as fully as I can the points you raise.

Yours Sincerely,

Section 40 [redacted]

Admiral of the Fleet The Lord Hill-Norton GCB

DNS SEC
DAS
102No.
13 SEP 2001
FILE
Private Office

INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

28522

LOOSE MINUTE

D/DAS/64/4

28 September 2001

Ministerial Correspondence Unit

through DAS AD (LA)

MINISTERIAL CORRESPONDENCE – DP4185 – THE LORD HILL-NORTON

1. Lord Hill-Norton has written further to his letter of 23 July 2001 (DP 3345), answered by Minister (AF) on 14 August. Copies of these earlier letters are attached for information.

2. In his latest letter dated 4 September, Lord Hill-Norton has written once more on the subject of an approach to him by Section 40 a member of the Southampton UFO Group. Section 40 had contacted him about two 'sightings' of lights over Southampton Water, one on 19 May 2000 and the other on 5 May 2001. Prior to making contact with Lord Hill-Norton in July 2001, Section 40 had previously contacted his MP, Mr David Chidgey about a sighting in 2000, and had corresponded direct with officials of this Department about 'UFO' issues generally.

3. In his letter of 14 August 2001, Minister (AF) suggested that, if Lord Hill-Norton wished to send the video recording made by Section 40 he would arrange for officials to view the material to assess whether it was of defence interest. Lord Hill-Norton's latest letter asks for an undertaking that the video, if sent, will be examined by a Photographic Interpretation expert "independent of MOD". Although it is not the function of MOD to provide an aerial identification service and no attempt will be made to positively identify the source of the lights, should the video be supplied to us it will be viewed by an expert within the Department. It will not, however, be sent to an independent authority as requested by Lord Hill-Norton.

4. I enclose a draft reply for Minister (DP) to send to Lord Hill-Norton in response to his letter of 4 September.

Signed
Section 40
DAS (LA) Ops + Pol
MT6/71 Section 40

Drafted by: Section 40 DAS (LA) Ops + Pol
Authorised by: DAS AD (LA)

DP4185/2001

September 2001

Thank you for your letter of 4 September to Adam Ingram, to which I have been asked to respond, concerning the video recording made of lights over Southampton Water by Section 40 [redacted] Section 40 [redacted] Southampton.

As Adam indicated in his reply of 14 August, I would be happy to arrange a viewing of the video, if you would send it to me, in order to assess whether the material is of defence interest. Although it is not a function of the Ministry of Defence to provide an aerial identification service, the assessment would be undertaken by an expert within the department rather than an independent photographic interpreter as suggested in your own letter.

THE LORD BACH

Admiral of the Fleet The Lord Hill-Norton CGB

** TO BE GIVEN PRIORITY AT ALL TIMES **

MINISTERIAL CORRESPONDENCE

FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION

IMPORTANT - YOU MUST READ THIS GUIDANCE

TO: DAS4 MC REF NUMBER: 0P4185 /2001

Copy to:

MINISTER REPLYING: Min (DE) DRAFT REQUIRED BY: 1/10/2001

DATE: 20/9/2001 FROM: Section 40 Ministerial Correspondence Unit

Room 221 WH TEL Section 40 FAX: Section 40

YOU WILL BE HELD ACCOUNTABLE FOR THE DRAFT ANSWER AND ADVICE, WHICH MUST BE ACCURATE AND NOT MISLEADING IN ANY WAY.

ENSURE THE DEADLINE IS MET: THE DEPARTMENT IS COMMITTED TO ANSWERING 90% OF IT'S MINISTERIAL CORRESPONDENCE WITHIN 15 WORKING DAYS; OUR PERFORMANCE IN FY 2000/01 – WHILE MUCH IMPROVED – WAS SIGNIFICANTLY LOWER THAN THIS.

A NAMED OFFICIAL AT PAY BAND B2 LEVEL OR ABOVE MUST CLEAR ALL DRAFTS. OTHER GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS OR MOD DIVISIONS SHOULD BE CONSULTED AS NECESSARY.

IF YOU ARE AN AGENCY, THE MINISTER'S OFFICE HAS DIRECTED THAT THIS LETTER SHOULD RECEIVE A MINISTERIAL – NOT CHIEF EXECUTIVE – REPLY.

E-MAIL DRAFTS TO *'PARLIAMENTARY ENQUIRIES'*, NOT TO PE CLERKS OR PRIVATE OFFICES.

(Please ensure sensitivity of your email message is 'Normal'.)

IF THIS CORRESPONDENCE SHOULD BE DEALT WITH BY ANOTHER BRANCH, PLEASE PASS IT ON AND INFORM US IMMEDIATELY.

Number of pages sent by fax: 4

** TO BE GIVEN PRIORITY AT ALL TIMES **

** TO BE GIVEN PRIORITY AT ALL TIMES **

** TO BE GIVEN PRIORITY AT ALL TIMES **

DAS REGD. 20 SEP 2001 FILE INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

** TO BE GIVEN PRIORITY AT ALL TIMES **

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

- **DEADLINES:** It is important that your draft is with us by the date shown at the top of this notice, as Ministers must send a written reply within **15 WORKING DAYS OF RECEIPT**. The Department's performance is reported each year to Parliament. If you cannot meet the deadline, you should therefore provide an interim reply that apologises for the delay, sets out the action being taken to answer the letter, and advises when a substantive reply can be expected. You should aim to provide a substantive draft reply within a further 8 working days. Interim replies should be used infrequently, as every effort must be made to reply to Ministerial Correspondence promptly.

- **Action at official level on the same case should be held until the Minister has sent a full reply. Please discuss any questions about the substance of the drafts, or other policy aspects, direct with the relevant Private Office.**

- **LAYOUT:** Draft replies should be double-spaced. Always include the full reference number at the top left of the draft. Put the MP's full title at the bottom left of the first page. Only add the address if the letter is from the Minister direct to a constituent.

- **MINISTER RESPONDING:** SofS will usually reply to Cabinet colleagues, Privy Councillors (the Rt Hon) and Opposition Defence spokesmen, unless they have written direct to a junior Minister. Correspondence from other MPs, MEPs and Peers will generally be handled by a junior Minister with relevant policy responsibility.

- **OPENING AND CLOSING:** All Ministers prefer to start: *"Thank you for your letter of ...(MP's ref if given) on behalf of/enclosing one from your constituent, Mr ... of ... about ..."*
  If a Minister is replying on behalf of another, start: *"Thank you for your letter of ... to Geoff Hoon/Adam Ingram/William Bach/Lewis Moonie on behalf etc"*
  For Mr Ingram, add: *"I am replying in view of my responsibility for ..."*
  For Lord Bach, add: *"I am responding because of my responsibility for this issue." (or, in the case of letters from fellow Peers: "I have been asked to respond.")*
  For Dr Moonie, add: *"I am replying as this matter falls within my area of responsibility."*
  Choose an appropriate ending (except for Dr Moonie, who will add his own) - such as:
  "I hope this is helpful"; "I hope this explains the position/situation"; "I am sorry I cannot be more helpful"; or *"I am sorry to send what I know will be a disappointing reply"*.

- **OPEN GOVERNMENT:** Replies **MUST** be drafted in accordance with the Code of Practice on Access to Government Information. It is set out in **DCI 223/99**. If you are recommending to a Minister that some or all information is withheld, the answer must specify the law or exemption in the Code under which it is being withheld - eg "I am withholding the information requested under exemption 1 of Part II of the *Code of Practice on Access to Government Information.*" It is **NOT** acceptable to rely on past practice. Further information is available from DG Info on Section 40

- **INTERIM REPLIES:** If it is obvious on receipt of a piece of Ministerial Correspondence that you cannot reply in full, an interim **MUST** be provided by the deadline stated. **REMEMBER:** an interim reply covering the majority of the issues raised could help our performance statistics.

** TO BE GIVEN PRIORITY AT ALL TIMES **

** TO BE GIVEN PRIORITY AT ALL TIMES **

** TO BE GIVEN PRIORITY AT ALL TIMES **

INVESTOR IN PEOPLE



In the past, MOD (unlike some other Government departments) has counted only substantive replies to Ministerial Correspondence in its performance statistics. To more accurately reflect the efforts that are being made to respond on time to enquiries, Parliamentary Branch will now consider the inclusion of 'substantive interims' – that is, replies (provided within the deadline) that answer the majority of the questions put to the Minister, or go as far as they possibly can at that particular point in time. Any such draft should make clear that the Department would need longer than 15 working days to answer the questions that remain outstanding, but that the Minister would follow up on those points as soon as he was able. A sensible and realistic bring forward date would also be required to enable Parliamentary Branch to monitor such cases.

This initiative should be useful where the points being raised include a redress or grievance case, or a policy review. It should also contribute to the Department's effort to meet the challenging performance target of answering 90% of all Ministerial Correspondence within 15 working days in the current financial year.

RECEIVED BY
PARLIAMENTARY BRANCH
ON: 19/9/01
REFERRED REPLYING:
LEAD BRANCH:
COPIED TO:
RELATED CASE:
CLERK: Section 40

Admiral of the Fleet The Lord Hill-Norton GCB

The Rt Hon A Ingram MP
Ministry of Defence
Old War Office Building
Whitehall
London SW1A 2EU

4th September 2001

Dear Mr Ingram,

I received your letter dated 14th August about a fortnight ago. Since you ask, I did not find it in the least helpful.

This is mainly because I have had about twenty almost exactly similar letters from Ministers over the last 20-odd years. I am aware that the various officials who have written them are programmed to write such letters whenever they see the letters UFO in any communication. I acquit you of any guilt in this matter, you have not had time to learn much about Defence and know nothing of UFOs. I, on the contrary, know a great deal about both. For this reason alone, I really do not need to be told what is the function of the Ministry in this, or any other, matter.

There is no point in asking Section 40 send you his video "..... For examination by your officials.....". They have no training nor expertise nor experience in the highly specialised business of photographic interpretation. If you want a lay opinion, such as they might offer, Section 40 has given you the names of a dozen good citizens whose word on any other matter would be taken for granted by you, or every other Justice on the Bench. You could, just possibly, take the extreme steps of spending 20 minutes looking at it yourself.

If you will give me an undertaking that Section 40 video will be examined by a recognised Phot Int outfit independent of the MOD, I will advise him to send it to them. UFO related articles sent to your present Ministry have a strange knack of never being seen again.

The gravamen of Section 40 case is that he and several others have twice observed and photographed lighted object moving in the sky above Southampton Water, when all competent and relevant authorities have assured him that no aircraft or other flying objects were known to be in the area. In the course of his researches he has found that the Police have apparently lied about the activities of their aircraft. If these unexplained intrusions into our airspace are not of Defence interest I would like to know why you think so.

Yours sincerely,

Hill-Norton

HF

** TO BE GIVEN PRIORITY AT ALL TIMES **

Neatishead confirmed that they had nothing recorded for these dates and no air defence aircraft were scrambled.
7/8/2001

RRESPONDENCE

TE ACTION

READ THIS GUIDANCE

TO: _

C REF NUMBER: DP3345/2001

Copy to:

MINISTER REPLYING: Min(DP) DRAFT REQUIRED BY: 8/8/2001

DATE: 30/7/2001 FROM: Section 40 Ministerial Correspondence Unit

Room 221 WH TEL: Section 40 FAX: Section 40

YOU WILL BE HELD ACCOUNTABLE FOR THE DRAFT ANSWER AND ADVICE, WHICH MUST BE ACCURATE AND NOT MISLEADING IN ANY WAY.

ENSURE THE DEADLINE IS MET: THE DEPARTMENT IS COMMITTED TO ANSWERING 90% OF IT'S MINISTERIAL CORRESPONDENCE WITHIN 15 WORKING DAYS; OUR PERFORMANCE IN FY 2000/01 – WHILE MUCH IMPROVED – WAS SIGNIFICANTLY LOWER THAN THIS.

A NAMED OFFICIAL AT PAY BAND B2 LEVEL OR ABOVE MUST CLEAR ALL DRAFTS. OTHER GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS OR MOD DIVISIONS SHOULD BE CONSULTED AS NECESSARY.

IF YOU ARE AN AGENCY, THE MINISTER'S OFFICE HAS DIRECTED THAT THIS LETTER SHOULD RECEIVE A MINISTERIAL – NOT CHIEF EXECUTIVE – REPLY.

E-MAIL DRAFTS TO *'PARLIAMENTARY ENQUIRIES'*, NOT TO PE CLERKS OR PRIVATE OFFICES.

(Please ensure sensitivity of your email message is 'Normal'.)

IF THIS CORRESPONDENCE SHOULD BE DEALT WITH BY ANOTHER BRANCH, PLEASE PASS IT ON AND INFORM US IMMEDIATELY.

Number of pages sent by fax: 6

** TO BE GIVEN PRIORITY AT ALL TIMES **

** TO BE GIVEN PRIORITY AT ALL TIMES **

INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

** TO BE GIVEN PRIORITY AT ALL TIMES **

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

- **DEADLINES:** It is important that your draft is with us by the date shown at the top of this notice, as Ministers must send a written reply within **15 WORKING DAYS OF RECEIPT**. The Department's performance is reported each year to Parliament. If you cannot meet the deadline, you should therefore provide an interim reply that apologises for the delay, sets out the action being taken to answer the letter, and advises when a substantive reply can be expected. You should aim to provide a substantive draft reply within a further 8 working days. Interim replies should be used infrequently, as every effort must be made to reply to Ministerial Correspondence promptly.

- **Action at official level on the same case should be held until the Minister has sent a full reply. Please discuss any questions about the substance of the drafts, or other policy aspects, direct with the relevant Private Office.**

- **LAYOUT:** Draft replies should be double-spaced. Always include the full reference number at the top left of the draft. Put the MP's full title at the bottom left of the first page. Only add the address if the letter is from the Minister direct to a constituent.

- **MINISTER RESPONDING:** SofS will usually reply to Cabinet colleagues, Privy Councillors (the Rt Hon) and Opposition Defence spokesmen, unless they have written direct to a junior Minister. Correspondence from other MPs, MEPs and Peers will generally be handled by a junior Minister with relevant policy responsibility.

- **OPENING AND CLOSING:** All Ministers prefer to start: *"Thank you for your letter of ...(MP's ref if given) on behalf of/enclosing one from your constituent, Mr ... of ... about ..."*
  If a Minister is replying on behalf of another, start: *"Thank you for your letter of ... to Geoff Hoon/Adam Ingram/William Bach/Lewis Moonie on behalf etc"*
  For Mr Ingram, add: *"I am replying in view of my responsibility for ..."*
  For Lord Bach, add: *"I am responding because of my responsibility for this issue." (or, in the case of letters from fellow Peers: "I have been asked to respond.")*
  For Dr Moonie, add: *"I am replying as this matter falls within my area of responsibility."*
  Choose an appropriate ending (except for Dr Moonie, who will add his own) - such as:
  "I hope this is helpful"; "I hope this explains the position/situation"; "I am sorry I cannot be more helpful"; or *"I am sorry to send what I know will be a disappointing reply"*.

- **OPEN GOVERNMENT:** Replies **MUST** be drafted in accordance with the Code of Practice on Access to Government Information. It is set out in **DCI 223/99**. If you are recommending to a Minister that some or all information is withheld, the answer must specify the law or exemption in the Code under which it is being withheld - eg "I am withholding the information requested under exemption 1 of Part II of the *Code of Practice on Access to Government Information*." It is **NOT** acceptable to rely on past practice. Further information is available from DG Info on Section 40

- **INTERIM REPLIES:** If it is obvious on receipt of a piece of Ministerial Correspondence that you cannot reply in full, an interim **MUST** be provided by the deadline stated. **REMEMBER:** an interim reply covering the majority of the issues raised could help our performance statistics.

** TO BE GIVEN PRIORITY AT ALL TIMES **

** TO BE GIVEN PRIORITY AT ALL TIMES **

** TO BE GIVEN PRIORITY AT ALL TIMES **

INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

DAS4A1(SEC)

From: PARLIAMENTARY TYPIST3 on behalf of PARLIAMENTARY ENQUIRIES
To: DAS4A1(SEC)
Sent: 09 August 2001 08:35
Subject: Read: PE DP3345/2001

19

Your message

To: PARLIAMENTARY ENQUIRIES
Subject: PE DP3345/2001
Sent: 08/08/01 17:03

was read on 09/08/01 08:35.

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
OLD WAR OFFICE BUILDING
WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2EU

Telephone Section 40 (Direct Dialling)
(Fax)
(020) 7218 9000 (Switchboard)

PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE FOR DEFENCE
AND MINISTER FOR VETERANS' AFFAIRS

20

D/US of S/LM 3345/01/I

14 August 2001

Dear Lord Hill-Norton

Thank you for your letter of 23 July to Lord Bach, enclosing one from Section 40 of Section 40 Southampton, regarding two occasions when he saw lights he could not identify in the sky over Southampton Water. I am replying on behalf of Lewis Moonie, who is absent on leave.

Section 40 has corresponded with my officials about 'unidentified flying objects' on several occasions and in August 2000 his MP, David Chidgey, wrote to Dr Moonie about Section 40 sighting on 19 May 2000. Section 40 will know that the Ministry of Defence examines reports of 'UFOs' solely to establish whether there is any evidence of a breach of UK airspace by unauthorised military aircraft. His report was examined when it was received last year and no such evidence was found. Following your letter, my officials have looked again at Section 40 report of 19 May 2000 and 5 May 2001 and have confirmed that there is no evidence of a breach of UK airspace on either of these dates. As you will be aware, once it is established that there is nothing of defence concern, we do not attempt to identify what might have been seen. We believe that it is possible that rational explanations, such as aircraft lights or natural phenomena, could be found for these sightings, but it is not the function of the MOD to provide this kind of aerial identification service.

Admiral of the Fleet The Lord Hill-Norton GCB

DAS
102No. ..... Private Office
16 AUG 2001
FILE

INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

If Section 40 would like to send Lewis the two video recordings referred to in his letter, officials will view them to ascertain whether the material is of defence interest. However, no attempt will be made to positively identify what might have been seen.

I hope this is helpful.

Yours Aye

Section 40

Rt Hon Adam Ingram JP MP
Minister of State for the Armed Forces

LOOSE MINUTE

D/DAS/64/4

8 August 2001

Ministerial Correspondence Unit
(through DAS-LA-P&Section 40

MINISTERIAL CORRESPONDENCE-DP3345/2001 –ADMIRAL OF THE FLEET THE LORD HILL-NORTON GCB

1. Lord Hill-Norton, Chief of the Defence Staff from 1973 to 1976, has a long standing interest in 'unidentified flying objects'. This year he has tabled ten PQs and written two PEs on the subject of a well know 'UFO' sighting in Rendlesham Forest, Suffolk in December 1980.

2. In his letter of 23rd July, the Peer enclosed a letter from Section 40 a member of the Southampton UFO Group, who has contacted him about two 'sightings' he filmed over Southampton Water, one on 19th May 2000 and the other on 5th May 2001. Section 40 s not known to Lord Hill-Norton, but has contacted the MOD on three previous occasions about 'UFOs'. The last correspondence received from Section 40 was when his MP, Mr David Chidgey wrote to US of S on 31 July 2000 concerning the sighting of 19th May 2000 Section 40 has not previously contacted us about his sighting on 5th May 2001. Copies of all Section 40 previous correspondence are attached for information.

3. DAS staff have made checks with those responsible for air defence matters and they have confirmed that nothing of defence interest was recorded on radar and no air defence aircraft were scrambled on either of the dates given in Section 40 letter. Both Section 40 and Lord Hill-Norton are aware from previous correspondence that once it is established that there is nothing of defence concern, we do not attempt to identify what might have been seen.

4. Lord Hill-Norton has suggested that a 'qualified person' should look at the two video recordings that Section 40 made of the Southampton Water events. It is likely that if the Minister did not agree to his request, Lord Hill-Norton would probably say that the Department was not being open-minded; accordingly, we suggest that Minister agrees to officials viewing the videos solely to ascertain whether they are of any defence interest.

5. I enclose a draft reply for Min(DP) to send to Lord Hill-Norton in response to his letter of 23rd July 2001.

[redacted]

DAS4a1
MT 6/73 [redacted]

Drafted by: [redacted] DAS-LA-Ops&Pol 1
Authorised by: DAS-LA-P&P

DP3345/2001 August 2001

DRAFT REPLY TO ADMIRAL OF THE FLEET THE LORD HILL-NORTON GCB

Thank you for your letter of 23 July enclosing one from Section 40 of Section 40 Section 40 Southampton, regarding two occasions when he saw lights he could not identify in the sky over Southampton Water.

Section 40 has corresponded with my officials about 'unidentified flying objects' on several occasions and in August 2000 his MP, David Chidgey, wrote to Dr Moonie, Under Secretary of State for Defence, about Section 40 sighting on 19th May 2000. Section 40 will know that the Ministry of Defence examines reports of 'UFO's solely to establish whether there is any evidence of a breach of UK airspace by unauthorised military aircraft. His report was examined when it was received last year and no such evidence was found. Following your letter, my officials have looked again at Section 40 reports of 19th May 2000 and 5th May 2001 and have confirmed that there is no evidence of a breach of UK airspace on either of these dates. As you will be aware, once it is established that there is nothing of defence concern, we do not attempt to identify what might have been seen. We believe that it is possible that rational explanations, such as aircraft lights or natural phenomena, could be found for these sightings, but it is not the function of the MOD to provide this kind of aerial identification service.

If Section 40 would like to send me the two video recordings referred to in his letter, my officials will view them to ascertain whether the material is of defence interest. However, no attempt will be made to positively identify what might have been seen.

I hope this is helpful.

THE LORD BACH

Admiral of the Fleet The Lord Hill-Norton GCB

Admiral of the Fleet The Lord Hill-Norton GCB

The Lord Bach
Ministry of Defence
Old War Office Building
London SW1A 2EU

RECEIVED IN
27 JUL 2001
FILE:
MINISTER OF STATE FOR
DEFENCE PROCUREMENT

23rd July 2001

Dear Lord Bach,

Now that I have taken the Oath I can resume my pursuit of the truth about some of the UFO events in this country. I shall be sending you a list of Questions for Written Answer fairly soon.

I think that this pair of events, which are the subject of a letter which I enclose, can not be properly dealt with in that way.

The letter, from a Section 40 demands formal investigation, as I think you will agree.

Section 40 is not known to me, but we have exchanged letters since he first wrote to me last month. I am satisfied that he is a serious person, and that he is reporting truthfully events which he has, himself, witnessed. He has been unable to obtain an explanation of them from what seem to be all the right authorities. He has a number of named witnesses for each event. He has two videos which record what he describes. Surely these should be viewed by some qualified person (not one of your secretaries of course)?

I do most sincerely hope that you will have this report given the study it deserves. I am pretty sure that Section 40 is neither a fool nor a knave, and he is much too old to be seeking publicity.

I am copying this letter to Section 40

Yours sincerely,

Hill-Norton.

RECEIVED BY
PARLIAMENTARY BRANCH
DATE: 27/7/01
MINISTER REPLYING: Min(DP)
KEYWORD(S): UFOs
LEAD BRANCH: DAS4(Sec)
COPIED TO:
RELATED CASE: 3005/01.
CLERK Section 40

Thursday 5th July 2001

Section 40
[redacted]
Southampton
Section 40
Tel; Section 40 [redacted]

Lord Hill-Norton;

Further to my previous letter in connection with filmed UFO sightings over Southampton Water and your kind offer to bring up the subject in The House..herewith the details you requested;

May 19th 2000; Witnessess..members of Southampton UFO Group (sufog). Section 40 [redacted] (secretary) Section 40 [redacted] (group leader) Section 40 [redacted] The event took place at approx. 10.30pm amd continued for nine minutes, filmed on video. A bright light appeared over the western shore of Southampton Water, seen by the group who were situated on a hilltop in the centre of the village of Netley Abbey on the eastern side. The light moved about..fairly low..back and forth and over or in the vicinity of Fawley Refinery. No noise heard. Quite soon a small single wing aircraft approached the light from the Southampton City direction. It circled the light as if inspecting it, twice. We thought, quite firmly, this was our police spotter plane..we are quite used to it here! It then withdrew to a short distance away..eventually we lost it. The light continued to move along the coastline..a strobe appeared at one stage from the light and then stopped. Eventually the light gradually vanished into the distance..we are unable to ascertain if it moved away over the New Forest, entered the water, or just "vanished"

Two days later..having seen the video twice myself..I set out to enquire of various authorities with a view to identifying the light. I began my phone calls with the Lymington Coastguard..they checked and came back with 'nothing up that night'. Hythe Police (western side of Southampton Water) ditto reply. MOD Police at Central Control same answer Section 40 [redacted] Portsmouth) MOD RAF/USA/ Hythe Section 40 [redacted] also on western shore asked me 'was I describing a UFO! In an amused tone! I replied all I was asking was 'what was it'? as it was 'unidentified'.'No reports' came the reply. But put me on to Air Traffic Control Section 40 [redacted] same answer; 'no reports'. Air Sea Rescue at Lee on Solent came next Section 40 [redacted] .no reports, they suggested might be a couple of lads having fun in a helicopter over Southampton Water! 'anyone can do ANYTHING as it is not a restricted area'! Really? God help our national security! I said I didnt believe them. Lastly, I tried Special Air Service Reports which one authority put me

onto..controls ALL air movements UK. Section 40 [redacted] same answer...`nothing reported.`

You already have the local MP letters and the one from Dr Moonie of the MOD which was the end of the protracted enquiry . No mention of the video we possess from him or indeed ANYONE! Yes, my Lord, I AM serious! Have been since 1960!

10.30 pm 5th May 2001 event; Southampton Water again..this time the group consisted of Section 40 [redacted] Section 40 [redacted] and Section 40 [redacted]...and was filmed and observed from the old jetty at the Royal Victoria Country Park, Netley Abbey..you can hear the waves on the 15 minute video! Similar "light" moving back and forth over western shore..low..but also moved up and down or just stood still. What seemed to be the same police spotter `plane appeared..again circled light..twice..this time the light went out as the plane overflew it and came on again when the plane moved off some distance. The `plane used a strobe light at one stage. Eventually the light just dimmed and vanished, much as before. Only one enquiry...unofficial..was made and an evasive answer was given. We would prefer this is not used as evidence of any kind. Currently, via the good services of the Chief Constable of Hampshire I am awaiting assured replies to both incidents from the Police Air Support authorities. Should this arrive at any moment I will enclose copies.

Concludes.

I might add that I had some six UFO etc books on my 77th birthday June 14th..two of which were Timothy Good`s Beyond Top Secret and Steven Greer`s Extraterrestial Contact...both people I have been aware of and following for some years since incidents match EXACTLY my own from previous and now CURRENT experiences! I have taken on board your own mentions in both, and other books, my Lord.

I am also studying transcripts and video of the May 9th Disclosure Project held in Washington DC by Steven Greer et al. Totally..TOTALLY..ignored by the UK media in review and only three papers actually mentioned it beforehand. The Times, The Sunday Express, and the Scottish Daily Record..the latter fell into my hands by a strange "coincidence" which as you may know are a phenomenom of the whole enigma! Whether Steven Greer will achieve his aim of a Congressional Exposure of THE TRUTH is, I speculate, unlikely..but we must ALL TRY..harder! Before our planet descends further into the moral chaos that is becoming more prevalent. The Disclosure Project video and the UFO MAGAZINE for July are stunning! Where do we begin to cleanse our world of all that is evil? How?

Like millions of us, I do my humble best.

I enclose latest media article from the Portsmouth News which I trust will make interesting and inspiring reading.

My late father, by the way, was 21 years in the Royal Navy..he finished up as a writer PO..I "inherited" his writing attributes and his gold nib fountain pen! He is still "encouraging" me from his current vantage point!

Hence my attachement to Portsmouth!

Best Wishes for continued success..fight the good fight! We NEED such as you, my Lord.

Sincerely.

Section 40 [redacted]

P.R.O S.U.F.D.G.

PS: I am currently invited on to SKY TV, LONDON, in company (illustrious!) with Timothy Good, Nick Pope, Jenny Randles, et al — Wednesday 11th July!

MINISTER FOR
DEFENCE PROCUREMENT

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
OLD WAR OFFICE BUILDING
WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2EU

Telephone Section 40 (Direct Dialling)
020 7218 9000 (Switchboard)
Fax Section 40

Section 40

18

FROM: THE LORD BACH

D/MIN(DP)/ WB 2632-2/01/P

3 August 2001

Dear Lord Hill-Norton,

I wrote to you on 23 June about your compact disc and photographs of the events in Rendlesham Forest in 1980.

I very much regret that I have still not had the opportunity to give the disc the attention it warrants and I am now going on holiday for the next three weeks.

I assure you that I will listen to the disc upon my return to the office and provide you with a more substantive response.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

Admiral of the Fleet The Lord Hill-Norton GCB

DAS BAS
102/No.
- 7 AUG 2001
CHE

Private Office

INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
OLD WAR OFFICE BUILDING
WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2EU

Telephone Section 40 (Direct Dialling)
[redacted] (Fax)
(020) 7218 9000 (Switchboard)

PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE FOR DEFENCE
AND MINISTER FOR VETERANS' AFFAIRS

17

D/US of S/LM 3108/01/M

24th July 2001

Dear Ann,

Thank you for your letter of 9 July to Geoff Hoon (reference: MART004/011185/SS) enclosing one from your constituent, Section 40 [redacted] Section 40 of Section 40 [redacted] who has raised a number of issues concerning 'Unidentified Flying Objects' and Extra-terrestrial Lifeforms. I am replying as this matter falls within my area of responsibility.

First, it may be helpful if I explain that the Ministry of Defence examines any reports of sightings solely to establish whether what was seen might have some defence significance. My Department's only concern is to establish whether there is any evidence that the United Kingdom's airspace might have been compromised by hostile or unauthorised air activity. I should add that the integrity of the UK's airspace in peacetime is maintained through continuous surveillance of the UK Air Policing Area by the Royal Air Force, and the MOD remains vigilant for any potential threat. Unless there is evidence of a potential threat to the United Kingdom from an external military source, and to date no UFO reported to us has revealed such a threat, 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.

With regard to the four points for which Section 40 [redacted] has asked for Parliamentary action, I will address these in the same order as they were given.

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
DASA
26 JUL 2001
FILE

Anne Campbell MP

Private Office

INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Firstly, to hold open, comprehensive, secrecy-free hearings to take military/agency witness testimony on events and evidence relating to an Extraterrestrial presence on and around Earth. Anyone, whether they are a member of the public or in the Armed Forces is able to report a sighting to the Ministry of Defence and their report will be examined in light of our defence interest as detailed above. There is therefore no need to hold 'hearings to take witness testimony' on these events.

Secondly, to hold open hearings on advanced energy and propulsion systems, relating to extraterrestrial phenomena that, when publicly released, will provide solutions to global environmental challenges. These technologies which may now be sequestered behind the National Security Act. To date the Ministry of Defence knows of no evidence which substantiates the existence or otherwise of extraterrestrial lifeforms. We are therefore unable to comment on 'advanced energy and propulsion systems' which we do not know exist.

Thirdly, to enact legislation which will ban all spaced-based weapons, and to enact and implement international treaty and legal standards prohibiting the weaponisation of space. The United Kingdom's position on the military use of space is clear. The Outer Space Treaty places some important limitations on military activity in space, prohibiting the deployment of weapons of mass destruction and military activity on the moon and other celestial bodies. But we do not wish to see a general prohibition on the military use of space. For example, the 1998 Strategic Defence Review confirmed a continuing need for secure satellite communications for the armed forces. We recognise, however, there are issues that countries wish to discuss on space and we support the further consideration of Outer Space by the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva to identify whether there are substantive issues on which further work could be done.

Forthly, to enact comprehensive legislation to research, develop and explore space peacefully and co-operatively with all cultures on Earth and in space. I have explained above our position on the military use of space. While we remain open minded, we know of no evidence to substantiate the existence of extraterrestrial lifeforms and therefore are unable to comment on our future co-operation with these alleged beings.

Recycled Paper

Finally, I must say that my Department has no expertise or role in respect of the existence or otherwise of extraterrestrial lifeforms. We are aware that many people have claimed to have experienced various phenomena and we remain open-minded.

Best wishes

Section 40 [redacted]

DR LEWIS MOONIE MP

Recycled Paper

16

SECRETARY OF STATE

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
ROOM 205, OLD WAR OFFICE BUILDING
WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2EU

Telephone Section 40
Fax Section 40
E-mail: sofs-registry1@mod.gsi.gov.uk

D/S of S/GH 2724/01/Y

27th June 2001

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
DAS 4
- 5 JUL 2001
FILE

Dear John,

Thank you for your letter of 14 June enclosing one from your constituent, Section 40 of Section 40 Reading, who has raised a number of issues concerning 'Unidentified Flying Objects' and Extraterrestrial Lifeforms.

First, it may be helpful if I explain that the Ministry of Defence (MOD) examines any reports of sightings solely to establish whether what was seen might have some defence significance. The MOD's only concern is to establish whether there is any evidence that the United Kingdom's airspace might have been compromised by hostile or unauthorised air activity. I should add that the integrity of the UK's airspace in peacetime is maintained through continuous surveillance of the UK Air Policing Area by the Royal Air Force, and the MOD remains vigilant for any potential threat. Unless there is evidence of a potential threat to the United Kingdom from an external military source - and to date no UFO reported to us has revealed such a threat - 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.

The Rt Hon John Redwood MP

Recycled Paper

With regard to the four points which Section 40 has asked for your active support for, I will address these in the same order as they were given.

1. *To hold open, comprehensive, secrecy-free hearings to take military/ agency witness testimony on events and evidence relating to an Extraterrestrial presence on and around Earth.*

Anyone, whether they are a member of the public or in the Armed Forces is able to report a sighting to the MOD and their report will be examined in light of our defence interest as detailed above. There is therefore no need to hold 'hearings to take witness testimony' on these events.

2. *To hold open hearings on advanced energy and propulsion systems, relating to extraterrestrial phenomena that, when publicly released, will provide solutions to global environmental challenges. These technologies which may now be sequestered behind the National Security Act.*

To date the MOD knows of no evidence which substantiates the existence or otherwise of extraterrestrial lifeforms. We are therefore unable to comment on 'advanced energy and propulsion systems' which we do not know exist.

3. *To enact legislation which will ban all spaced-based weapons, and to enact and implement international treaty and legal standards prohibiting the weaponisation of space.*

The United Kingdom's position on the military use of space is clear. The Outer Space Treaty places some important limitations on military activity in space, prohibiting the deployment of weapons of mass destruction and military activity on the moon and other celestial bodies. But we do not wish to see a general prohibition on the military use of space. For example, the 1998 Strategic Defence Review confirmed a continuing need for secure satellite communications for the

armed forces. We recognise, however, there are issues that countries wish to discuss on space and we support the further consideration of Outer Space by the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva to identify whether there are substantive issues on which further work could be done.

4. *To enact comprehensive legislation to research, develop and explore space peacefully and co-operatively with all cultures on Earth and in space.*

I have explained above our position on the military use of space. While we remain open minded, we know of no evidence to substantiate the existence of extraterrestrial lifeforms and therefore are unable to comment on our future co-operation with these alleged beings.

Finally, I must say that the MOD has no expertise or role in respect of the existence or otherwise of extraterrestrial lifeforms. We are aware that many people have claimed to have experienced various phenomena and we remain open-minded.

I hope this explains the situation.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40 [redacted]

GEOFFREY HOON

15

DAS4A1(SEC)

From: PARLIAMENTARY TYPIST3 on behalf of PARLIAMENTARY ENQUIRIES
To: DAS4A1(SEC)
Sent: 26 June 2001 17:06
Subject: Read: SS2724/2001

Your message

To: PARLIAMENTARY ENQUIRIES
Subject: SS2724/2001
Sent: 26/06/01 17:06

was read on 26/06/01 17:06.

Draft reply copied to PACS2 for info. Section 40 [redacted] 28/6.

LOOSE MINUTE

D/DAS/64/4

26 June 2001

Ministerial Correspondence Unit
(through DAS Section 40 [redacted])

MINISTERIAL CORRESPONDENCE – SS2724/2001 – THE RT HON JOHN REDWOOD MP

1. So far as we are aware, this constituent has not contacted the MOD before about 'UFOs' and he will not therefore be aware that the MOD's only interest in reported 'UFO' sightings is whether there is any evidence of a breach of UK airspace by hostile or unauthorised air activity. Unless there is such evidence, we do not attempt to identify exactly what was seen. We believe that rational explanations, such as aircraft lights or natural phenomena, could be found for these sightings if resources were diverted for this purpose, but it is not within the MOD's remit to provide an aerial identification service.

2. The statements Section 40 has enclosed with his letter and the points he is asking his MP to support come indirectly from a group called "The Disclosure Project". This group was founded by Mr Steven M Greer MD, who is based in the USA and since 1993 has been gathering statements, video and tape recordings from people who claim to have seen or been involved with extraterrestrial lifeforms. Many of these 'witnesses' are said to be military or ex-military servicemen/women and government officials. The Disclosure Project have a website where they urge the US Congress and the leaders of other countries to hold hearings into this subject and to agree to the four points which Section 40 has also included in his letter to his MP. On 9 May 2001, Mr Greer held an on line press conference where according to the website 'more than 20 military, government and corporate witnesses to unambiguous UFO and extraterrestrial events stated their testimony before millions'. People are encouraged to contact their own Governments about this issue and Section 40 is the second person to do so.

3. The issue of space-based weapons is presently very sensitive and the paragraph which deals with this has been written with the advice of PACS2. The lines are intentionally general and uncontentious.

4. I enclose a draft reply for Secretary of State to send to The Rt Hon John Redwood MP in response to his letter of 14 June, enclosing a letter from his constituent, Section 40

Section 40 [redacted]

DAS4a1
MB8245 Section 40

Drafted by: Section 40 [redacted] DAS4a1
Authorised by: DAS AD4

SS 2724/2001 June 2001

DRAFT REPLY TO THE RT HON JOHN REDWOOD MP

Thank you for your letter of 14 June enclosing one from your constituent, Section 40 [redacted] of Section 40 [redacted] Reading, who has raised a number of issues concerning 'Unidentified Flying Objects' and Extraterrestrial Lifeforms.

First, it may be helpful if I explain that the Ministry of Defence examines any reports of sightings solely to establish whether what was seen might have some defence significance. My Department's only concern is to establish whether there is any evidence that the United Kingdom's airspace might have been compromised by hostile or unauthorised air activity. I should add that the integrity of the UK's airspace in peacetime is maintained through continuous surveillance of the UK Air Policing Area by the Royal Air Force, and the MOD remains vigilant for any potential threat. Unless there is evidence of a potential threat to the United Kingdom from an external military source, and to date no UFO reported to us has revealed such a threat, 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.

With regard to the four points which Section 40 has asked for your active support for, I will address these in the same order as they were given.

1. To hold open, comprehensive, secrecy-free hearings to take military/ agency witness testimony on events and evidence relating to an Extraterrestrial presence on and around Earth.

Anyone, whether they are a member of the public or in the Armed Forces is able to report a sighting to the Ministry of Defence and their report will be examined in light of our defence interest as detailed above. There is therefore no need to hold 'hearings to take witness testimony' on these events.

2. To hold open hearings on advanced energy and propulsion systems, relating to extraterrestrial phenomena that, when publicly released, will provide solutions to global environmental challenges. These technologies which may now be sequestered behind the National Security Act.

To date the Ministry of Defence knows of no evidence which substantiates the existence or otherwise of extraterrestrial lifeforms. We are therefore unable to comment on 'advanced energy and propulsion systems' which we do not know exist.

3. *To enact legislation which will ban all spaced-based weapons, and to enact and implement international treaty and legal standards prohibiting the weaponisation of space.*

The United Kingdom's position on the military use of space is clear. The Outer Space Treaty places some important limitations on military activity in space, prohibiting the deployment of weapons of mass destruction and military activity on the moon and other celestial bodies. But we do not wish to see a general prohibition on the military use of space. For example, the 1998 Strategic Defence Review confirmed a continuing need for secure satellite communications for the armed forces. We recognise, however, there are issues that countries wish to discuss on space and we support the further consideration of Outer Space by the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva to identify whether there are substantive issues on which further work could be done.

4. To enact comprehensive legislation to research, develop and explore space peacefully and co-operatively with all cultures on Earth and in space.

I have explained above our position on the military use of space. While we remain open minded, we know of no evidence to substantiate the existence of extraterrestrial lifeforms and therefore are unable to comment on our future co-operation with these alleged beings.

Finally, I must say that my Department has no expertise or role in respect of the existence or otherwise of extraterrestrial lifeforms. We are aware that many people have claimed to have experienced various phenomena and we remain open-minded.

I hope this explains the situation.

THE RT HON GEOFFREY HOON MP

The Rt Hon John Redwood MP

** TO BE GIVEN PRIORITY AT ALL TIMES **

14/6

MINISTERIAL CORRESPONDENCE

FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION

IMPORTANT - YOU MUST READ THIS GUIDANCE

TO: DAS 4 (Sec) MC REF NUMBER: SS 2724 /2001

Copy to:

MINISTER REPLYING: SofS DRAFT REQUIRED BY: 29 /6 /2001

DATE 20 /6 /2001 FROM: Section 40 Ministerial Correspondence Unit

Room 221WH TEL: Section 40 FAX: Section 40

YOU WILL BE HELD ACCOUNTABLE FOR THE DRAFT ANSWER AND ADVICE, WHICH MUST BE ACCURATE AND NOT MISLEADING IN ANY WAY.

ENSURE THE DEADLINE IS MET: THE DEPARTMENT IS COMMITTED TO ANSWERING 90% OF IT'S MINISTERIAL CORRESPONDENCE WITHIN 15 WORKING DAYS; OUR PERFORMANCE IN FY 2000/01 – WHILE MUCH IMPROVED – WAS SIGNIFICANTLY LOWER THAN THIS.

A NAMED OFFICIAL AT PAY BAND B2 LEVEL OR ABOVE MUST CLEAR ALL DRAFTS. OTHER GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS OR MOD DIVISIONS SHOULD BE CONSULTED AS NECESSARY.

IF YOU ARE AN AGENCY, THE MINISTER'S OFFICE HAS DIRECTED THAT THIS LETTER SHOULD RECEIVE A MINISTERIAL – NOT CHIEF EXECUTIVE – REPLY.

E-MAIL DRAFTS TO *'PARLIAMENTARY ENQUIRIES'*, NOT TO PE CLERKS OR PRIVATE OFFICES.
(Please ensure sensitivity of your email message is 'Normal'.)

IF THIS CORRESPONDENCE SHOULD BE DEALT WITH BY ANOTHER BRANCH, PLEASE PASS IT ON AND INFORM US IMMEDIATELY.

Number of pages sent by fax: 16

** TO BE GIVEN PRIORITY AT ALL TIMES **

** TO BE GIVEN PRIORITY AT ALL TIMES **

INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

THE RT. HON. JOHN REDWOOD, MP

HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

RECEIVED BY
PARLIAMENTARY BRANCH
ON: 19/6/01
MINISTER REPLYING: Sec of S
KEYWORD(S): UFOs
LEAD BRANCH: DAS 4 (Sec)
COPIED TO:
RELATED CASE:
CLERK: Section 40

14 June 2001

The Rt Hon Geoff Hoon, MP
Secretary of State for Defence
Main Building
Whitehall
London
SW1

Dear Geoff

I attach correspondence from my constituent Section 40 of Section 40 Reading Section 40 on which I would be grateful to receive your comments.

Yours sincerely

Section 40

Section 40 [redacted] Reading, Berkshire Section 40

Email: Section 40 [redacted]

Dear Section 40 [redacted]

I am a constituent of yours and reside at the address above.

THE FOLLOWING IS NOT A HOAX OR IN ANYWAY MEANT TO MAKE YOU LOOK STUPID. THIS IS A SITUATION THAT EVERYONE SHOULD BE AWARE OF AND I'M ASKING YOU TO ASK QUESTIONS TO THE GOVERNMENT ABOUT IT.

As you know, the recorded testimony of scores of military, government and other witnesses to Unidentified Flying Objects and Extraterrestrial events and projects from around the world establishes the existence of a UFO / Extraterrestrial presence on and around Earth. This recorded testimony consists of dozens of first-hand, often top-secret witnesses to UFO and Extraterrestrial events, internal UFO-related government projects and covert activities, space-based weapons programs, and covert, reverse-engineered energy and propulsion system projects. The technologies that are of an Extraterrestrial origin, when publicly released within a planned transition period, will provide solutions to global environmental and security challenges.

These numerous recorded witnesses constitute only a small portion of a vast pool of identified present or former military, intelligence, corporate, aviator, flight control, law enforcement officers, scientists and other witnesses, who will come forward when subpoenaed to testify at Congressional hearings. Without a grant of immunity releasing them from their security oaths, many such unimpeachable witnesses fear to speak out.

The legislation to ban space-based weapons will prohibit acts of war against Extraterrestrial civilizations, which have proven to be concerned about our nuclear and weapons industry, but also have proven they are not to be hostile. The comprehensive legislation will transform the terrestrial war industry into a world cooperative military (without space weapons), civil, and commercial space industry. This will provide unprecedented benefits and opportunities to all on Earth and in space.

Our generation of voters and leaders are responsible for this once in a lifetime decision - to ban space-based weapons so that we will be permitted to join the peaceful travellers in the universe.

Therefore, the undersigned are asking that you sponsor, enact and actively support each of the following:

- To hold open, comprehensive, secrecy-free hearings to take military/agency witness testimony on events and evidence relating to an Extraterrestrial presence on and around Earth.
- To hold open hearings on advanced energy and propulsion systems, relating to extraterrestrial phenomena that, when publicly released, will provide solutions to global environmental challenges. These technologies which may now be sequestered behind the National Security Act.
- To enact legislation which will ban all space-based weapons, and to enact and implement international treaty and legal standards prohibiting the weaponization of space.
- To enact comprehensive legislation to research, develop and explore space peacefully and cooperatively with all cultures on Earth and in space.

Ranch comment, don't know if exist. - remain open → minded.

PLEASE VISIT : www.disclosureproject.org and read the enclosed testimony.

Thank you for your time and efforts.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40 [redacted]

Section 40 [redacted] (9th June 2001)

TESTIMONY THAT EXPLAINS THE SECRECY

Brigadier General Stephen Lovekin: Army National Guard Reserves

"But what happened was that Eisenhower got sold out. Without him knowing it, he lost control of what was going on with the entire UFO situation. In his last address to the nation, I think he was telling us that the Military Industrial Complex would stick you in the back if you were not totally vigilant. And, I think that he felt like he had not been vigilant. I think he felt like he trusted too many people. And, Eisenhower was a trusting man. He was a good man. And I think that he realized that all of a sudden this matter is going into the control of corporations that could very well act to the detriment of this country.

"This frustration, from what I can remember, went on for months. He realized that he was losing control of the UFO subject. He realized that the phenomenon or whatever it was that we were faced with was not going to be in the best hands. As far as I can remember, that was the expression that was used, 'It is not going to be in the best hands.' That was a real concern. And so it has turned out to be...

"It had been discussed with me on numerous occasions what could happen to me militarily if I discussed this. I would say that the government has done as good a job enforcing secrecy through the installation of abject fear as they have done with anything within the memory of modern man. I really believe they have done a job.

"One older officer discussed with me what possibly could happen if there was a revelation. He was talking about being erased and I said, 'Man, what do you mean erased?' And, he said, 'Yes, you will be erased — disappear.' And I said, 'How do you know all this?' And he said, 'I know. Those threats have been made and carried out. Those threats started way back in 1947. The Army Air Force was given absolute control over how to handle this. This being the biggest security situation that this country has ever dealt with and there have been some erasures...'

"I don't care what kind of a person you are. I don't care how strong or courageous you are. It would be a very fearful situation because from what Matt [this older officer] said, 'They will go after not only you. They will go after your family.' Those were his words. And, so I can only say that the reason that they have managed to keep it under wraps for so long is through fear. They are very selective about how they pull someone out to make an example of. And I know that that has been done."

Merle Shane McDow: US Navy Atlantic Command

"These two gentlemen began to question me about this event. They were being pretty rough about it, to be honest with you. I remember literally putting my hands up and saying, 'Wait a minute fellows. I am on your side. Just a minute.' Because they were not really nice. They were very intimidating and made it quite clear to the point that nothing that was seen, heard, or witnessed, that transpired was to leave this building. 'You are not to say a word about it to your co-workers. And off base, you just forget everything that you may have seen or heard concerning this. It didn't happen...'"

Lt. Col. Charles Brown: US Air Force (Ret.)

"It is sort of strange but we send people to prison, we send people to their death because of eyewitness accounts of crimes. Our legal system is based on that to a large degree. Yet in my following of unusual aerial phenomena for the past 50 years, there seems to be some reason to discredit very viable and very reputable witnesses when they say something is unidentified...

"I do know that there are agencies of our Government that can manipulate data. And you can create or recreate [whatever you want]. Craft, intelligently operated craft, have basically violated our laws of physics on this planet. And they have done that for a long time. The fact that the Government at this point — I know we have been investigating since 1947 — has not come up with an answer, to me indicates that there is something seriously wrong. Are we this incompetent in science? I don't think so. Are we this incompetent in intelligence? I know we are not this incompetent in intelligence. Now, Project Blue Book, when it was closed by Dr. Condon's group, I have every reason to believe that this was a total deliberate whitewash....

"UFOs have been investigated for an extended period of time and the general public is not being made aware, fully aware — but are given only bits and pieces, programmed responses and things like that."

"Dr. B":

"I know that some people I worked with did disappear on certain programs and were never heard from again. They just disappeared. There has been evidence of that all through my work. You know, that people go out on projects [and disappear]. But [to protect myself from this] I wouldn't go any further on a project because I could see something strange coming. So, a lot of people have disappeared you know, that are higher up."

Lance Corporal Jonathan Weygandt: US Marine Corps

"'You weren't supposed to be there.' 'You are not supposed to see this.' 'You are going to be dangerous if we let you go.' I thought that they were going to kill me, really...

"They had a Lieutenant Colonel from the Air Force and he did not identify himself. And he told me, 'If we just took you out in the jungle, they would never find you out there.' I didn't want to test him to see if he would really do that so I just said, 'Yeah.' And, he said, 'You have got to sign these papers. You never saw this.' I "don't exist" and "this situation never happened." And if you tell anybody, you will just come up missing...'

"They are yelling at me and hollering and cursing. 'You didn't see anything. We will do you and your whole goddamn family.'

"It was basically that for about eight or nine hours... 'We are going to take you off in a helicopter and we are going to kick your ass out in the jungle and we are going to end you...'

"These different agencies are on their own. They don't obey the law. They are rogue. Do I think that this is a project that goes up through the government and everyone has a piece in it? No. I think these guys operate on their own and no one knows what they do. It is so easy to do today. And there is no oversight, no control. They just do whatever they want...

"Lethal, deadly force has been used. For those of you who don't know, I know marine snipers and I have heard other guys talk about it and I've heard that these guys go on the streets and they stalk people and they kill them. I know that the Army Airborne snipers do the same thing. They use Delta Force to go grab these people and silence them by killing them."

Maj. George A. Filer, III: US Air Force (Ret.)

"At times I used to carry nuclear weapons. In other words, I was mentally fit to carry nuclear weapons, but I'm not mentally fit if I see a UFO. This criticism and this ridicule have done more to keep the story coming out than almost anything else."

Nick Pope: British Ministry of Defense Official

"I believe that governments and the military, and indeed private researchers, politicians- whoever- should place everything in the public domain on this issue. Governments can't, I think, have it both ways. You cannot say on the one hand, as the party line often goes, that UFOs are of no defense significance, and then on the other keep back some of the data.

"You simply can't do that. You have to have it one way or the other. And if, as governments consistently say when the politicians probe on this issue or when the media inquire, that there's really nothing to worry about, then okay, let's see all the data."

Larry Warren: US Air Force, Security Officer

"We were gone over with a Geiger counter and there was one return on one of the guys, and something was taken out of his pocket. This guy was removed very quickly. And, I will swear on my life, I never saw him again. He was removed. This happened to a lot of people. It led to a suicide that the Air Force is responsible for. This is a real person with a real name...

"We were brought in and there were sheets on top of the law enforcement desk. There were about 10 of us. And there were one, two, three, four, five, six, seven stacks of documents, pre-typed. One was a pre-typed statement, all generic, of what we saw -- which was not what we saw. It said we were off-duty and saw only unknown lights flipping amongst the trees. I clearly remember that. I said, what if we don't sign this, Major Zigler? And, he says, you have no choice. And, he says, I have no choice but to ask you to do this...

"Two people came up behind each of us, and I do remember someone heading toward him, and I heard the sound of what sounded like an aerosol. And, I went black. My nose ran profusely and my chest got tight. I, obviously, was not getting into the car properly, so I was beaten, literally hit in the ribs and pushed... Anyway, I have 20 minutes of recall and I'm gone for a day. And, it's established with other people. People said I was on emergency leave or on leave or off the base. But I was just under the base. And, there were other personnel down there.

"...I had marks, by the way, from an IV, or something, when I came out of there. I had the bruise and I had a bandage. I will admit that. That's for real. I had it. I'm terrified to know or think of what might have happened...

"The only reason I have my records is because I was advised to steal some of them, by an Air Force Colonel, because he said they would vaporize you. He said, they are going to fireproof you. I was looked at, almost like a Frank Serpico kind of guy. I was not a team player because I was talking to everyone...

"Unfortunately, my friend, Alabama, went AWOL trying to get back home. At O'Hare Airport, he was captured by the FBI and returned to duty immediately. All he wanted to do was go home. But he was put back on flight duty. I was riding with the senior master Sergeant on vehicle patrol, just totally depressed with everything, when Alabama called in -- this is a real person -- and said he was going to kill himself if he couldn't go home. And, this guy turned the pick-up truck quick and was heading toward the post. He said, you stay on the goddamn radio... I saw all the units across the flight line responding and everything. Anyway, Alabama had a short M16, and he put it in his mouth, and took the top of his head off. This was the first time I ever saw death, violent death, at 19. We were as different as night and day, me and this kid. You know, he was the south, I was the north. He was very religious. I respect that, but we had nothing in common. He was a nice guy. And, they did not do anything to help us..."

Sgt. Clifford Stone: US Army

"During the discussion of UFOs, the question, ultimately, is going to come up, can any government keep secrets, let alone the U.S. Government? And the answer to that is

unequivocally yes. But one of the greatest weapons the intelligence community has at their disposal is a predisposition by the American people, the American politicians and the debunkers — people who wish to try to debunk UFO information. They immediately come out and say, oh, we can't keep secrets, we can't keep secrets. Well, the truth is, yes, we can.

"The National Reconnaissance Office remained secret for many, many years. The mere existence of the NSA remained secret. The development of the atomic weapon remained secret until once you exploded one you eventually had to tell some people what was going on.

"And we are conditioned by our own paradigms not to accept the possibility or probability of a highly advanced intelligent civilization coming here to visit us. You have evidence in the form of highly credible reports of objects being seen, of the entities inside these objects being seen. Yet, we look for a prosaic explanation and we throw out the bits and pieces of the evidence that doesn't meet our paradigm. So it is a self-keeping secret. You can conceal it in plain sight. It is political suicide to go and start hitting up intelligence agencies to get this information released. So, most of your members of Congress, and I know I've worked with a lot of them along that line, will balk and try not to do it. I can name you three members of Congress that were point blank asked to have a congressional inquiry on what happened here at Roswell...

"We have got to get the documentation as it exists in the Government files. We have got to get it released before it ultimately is destroyed. A good example is the Blue Fly and Moon Dust files. I had classified documents the Air Force acknowledged. When I got members of Congress to help me open up more files, they were immediately destroyed and I can prove this.

"Somewhere along the line, they may see that material and realize there is some very highly sensitive information that would have a damning effect upon the national security of United States should it become compromised. It needs to be further protected, to insure that there is only a limited access to that information to a small number of people. So small you can put them on a list of paper, on a piece of paper, and list them by name. Thus, you have the special access programs. The controls that were supposed to be put on the special access programs are not there. When Congress did their review of the way we protect documents, and the way we go ahead and implement our secrecy programs, they found that you had special access programs within special access programs — that is was essentially impossible to keep control of them all by Congress. And, I'm telling you right now; it is essentially impossible to keep control of them all.

"When it comes to UFOs, the same criteria applies. Therefore, only a small nucleus within the intelligence community, numbering less than a hundred — no, I'd suggest less than 50 — control all that information. It is not subject to congressional review or oversight at all. So, Congress needs to go ahead and ask the hard questions and convene a hearing."

Master Sgt. Dan Morris: US Air Force, NRO Operative

"I became part of a group that would investigate, gather the information, and in the beginning it was still under the Blue Book, Snowbird and different covert programs. I would go interview people who claimed they had seen something and try to convince them they hadn't seen something or that they were hallucinating. Well, if that didn't work, another team would come in and give all the threats. And threaten them and their family and so on and so forth. And they would be in charge of discrediting them, making them look foolish and so on and so forth. Now if that didn't work, then there was another team that put an end to that problem, one way or another."

A.H.: Boeing Aerospace Employee

"A CNN reporter in Washington, D.C., the second time that Gorbachev came to America, was able to interview Gorbachev and his wife. When they got out on the street they drove the security detail up the wall. And a CNN reporter asked Gorbachev 'Do you think we should get rid of all our nuclear weapons?' And his wife stepped in and she said, 'No, I don't think we should get rid of all our nuclear weapons because of alien spacecraft.'

"Now CNN put this story on for the half hour, on CNN headline news; I heard this and I jumped up and put a blank tape in to record the next half-hour. Well, that story disappeared and you know who intercepted that. It was the CIA that got involved with that, because I know that they were monitoring CNN and all international headlines at that time. They squashed that, but I heard it. And this tells me that my information is correct about Ronald Reagan, from my NSA source. The secrecy is just total overkill as far as I'm concerned. And the Congress needs to know about this information...

"He said that we're trying to get a lid on this to try to minimize the sightings and quell the news media and the witnesses that are reporting these sightings to the news media. The Air Force wanted to push this thing under the rug and continue to research it and just get a handle on it. He confirmed that the Air Force wanted to steer the news media off on some crazy idea that these sightings were created by college pranks and balloons and meteorological problems...

"What he told me regarding the security ramifications were that if their military personnel talked about this they could be court marshaled or at least threatened to be court marshaled to get him to back down. Other intimidations would be to hold their paychecks back, transfer them to other bases where a lot of people would not want to go to, like Alaska...

"Basically, these projects were controlled by the Majestic 12 group, which is no longer called MJ12. I'm trying to find out the new name of this group. My contact that worked at Area 51 knows the name of the group, but he's refusing to tell me the name. Basically it's an oversight group intermingled with the National Security Council and the National Security Planning Group in Washington, D.C. There is a group called the National Security Planning Group that oversees everything. And Majestic 12 is intermingled with these people, the National Security Planning Group.

"They have full control. They alert the President of what's taking place and he either authorizes or just says, hey, you guys go at it. They have full control. They have no Congressional oversight whatsoever. They answer to nobody, except for the President of the United States. But they are trying to push even that aside, away from the President, from what I understand.

"The Presidents no longer have that much control over these groups anymore. It's like a separate entity."

Officer Alan Godfrey: British Police

"I was absolutely amazed at what happened after that. My life just turned upside down in an instant. From being a happy go lucky chap, within a space of six months I was put through hell and turned into one of the most horrible persons you could ever imagine coming across. Purely through harassment, stress, victimization, you name it, I had it."

Sgt. Karl Wolfe: US Air Force

"I didn't want to look at it any longer than that, because I felt that my life was in jeopardy. Do you understand what I'm saying? I would have loved to have looked at it longer, I would have loved to have had copies. I would love to have said more about it, discussed it more, but I knew I couldn't. I knew the young fellow who was sharing this was really, really overstepping his bounds at that point.

"I felt that he just needed somebody to talk to. He hadn't discussed it, couldn't discuss it, and he wasn't doing it for any ulterior motive other than the fact that I think he had the weight of this thing on him and it was distressing to him...

"I knew that I couldn't go anyplace for at least five years without telling the State Department where I was, after I left the military. Any time I traveled I had to notify and get permission,

even in the United States. They had to know where I was all the time. As an example, if we went to Vietnam there was always someone there with us, with a gun, ready to annihilate us basically if we should fall into the hands of the enemy. They didn't want the enemy to get us; we would be killed instead.

"So we knew we were operating under these sort of conditions. Your life was in jeopardy all the time, should you fall into the wrong hands. So we were aware of that. I was told when I left that I would be investigated on a regular basis to make sure that I wasn't involved in any peculiar activities that didn't suit the government's needs."

Ms. Donna Hare: NASA Employee

"There was a point in time when I had some people come out and tell me I shouldn't talk about this. They didn't threaten to kill me but I got the message I shouldn't talk about it. But I'd already talked about it so much it didn't really matter anymore. And like I said at the [1997] congressional briefings, I really started feeling like this topic was like sex. You know, everybody knew about it but nobody talked about in mixed company. I'm waiting to tell more whenever there's a congressional hearing where I could be protected. I trust Dr. Greer. I feel he's done everything he said he would do as far as protection, secrecy of what I give him, for now. I want it to come out when it's necessary and proper and can do some good. I don't want people going around that are trying to get rid of these people or hurting them or challenging them or making them so frightened they move away-like this one particular man I know of who has just disappeared off the face of the Earth. This one man, he has disappeared. I just don't want that."

Mr. John Maynard: DIA Official

"Of corporations involved in this matter, Atlantic Research Corporation is one of the big ones. So it's not very often heard about. It's an insider beltway bandit, if you want to call it that very low profile, mostly has all of its work done within Intelligence. TRW, Johnson Controls, Honeywell: All of them at some point or another became involved with the Intelligence field. Certain works, activities were contracted out to them. Atlantic Research was one of them — way back. These are entities that were created out of people in the Pentagon to become a 'beltway bandit' — received projects, grants, and monies to do certain projects that were so highly classified and compartmentalized that you know only about four people would know what was going on. So it was that tightly controlled."

Dr. Robert Wood: McDonnell Douglas Aerospace Engineer

"As you may know, when you get cleared for one of these classified programs you wear your special badge and you know you can talk to anybody who's in the room with a lot of candor and it feels like that's ones psychological group--there's a lot of camaraderie that builds up. And you had access to special libraries. So one of the things that we could do is go up to the library that the Air Force ran and sort of paw through top-secret material. Since I was interested in UFOs, when I had some usual business to take care of, I'd also look in their library to see what they had on UFOs. And for about a year I was getting quite a few hits on the subject about various reports. Then all of a sudden, the whole subject material vanished. The entire classification for the subject just vanished. The librarian in our group that I was working with said he'd been in that vault for twenty years and knew exactly how things were normally done. He said, this is remarkable. He said, I've never seen that before, you just don't have a whole subject vanish out from under you. He said, I think there is something there that you hit on...

"In the meantime, there was one other thing that came about as a result of my association with Jim McDonald. I liked the guy; he was really an energetic physicist and wouldn't let any grass grow under his feet. When he got a case he would dig his teeth into it and present an overwhelmingly convincing story to professional societies. He would talk to the American

Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics and the American Physical Society, and I happened to be members of both. So whenever he was in town I would pick him up, escort him, made sure he felt welcome.

"So once when I was traveling through Tucson, where he lived, I stopped- I had a two-hour layover to catch an airplane — and he came out to the airport to have a beer with me. I said, 'What's new, Jim?' He said, 'I think I've got it.' I said, 'What do you think you got?' He said, 'I think I got the answer.' I said, 'What is it?' He said, 'I can't tell you yet. I have got to be sure.' It was six weeks after that that he tried to shoot himself. A couple months after that he finally died.

"Knowing what I think I now suspect about the skills of our counterintelligence people, I think we had the capacity to convince him to do it himself. I think that's what happened...

"Clearly in order to have effective control of this subject, you have to control it at all levels and the most obvious level is the media. So you have to look at all the kinds of media there are, the movies, the magazines, and of course in the early days that's all it is, newspapers and movies and magazines. Now we have the Internet and video and all those other sorts of things. But as the technology has blossomed in these other avenues, the people worrying about this control have also just moved into those avenues right along with them. So every time a new avenue comes up they have a new counterpoint."

Glen Dennis: NM UFO Crash Witness

"One of the MPs took me aside and he just said, look mister, you don't go and start any. Nothing happened down here. And he said, if you do you know there'd be real serious problems. The way my character was at that time, I just said, I'm a civilian and you can go to hell. And that's when he said, you may be the one going to hell. He said, somebody would be picking my bones out of the sand if I talked."

Sgt. Leonard Pretko: US Air Force

"In the military they do ridicule you and I was ridiculed a few times about these UFO events. I was told that I would never make Master Sergeant if I brought this crap up again. My superior said, 'If you keep this crap up you will never make Master Sergeant. You will get orders for Tech but you will never make Master Sergeant. They will force you out of the military.'"

Dr. Roberto Pinotti: Italian UFO expert

"Probably there are, in every part of the world, invisible links with a definite invisible college that is keeping this secret. They are dealing with this subject from the standpoint of research secretly in order to have gains and technologies to be applied in a various ways. The UFO problem is not only a scientific problem, it is also an intelligence problem.

"This is the second important face of the UFO reality. When we begin to understand this we may understand a lot of things, because all this has to do with power. Power everywhere, in every country, with every government, with every situation."

Dr. Paul Czysz: McDonnell Douglas Career Engineer

"The black budget world is like trying to describe Casper the friendly ghost. You might see a cartoon of him but you don't know how big he is, you don't know where his funding comes from, you don't know how many there are because of the compartmentalization and the oath

that people have to take. I know people today that worked on one of the things that I worked on, and if you asked them about it — even if it is being discussed on the Internet — they would say no, I have no idea what you're talking about. They're in their seventies now, but they still absolutely would never admit that they even know what you're talking about. You have no idea, but it's probably larger than you think."

Astronaut Edgar Mitchell

"But it has been the subject of disinformation in order to deflect attention and to create confusion so the truth doesn't come out. Disinformation is simply another method of stonewalling. And that's been used consistently for the last 50 years or so: Weather balloons over Roswell as opposed to a crashed craft of some sort. That is disinformation. We've seen that for 50 years. And it's the best way to hide something...

"Whatever activity is going on, to the extent that it is a clandestine group, a quasi-Government group, a quasi-private group, it is without any type, as far as I can tell, of high level Government oversight. And that is a great concern."

John Callahan: FAA Head of Accidents and Investigations

"...When they got done, they actually swore all these other guys in there that this never took place. We never had this meeting. And this was never recorded...

"This was one of the guys from the CIA. Okay? That they were never there and this never happened. At the time I said, well I don't know why you are saying this. I mean, there was something there and if it's not the stealth bomber, then you know, it's a UFO. And if it's a UFO, why wouldn't you want the people to know? Oh, they got all excited over that. You don't even want to say those words. He said this is the first time they ever had 30 minutes of radar data on a UFO. And they are all itching to get their hands onto the data and to find out what it is and what really goes on. He says if they come out and told the American public that they ran into a UFO out there, it would cause panic across the country. So therefore, you can't talk about it. And they are going to take all this data...

"Well when they read the reports that came through the FAA decided it had to protect themselves — you can't say you saw a target, even though this is what he said. So they made him change his report to say 'position symbols,' which makes it sound like it wasn't really a target. Well if it's not a target then a lot of the other position symbols that we are separating [on radar] aren't targets either. And when I read that, I thought oh, there is something fishy here, that somebody is worried about something or other and they are trying to cover up.

"When the CIA told us that this never happened and we never had this meeting, I believe it was because they didn't want the public to know that this was going on. Normally we would put out some type of a news release that such and such happened...

"Well, I've been involved in a lot of cover-ups with the FAA. When we gave the presentation to the Reagan staff I was behind the group that was there. And when they were speaking to the people in the room, they had all those people swear that this never happened. But they never had *me* swear it never happened. And it always bothered me that we have these things going on and when you see something or you hear something on the radio or TV, the news, that it's put down as it's not there. I have a hard time saying nothing...

Michael Smith: US Air Force Radar Controller

"NORAD [North American Air Defense Command] knows about it. They had called NORAD. The senior NCO pulled me to the side and said that NORAD knows about it — that's the only people we notify. We don't talk about this. We don't tell anybody about this. The people that

know know. We just watch, see what happens, and that's it. That's our job. I insisted there has to be a report filed or something filed, you know? And he said that there is a report that you can file – it's about an inch thick, and the first two pages are about the sighting. The rest of it is basically a psychological profile of you, your family, your bloodlines, everything.

"When the Air Force goes through it, they can discredit you completely by either saying that [you were] on drugs, or your mother was a communist, or anything to discredit you. You'd never get a promotion, and [you'd] spend the next three and one-half years up at the North Pole, living in a tent, checking the weather balloons. You know – no hope for promotion. So, the message was pretty loud and clear: You just shut-up and don't say anything to anybody...

"Another experience I had happened on third shift. I was on the radar, and NORAD called me and informed me that there was a UFO coming up the California coast and it would be in my area pretty soon.

"I said what do you want me to do? And they said, 'Nothing, just watch it, don't write it down.' We have a log book in which we are supposed to keep track of anything out of the ordinary. But they said, 'Don't log it or anything, just watch it. We are just letting you know – heads up.' NORAD was well aware, obviously, that these UFOs were around, and the action of the people when I first saw the UFO on radar was as if it happens quite often."

"The government, they cover up. They don't want anybody talking about it. But this is such remarkable technology. These people come from who knows where. I would think you'd want everybody to know...

"On a personal note, after the first event happened in Oregon, I came home on leave and told my Dad about it. He was red, white, and blue through and through – an old WWII hero and all that, and very patriotic. I was explaining to him about these UFOs that we routinely see out there, and he said, 'No, the Government says that there are no UFOs.' I'm saying, Dad, I've seen these on radar with my own eyes. And he says, come on, the Government would never lie to him. You know? But here's his son; I would never lie to him.

"So, he just didn't know what to do. It wasn't until years later, until after Watergate, that he said, 'Hey, sit down and tell me about this. The Government is lying to me about a little thing like Watergate, so obviously they are out lying about something big.'

"It's a Government cover-up that doesn't need to be here any more. There is no more Cold War. I believe the same thing Dr. Greer does, that the technology they have could enable us to stop burning our fossil fuels and stop the damage to the ozone, etc. These people have technologies – they must have something. And the Government knows about it. They have these aliens, they have these spacecraft, they have this technology, all this. There's a lot of back-engineered technology, that's pretty obvious. Who are they to cover this up when other Governments are coming forward, admitting, and showing their files – why isn't our Government?"

Franklin Carter: US Navy Radar Technician

"They didn't want anybody to know anything about what we were seeing. And I think that started the cover-up. And then it got out of hand.

"But I know that the only people that they are keeping it secret from today are the Americans. Everybody else knows about it and accepts it. And all of the other Governments in the world except England and the U.S. primarily, are accepting it.

"It's very irritating to me personally, to see that go on."

Neil Daniels: United Airlines Pilot

"In the past pilots that had seen things and had talked about it were let go. Some were released from their flying and treated as nutcases and things like that. So that was the last I said of it for many, many years."

Lt. Frederick Fox: US Navy Pilot

"There is a publication called JANAP 146 E that had a section that says you will not reveal any information regarding the UFO phenomenon under penalty of $10,000.00 fine and ten years in jail. So they were quite adamant that whatever experiences you had you were not to go public with it without their permission...

"The subject never came up with Air Traffic Control. In any event I would never have opened my mouth. There was a Captain, Pete Killian, who was written about in some of the UFO books. He was a Captain with American Airlines back in the '50's that evidently had a sighting and testified before the Senate committees. And then there was another captain that actually took a photograph of a UFO off his wings. And of course they were subject to ridicule. I didn't want to go that direction. So, I never reported anything to FAA or the military. A lot of pilots just did not want to get involved in this because of peer pressure and ridicule. So the secret has been kept...

"I have a very personal friend that was a B-24 pilot during W.W.II that got into [the] O.S.S. And he was one of the first people into Japan after the atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima, Nagasaki. He ended up on Project Bluebook, Section 13, which I believe was the top-secret portion of that investigation. At the time he was a captain in the Air Force. He's in his late '70's now and he is still being carried on active duty as a captain. I don't know if he's being paid but if he's on active duty he should be a three star general with time and rank and he should be paid. And the whole reason that they have kept him on active duty is to keep his national security oath active because of what he knows. There are certain things that he will not talk to me about because of that security oath even though I had a top secret clearance with the Navy and we are both very interested in the same thing.

"For whatever reason the Government, or those agencies of Government, deem necessary to protect their agendas, which obviously now, aren't our agendas. I think it is time for us to act, to end this charade. And to take whatever steps are necessary to insure that the human race evolves properly and enjoys the fruits of that evolution."

Captain Robert Salas: US Air Force, SAC Launch Controller

"I wrote up a report about this incident; it was in my log and I turned it in. When we got to the base we had to report to our squadron commander right away. And in that room with my squadron commander was a fellow from AFOSI (we had an Air Force Office of Special Investigations on the base). He was there in the office with the commander. He asked for my logs and he wanted a quick briefing although it seemed to me he knew pretty much what had happened already. But we gave him a quick briefing and then he asked us both to sign a non-disclosure agreement saying this was classified information — we were not to release this to anybody, and that was it. We couldn't talk; he told us we could not talk about this to anyone, including any of the other crews, our spouses, our family, even amongst each other...

"Bob Kominski headed up the organization to look at all aspects of these [UFO related ICBM] shutdowns. Kominski relates to me in writing that at some point he was told by his boss that the Air Force said, 'Stop the investigation; do no more on this and in addition do not write a final report.' Again, this is very unusual especially in light of the fact that CINC-SAC headquarters was stating that this was of extreme importance to find out exactly what happened here. And yet, the head of the investigative team was told during the investigation to stop the investigation and not write a final report."

Prof. Robert Jacobs: US Air Force

"After an article [came out about the incident], the shit hit the fan! I started being harassed at work. I started getting odd telephone calls that would come during the day. At night, at my house I would get telephone calls — all night long sometimes — 3:00 in the morning, 4:00 in the morning, midnight, 10:00. People would call and start screaming at me. You are going down motherfucker! You are going down motherfucker! And that's all they would say. And they'd keep screaming that until I finally hung up the phone.

"One night somebody blew up my mail box by putting a big load of skyrockets in it. The mailbox went up in flames. And that night at 1:00 in the morning the phone rang. I picked it up and somebody said, skyrockets in your box at night, oh what a beautiful sight, motherfucker!

"And things like that have happened on and off since 1982...

"I believe this nutty fringe around UFOs is part of a concerted effort to keep serious study of it down. Anytime anybody tries to study this subject seriously, we are subject to ridicule. I'm a full professor at a relatively major university. And I'm certain that my colleagues at the university laugh at me and hoot and holler behind my back when they hear that I have an interest in studying unidentified flying objects — and that's just one of the things that we have to live with...

"What happened to the film is an interesting story in itself as Major Mansmann related to me and other people. Some time after I had gone, the guys in civilian clothes — I thought it was the CIA but he said no, it wasn't the CIA, it was somebody else- took the film and they spooled off the part that had the UFO on it and they took a pair of scissors and cut it off. They put that on a separate reel. They put it in their briefcase. They handed Major Mansmann back the rest of the film and said here, I don't need to remind you Major of the severity of a security breach; we'll consider this incident closed. And they walked off with the film. Major Mansmann never saw it again"

Harry Allen Jordan: US Navy

"A Lieutenant Commander whom I didn't know very well came over and he asked, you know, 'What's up Jordan? What have you got in your log?' And he says, 'You don't need to put that in there.' Now to me that was highly irregular, highly irregular to say that particularly on a ship's logs. I did have the contact logged in there. And I started writing in UFO."

James Kopf: US Navy Crypto Communications

"A few days later the Commanding Officer and the Executive Officer came on the closed circuit television system that we had on board. It was the only way that they could address the crew of 5,000. He [the Commanding Officer] looked at the camera — and I will never forget this — and he said, 'I would like to remind the crew that certain events that take place on board a major naval combative vessel are considered classified and should not be discussed with anyone without a need to know.' And that was all he said."

** TO BE GIVEN PRIORITY AT ALL TIMES **

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

- **DEADLINES:** It is important that your draft is with us by the date shown at the top of this notice, as Ministers must send a written reply within **15 WORKING DAYS OF RECEIPT**. The Department's performance is reported each year to Parliament. If you cannot meet the deadline, you should therefore provide an interim reply that apologises for the delay, sets out the action being taken to answer the letter, and advises when a substantive reply can be expected. You should aim to provide a substantive draft reply within a further 8 working days. Interim replies should be used infrequently, as every effort must be made to reply to Ministerial Correspondence promptly.

- **Action at official level on the same case should be held until the Minister has sent a full reply. Please discuss any questions about the substance of the drafts, or other policy aspects, direct with the relevant Private Office.**

- **LAYOUT:** Draft replies should be double-spaced. Always include the full reference number at the top left of the draft. Put the MP's full title at the bottom left of the first page. Only add the address if the letter is from the Minister direct to a constituent.

- **MINISTER RESPONDING:** SofS will usually reply to Cabinet colleagues, Privy Councillors (the Rt Hon) and Opposition Defence spokesmen, unless they have written direct to a junior Minister. Correspondence from other MPs, MEPs and Peers will generally be handled by a junior Minister with relevant policy responsibility.

- **OPENING AND CLOSING:** All Ministers prefer to start: *"Thank you for your letter of ...(MP's ref if given) on behalf of/enclosing one from your constituent, Mr ... of ... about ..."*
  If a Minister is replying on behalf of another, start: *"Thank you for your letter of ... to Geoff Hoon/Adam Ingram/Willy Bach/Lewis Moonie on behalf etc"*
  For Mr Ingram, add: *"I am replying in view of my responsibility for ..."*
  For Lord Bach, add: *"I am responding because of my responsibility for this issue." (or, in the case of letters from fellow Peers: "I have been asked to respond.")*
  For Dr Moonie, add: *"I am replying as this matter falls within my area of responsibility."*
  Choose an appropriate ending (except for Dr Moonie, who will add his own) - such as:
  "I hope this is helpful"; "I hope this explains the position/situation"; "I am sorry I cannot be more helpful"; or "I am sorry to send what I know will be a disappointing reply".

- **OPEN GOVERNMENT:** Replies **MUST** be drafted in accordance with the Code of Practice on Access to Government Information. It is set out in **DCI 223/99**. If you are recommending to a Minister that some or all information is withheld, the answer must specify the law or exemption in the Code under which it is being withheld - eg "I am withholding the information requested under exemption 1 of Part II of the *Code of Practice on Access to Government Information.*" It is **NOT** acceptable to rely on past practice. Further information is available from DG Info on Section 40

- **INTERIM REPLIES:** If it is obvious on receipt of a piece of Ministerial Correspondence that you cannot reply in full, an interim **MUST** be provided by the deadline stated. **REMEMBER:** an interim reply covering the majority of the issues raised could help our performance statistics.

** TO BE GIVEN PRIORITY AT ALL TIMES **

** TO BE GIVEN PRIORITY AT ALL TIMES **

** TO BE GIVEN PRIORITY AT ALL TIMES **

INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

DISCLOSURE PROJECT

The Disclosure Project is a nonprofit research project working to fully disclose the facts about UFOs, extraterrestrial intelligence, and classified advanced energy and propulsion systems. The disclosure of the truth will have far-reaching implications for our society -- new technologies to end pollution and global warming, long-term solution to the energy crisis, and the beginning of an era of peaceful relations with other civilizations in space.

FOR INFORMATION
Taken off the Internet

Sup ret military,
gov the greatest
cov

THE CAMPAIGN FOR DISCLOSURE

On May 9, 2001, one of the largest and most successful press conferences in the recent history of the National Press Club was completed. More than 20 military, government and corporate witnesses to unambiguous UFO and extraterrestrial events stated their testimony before millions. This kickoff event for the Campaign for Disclosure was carried by major media world-wide. The event was live webcast, and at 9 a.m. over 250,000 people were waiting on-line for the press conference to begin. The next biggest webcast event at the National Press Club was less than 25,000. While the first hour of the conference was "electronically jammed" according to the president of ConnectLive, the company that webcasts all National Press Club events, eventually thousands of people around the world were able to watch the event on-line. It may still be viewed by going to ConnectLive.com.

More information...

UPDATES

THE DISCLOSURE PROJECT
BACKGROUND

by Steven M. Greer, M.D.

[from the Executive Summary, Important Editorial Notice]

Beginning in 1993, I started an effort that was designed to identify firsthand military and government witnesses to UFO events and projects, as well as other evidence to be used in a public disclosure. From 1993, we spent considerable time and resources briefing the Clinton Administration, including CIA Director James Woolsey, senior military officials at the Pentagon, and select members of Congress, among others. In April of 1997, more than a dozen such government and military witnesses were assembled in Washington DC for briefings with Congressmen, Pentagon officials and others. There, we specifically requested open Congressional Hearings on the subject. None were forthcoming.

In 1998, we set out to "privatize" the disclosure process by raising the funds to videotape, edit, and organize over 100 military and government witnesses to UFO events and projects. We had estimated that between $2 million and $4 million would be needed to do this on a worldwide basis. By August of 2000 only about 5% of this amount had been raised but we decided to proceed since further delay was deemed imprudent given the serious issues involved here. So beginning in August we began creating the *Witness Archive Project* and we set about the task of traveling all over the world to interview these witnesses in broadcast quality digital video format. Due to the severe limitation of funds, this effort was predominantly prepared by myself and a few other volunteers roughly from August 2000 through December 2000.

Beginning in late December 2000, I began editing over 120 hours of raw digital video testimony at home. I should note that I am a medical doctor and not an editor. Nevertheless, from late December 2000 until late February 2001 the 120 hours were reduced first to 33 hours of select testimony and then 18 hours of super-select testimony. The 33 hours of select testimony were dubbed to audiotape and transcribed resulting in approximately 1200 pages of testimony transcripts. In March and early April, 2001 I edited these transcripts into a readable form, which appear herein.

I must emphasize that this has been done under the most severe time and funding constraints, working 7 days a week and mostly 18 hours a day. And I thought the Emergency Department was tough!

I share this only so the reader will understand that these transcripts and other materials are very likely to contain errors. These include likely errors in proper names arising from the phonetic spelling of such names directly from transcribed audio tapes of testimony. I apologize in advance for these.

The transcripts (that appear in the Briefing Document) have only been altered to correct for a) length and b) grammar and readability. I have assiduously avoided changing the meaning of testimony at all times. Statements in brackets [ ] are for clarification. Statements in *italics* and brackets [ ] reflect commentary on my part and are followed by my initials, SG.

These materials are, as you can now discern, only the tip of the iceberg of what we have recorded on digital videotape. That is, from over 120 hours of testimony by over 100 witnesses we transcribed only 33 hours and then further edited materials down to a fraction of that amount. Moreover, the full archive represents the testimony of only 100 witnesses of the more than 400 identified to date. The edited testimony will be appearing in book form. A portion of it appears in The Disclosure Project Briefing Document and only small excerpts and summary bios of testimony appear in this Executive summary. We hope in the future to secure funding for a 5-6 part broadcast quality video documentary series to be made from the videotaped testimony we have as the impact of hearing and seeing these witnesses speak is very moving.

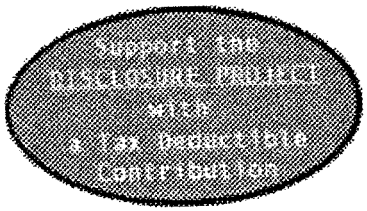
As read this testimony remember that it is indeed only the beginning. The rest is up to you: Call and demand that Congress and the President and the leaders of other countries hold hearings into this subject without delay. These witnesses welcome a subpoena so that they may officially testify under oath to what they have experienced and said here. Indeed, the most revealing testimony waits to be seen since the deepest sources are refusing to come forward until protected through official Congressional hearings.

This then brings me to my last point: The witnesses who have given testimony to date are extraordinarily brave men and women - heroes in my eyes - who have taken great personal risks in coming forward. Some have been threatened and intimidated. All are risking the ever-present ridicule that attends this subject. Not a single one of them has been paid for his or her testimony: It has been given freely and without reservation for the good of humanity. I wish to personally thank them here and extend to them my personal, highest respect and gratitude.

Please, I implore you not to let this effort and their sacrifice be in vain. Help us place this matter in front of the public, the media, and our elected representatives so that the full truth may be disclosed, so that those Earth-saving technologies now classified may be released, and so humanity may enter a new chapter in its evolution as one of many people in the cosmos.

This summary is focusing on the testimony of important first-hand witnesses. We have thousands of government documents, hundreds of photographs, trace landing cases and more, but it is impossible to include them in a summary of this length. These materials will be made available for any serious scientific or Congressional inquiry.

Steven M. Greer, M.D.
April 2001

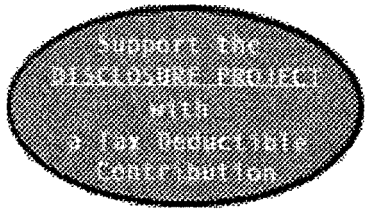


The DISCLOSURE PROJECT Press Conference

About Disclosure Project | **The Campaign For Disclosure**
Events | **Support the Disclosure Project** | **Press Coverage**
Updates | **Video Gallery** | **Contact Us**
Executive Summary
Home Page

TOP

Use Translator to translate into YOUR language



THE DISCLOSURE PROJECT CALLS ON U.S. CONGRESS FOR HEARINGS & LEGISLATION

- To hold open, secrecy-free hearings on the UFO / Extraterrestrial presence on and around Earth.
- To hold open hearings on advanced energy and propulsion systems that, when publicly released, will provide solutions to global environmental challenges.
- To enact legislation which will ban all space-based weapons.
- To enact comprehensive legislation to research, develop and explore space peacefully and cooperatively with all cultures on Earth and in space.

Project Description...

MILITARY, GOVERNMENT WITNESSES TO PROVIDE TESTIMONY ON UFO/EXTRATERRESTRIAL PRESENCE - CONGRESSIONAL LEGISLATION SOUGHT

On Wednesday, May 9th, over twenty military, intelligence, government, corporate and scientific witnesses will come forward at the National Press Club in Washington, DC to establish the reality of UFOs or extraterrestrial vehicles, extraterrestrial life forms, and resulting advanced energy and propulsion technologies. The weight of this first-hand testimony, along with supporting government documentation and other evidence, will establish without any doubt the reality of these phenomena, according to Dr. Steven M. Greer, director of the Disclosure Project which is hosting the event. More Information...

"There exists a shadowy Government with its own Air Force, its own Navy, its own fundraising mechanism, and the ability to pursue its own ideas of national interest, free from all checks and balances, and free from the law itself."

- Senator Daniel K. Inouye

"In the counsels of Government, we must guard against the acquisition of unwarranted influence, whether sought or unsought, by the Military Industrial Complex. The potential for the disastrous rise of misplaced power exists, and will persist. We must never let the weight of this combination endanger our liberties or democratic processes. We should take nothing for granted. Only an alert and knowledgeable citizenry can compel the proper meshing of the huge industrial and military machinery of defense with our peaceful methods and goals so that security and liberty may prosper together."

- President Eisenhower - January 1961

President Eisenhower's historic farewell address to the Nation

The DISCLOSURE PROJECT Press Conference

May 9th,2001

http://www.connectlive.com/events/disclosureproject

To view this event you need the free RealMedia player software (new G2 version) installed on your computer.

The National Press Club Website

This Web Site is under construction and was last updated on June 4, 2001.

There have been 1340455 visits to this site since May 1, 2001.

We apologize if there are any difficulties at this moment and welcome any suggestions to webmaster@disclosureproject.org

---

About Disclosure Project | **The Campaign For Disclosure**
Events | **Support the Disclosure Project** | **Press Coverage**
Updates | **Video Gallery** | **Contact Us**
Executive Summary

TOP

Use Translator to translate into YOUR language

not mentally fit if I see a UFO. This criticism and this ridicule have done more to keep the story coming out than almost anything else."

Nick Pope: British Ministry of Defense Official

"I believe that governments and the military, and indeed private researchers, politicians- whoever- should place everything in the public domain on this issue. Governments can't, I think, have it both ways. You cannot say on the one hand, as the party line often goes, that UFOs are of no defense significance, and then on the other keep back some of the data.

"You simply can't do that. You have to have it one way or the other. And if, as governments consistently say when the politicians probe on this issue or when the media inquire, that there's really nothing to worry about, then okay, let's see all the data."

Larry Warren: US Air Force, Security Officer

"We were gone over with a Geiger counter and there was one return on one of the guys, and something was taken out of his pocket. This guy was removed very quickly. And, I will swear on my life, I never saw him again. He was removed. This happened to a lot of people. It led to a suicide that the Air Force is responsible for. This is a real person with a real name...

"We were brought in and there were sheets on top of the law enforcement desk. There were about 10 of us. And there were one, two, three, four, five, six, seven stacks of documents, pre-typed. One was a pre-typed statement, all generic, of what we saw — which was not what we saw. It said we were off-duty and saw only unknown lights flipping amongst the trees. I clearly remember that. I said, what if we don't sign this, Major Zigler? And, he says, you have no choice. And, he says, I have no choice but to ask you to do this...

"Two people came up behind each of us, and I do remember someone heading toward him, and I heard the sound of what sounded like an aerosol. And, I went black. My nose ran profusely and my chest got tight. I, obviously, was not getting into the car properly, so I was beaten, literally hit in the ribs and pushed... Anyway, I have 20 minutes of recall and I'm gone for a day. And, it's established with other people. People said I was on emergency leave or on leave or off the base. But I was just under the base. And, there were other personnel down there.

"...I had marks, by the way, from an IV, or something, when I came out of there. I had the bruise and I had a bandage. I will admit that. That's for real. I had it. I'm terrified to know or think of what might have happened...

"The only reason I have my records is because I was advised to steal some of them, by an Air Force Colonel, because he said they would vaporize you. He said, they are going to fireproof you. I was looked at, almost like a Frank Serpico kind of guy. I was not a team player because I was talking to everyone...

"Unfortunately, my friend, Alabama, went AWOL trying to get back home. At O'Hare Airport, he was captured by the FBI and returned to duty immediately. All he wanted to do was go home. But he was put back on flight duty. I was riding with the senior master Sergeant on vehicle patrol, just totally depressed with everything, when Alabama called in — this is a real person — and said he was going to kill himself if he couldn't go home. And, this guy turned the pick-up truck quick and was heading toward the post. He said, you stay on the goddamn radio... I saw all the units across the flight line responding and everything. Anyway, Alabama had a short M16, and he put it in his mouth, and took the top of his head off. This was the first time I ever saw death, violent death, at 19. We were as different as night and day, me and this kid. You know, he was the south, I was the north. He was very religious. I respect that, but we had nothing in common. He was a nice guy. And, they did not do anything to help us..."

Sgt. Clifford Stone: US Army

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Over 100 top military & government witnesses give testimony about UFO & Extraterrestrial presences!!

DISCLOSURE PROJECT

Home Page

About Disclosure Project
- Project Background
- Project Description
- Briefing Points
- Implications
- Press Releases

The Campaign For Disclosure
- Contact Members of Congress
- Write a Letter to your Representative
- Contact Your Local Media Outlets
- Contact Mainstream News Reporters
- Inform VIP/Opinion Leader
- Register for Disclosure Symposium
- Contact Us if you are a Military Witness

Events
- Campaign Tour, 2001

Support the Disclosure Project
- Make a Tax Deductible Contribution
- Order New "Disclosure" Book
- Order Briefing Document CD-Rom
- Order Witness Testimony Video
- Order National Press Club Conference Video

Press Coverage
- Local Coverage
- National Coverage
- International Coverage
- Media Interviews

Updates
- Subscription
- May 25, 2001
- May 24, 2001
- May 11, 2001
- Feb. 11, 2001

- Nov. 17, 2000
- ine 12, 2000

Video Gallery

Contact Us
- Media Contact
- Political Contact
- Witness Contact
- Webmaster Contact
- Inquires Contact

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Download the Executive Summary

Important Editorial Notice

Implications
- A Brief Summary
- Environment
- Society and World Poverty
- World Peace and Security

Understanding UFO Secrecy
- Introduction
- In The Beginning
- A Current Estimate
- The Webs We Weave

Testimony that Explains the Secrecy
- Brigadier General Stephen Lovekin: Army National Guard Reserves
- Merle Shane McDow: US Navy Atlantic Command
- Lt. Col. Charles Brown: US Air Force (Ret.)
- "Dr. B"
- Lance Corporal Jonathan Weygandt: US Marine Corps
- Maj. George A. Filer, III: US Air Force (Ret.)
- Nick Pope: British Ministry of Defense Official
- Larry Warren: US Air Force, Security Officer
- Sgt. Clifford Stone: US Army
- Master Sgt. Dan Morris: US Air Force, NRO Operative
- A.H.: Boeing Aerospace Employee
- Officer Alan Godfrey: British Police
- Sgt. Karl Wolf: US Air Force
- Ms. Donna Hare: NASA Employee
- Mr. John Maynard: DIA Official
- Dr. Robert Wood: McDonnell Douglas Aerospace Engineer
- Glen Dennis: NM UFO Crash Witness
- Sgt. Leonard Pretko: US Air Force
- Dr. Roberto Pinotti: Italian UFO expert
- Dr. Paul Czysz: McDonnell Douglas Career Engineer
- Astronaut Edgar Mitchell
- John Callahan: FAA Head of Accidents and Investigations

- Michael Smith: US Air Force Radar Controller
  ranklin Carter: US Navy Radar Technician
- Neil Daniels: United Airlines Pilot
- Lt. Frederick Fox: US Navy Pilot
- Captain Robert Salas: US Air Force, SAC Launch Controller
- Prof. Robert Jacobs: US Air Force
- Harry Allen Jordan: US Navy
- James Kopf: US Navy Crypto Communications

Witness Testimony

Overview

- Astronaut Edgar Mitchell: May 1998
- Monsignor Corrado Balducci: September 2000

Radar and Pilot Cases

- Introduction
- FAA Division Chief John Callahan
- Sgt. Chuck Sorrells: US Air Force (ret.)
- Mr. Michael W. Smith: US Air Force
- Commander Graham Bethume: US Navy (ret.)
- Mr. Enrique Colbeck: Senior Air Traffic Controller,
- Dr. Richard Haines
- Mr. Franklin Carter: US Navy
- Neil Daniels: Airline Pilot
- Sgt. Robert Blazina (ret.)
- Lieutenant Frederick Marshall Fox: US Navy (ret.)
- Captain Massimo Poggi
- Lt. Bob Walker: US Army
- Mr. Don Bockelman: US Army

SAC/Nuke

- Introduction
- Captain Robert Salas
- Professor Robert Jacobs: Lt. US Air Force
- Lt. Colonel Dwynne Arneson: US Air Force (ret.)
- Colonel Ross Dedrickson: US Air Force/AEC (ret.)
- Harry Allen Jordan: US Navy
- Mr. James Kopf: US Navy/ National Security Agency
- Lieutenant Colonel Joe Wojtecki, US Air Force
- Staff Sergeant Stoney Campbell: US Air Force

Government Insiders/ NASA/ Deep Insiders

- Astronaut Gordon Cooper
- Brigadier General Steven Lovekin, Esq.: Army National Guard Reserve
- Merle Shane McDow: US Navy Atlantic Command
- Lieutenant Colonel Charles Brown: US Air Force (ret.), October
- Dr. Carol Rosin
- "Dr. B."
- Lance Corporal John Weygandt: U.S. Marine Corps,
- Major A. Filer III: U.S. Air Force
- Mr. Nick Pope: British Ministry Of Defense
- Admiral Lord Hill-Norton: Five-Star Admiral, Former Head of the British Ministry of Defense
- Security Officer Larry Warren: United States Air Force,
- Captain Lori Rehfeldt
- Sergeant Clifford Stone: United States Army

- Major-General Vasily Alexeyev: Russian Air Force,
  Master Sergeant Dan Morris: US Air Force/NRO Operative (ret.)
- Mr. Don Phillips: Lockheed Skunkworks, USAF, and CIA Contractor
- Captain Bill Uhouse: US Marine Corps (ret.)
- Lieutenant Colonel John Williams: US Air Force (ret.)
- Mr. Don Johnson
- A.H.: Boeing Aerospace, December 2000
- British Police Officer Alan Godfrey
- Mr. Gordon Creighton: Former British Foreign Service Official
- Sergeant Karl Wolfe: US Air Force
- Donna Hare: Former NASA Employee
- Mr. John Maynard: Defense Intelligence Agency (ret.)
- Mr. Harland Bentley: US Army
- Dr. Robert Wood: McDonnell Douglas Aerospace Engineer,
- Dr. Alfred Webre: Senior Policy Analyst Stanford Research Institute
- Denise McKenzie: Former SAIC employee
- Mr. Paul H. Utz
- Colonel Phillip J. Corso, Sr.: US Army (ret.)
- Mr. Glen Dennis
- Lieutenant Walter Haut: US Navy
- Buck Sergeant Leonard Pretko: US Air Force
- Mr. Dan Willis: US Navy
- Dr. Roberto Pinotti

Technology/Science

- Introduction
- Mr. Mark McCandlish: US Air Force
- Professor Paul Czysz:
- Dr. Hal Puthoff
- David Hamilton: Department of Energy
- Lieutenant Colonel Thomas E. Bearden: US Army (ret)
- Dr. Eugene Mallove
- Dr. Paul La Violette
- Mr. Fred Threlfell: Royal Canadian Air Force
- Dr. Ted Lodder

Summary of Recommended Actions

- Press and Public Actions
- Congressional Actions
- Military Actions
- Scientific Community Actions
- Actions for the President of the United States

Acknowledgements

Home Page

TOP

DAS4A1(SEC)

From: PACS2
Sent: 22 June 2001 15:01
To: DAS4A1(SEC)
Subject: PE SS2724/01 - JOHN REDWOOD MP

Section 40

I attach a few lines to cover the issue of the "weaponisation" of space. As you are aware, there is a general misunderstanding of what military use actually means. It is often construed as "weaponisation" and vice versa! The subject is presently v. sensitive, so the lines are intentionally general and uncontentious.

Pse get back if you require any further info.

Section 40

PACS2

Section 40

Advice from PACS.

MILITARY USE OF SPACE

The United Kingdom's position on the military use of space is clear. The Outer Space Treaty places some important limitations on military activity in space, prohibiting the deployment of weapons of mass destruction and military activity on the moon and other celestial bodies. But we do not wish to see a general prohibition on the military use of space. For example, the 1998 Strategic Defence Review confirmed a continuing need for secure satellite communications for the armed forces. We recognise, however, there are issues that countries wish to discuss on space and we support the further consideration of Outer Space by the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva to identify whether there are substantive issues on which further work could be done.

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
OLD WAR OFFICE BUILDING
WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2EU

Telephone Section 40 (Direct Dialling)
020 7218 9000 (Switchboard)
Fax Section 40

MINISTER OF STATE FOR
DEFENCE PROCUREMENT

14/3

Section 40

CD given to Lord Bach 3/7/2001.

D/MIN(DP)/ V

For info. Do you think we should ask Lord Bach's office to let us know when he would like to listen to the CD?

Section 40

Min(DP)/Personal
asked 29/6

Dear Lord Hi

Thank you for your letter of 24 May to Baroness Symons enclosing a compact disc and some photographs of the events in Rendlesham Forest in 1980. I am replying as the new Minister for Defence Procurement and the Government's Defence Minister in the House of Lords.

I have only recently been appointed to this post and have yet to have the opportunity to listen to the recording. However, I intend to do so and to reply more fully as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

Admiral of the Fleet The Lord Hill-Norton GCB

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
DAS 3
26 JUN 2001
FILE

Private Office

INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

DAS4A1(SEC)

From: PARLIAMENTARY TYPIST2 on behalf of PARLIAMENTARY ENQUIRIES
To: DAS4A1(SEC)
Sent: 20 July 2001 10:47
Subject: Read: US 3108/2001

14/2

Your message

To: PARLIAMENTARY ENQUIRIES
Subject: US 3108/2001
Sent: 20/07/01 10:45

was read on 20/07/01 10:47.

LOOSE MINUTE

D/DAS/64/4

20 July 2001

Ministerial Correspondence Unit
(through DAS Section 40 [redacted] 9/7

MINISTERIAL CORRESPONDENCE – US 3108/2001 –ANNE CAMPBELL MP

1. So far as we are aware, this constituent has not contacted the MOD before about 'UFOs' and he will not therefore be aware that the MOD's only interest in reported 'UFO' sightings is whether there is any evidence of a breach of UK airspace by hostile or unauthorised air activity. Unless there is such evidence, we do not attempt to identify exactly what was seen. We believe that rational explanations, such as aircraft lights or natural phenomena, could be found for these sightings if resources were diverted for this purpose, but it is not within the MOD's remit to provide an aerial identification service.

2. The statements Section 40 has made in his letter and the points on which he is asking his MP to take Parliamentary action, come indirectly from a group called "The Disclosure Project". This group, which is based in the USA, has since 1993 been gathering statements, video and tape recordings from people who claim to have seen or been involved with extraterrestrial lifeforms. Many of these 'witnesses' are said to be military or ex-military servicemen/women and government officials. The Disclosure Project have a website where they urge the US Congress and the leaders of other countries to hold hearings into this subject and to agree to the four points which Section 40 has also included in his letter to his MP. On 9 May 2001, the founder of the group, Mr Steven M Greer MD, held an on line press conference where according to the website 'more than 20 military, government and corporate witnesses to unambiguous UFO and extraterrestrial events stated their testimony before millions'. People are encouraged to contact their own Governments about this issue and Section 40 Section 40 is the third person to do so.

3. The issue of space-based weapons is presently very sensitive and the paragraph which deals with this has been written with the advice of PACS2. The lines are intentionally general and uncontentious.

4. I enclose a draft reply for US of S to send to Anne Campbell MP in response to her letter of 9 July, enclosing a letter from her constituent, Section 40

Section 40

DAS4a1
MB8245 Section 40

Drafted by: Section 40 DAS4a1
Authorised by: DAS AD4

US of S3108 July 2001

DRAFT REPLY TO ANNE CAMPBELL MP

Thank you for your letter of 9 July to Geoff Hoon enclosing one from your constituent, Section 40 of Section 40 Cambridge, who has raised a number of issues concerning 'Unidentified Flying Objects' and Extraterrestrial Lifeforms. I am replying as this matter falls within my area of responsibility.

First, it may be helpful if I explain that the Ministry of Defence examines any reports of sightings solely to establish whether what was seen might have some defence significance. My Department's only concern is to establish whether there is any evidence that the United Kingdom's airspace might have been compromised by hostile or unauthorised air activity. I should add that the integrity of the UK's airspace in peacetime is maintained through continuous surveillance of the UK Air Policing Area by the Royal Air Force, and the MOD remains vigilant for any potential threat. Unless there is evidence of a potential threat to the United Kingdom from an external military source, and to date no UFO reported to us has revealed such a threat, 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.

With regard to the four points for which Section 40 has asked for Parliamentary action, I will address these in the same order as they were given.

1. To hold open, comprehensive, secrecy-free hearings to take military/ agency witness testimony on events and evidence relating to an Extraterrestrial presence on and around Earth.

Anyone, whether they are a member of the public or in the Armed Forces is able to report a sighting to the Ministry of Defence and their report will be examined in light of our defence interest as detailed above. There is therefore no need to hold 'hearings to take witness testimony' on these events.

2. To hold open hearings on advanced energy and propulsion systems, relating to extraterrestrial phenomena that, when publicly released, will provide solutions to global environmental challenges. These technologies which may now be sequestered behind the National Security Act.

To date the Ministry of Defence knows of no evidence which substantiates the existence or otherwise of extraterrestrial lifeforms. We are therefore unable to comment on 'advanced energy and propulsion systems' which we do not know exist.

3. *To enact legislation which will ban all spaced-based weapons, and to enact and implement international treaty and legal standards prohibiting the weaponisation of space.*

The United Kingdom's position on the military use of space is clear. The Outer Space Treaty places some important limitations on military activity in space, prohibiting the deployment of weapons of mass destruction and military activity on the moon and other celestial bodies. But we do not wish to see a general prohibition on the military use of space. For example, the 1998 Strategic Defence Review confirmed a continuing need for secure satellite communications for the armed forces. We recognise, however, there are issues that countries wish to discuss on space and we support the further consideration of Outer Space by the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva to identify whether there are substantive issues on which further work could be done.

4. To enact comprehensive legislation to research, develop and explore space peacefully and co-operatively with all cultures on Earth and in space.

I have explained above our position on the military use of space. While we remain open minded, we know of no evidence to substantiate the existence of extraterrestrial lifeforms and therefore are unable to comment on our future co-operation with these alleged beings.

Finally, I must say that my Department has no expertise or role in respect of the existence or otherwise of extraterrestrial lifeforms. We are aware that many people have claimed to have experienced various phenomena and we remain open-minded.

I hope this explains the situation.

LEWIS MOONIE MP

Anne Campbell MP

** TO BE GIVEN PRIORITY AT ALL TIMES **

MINISTERIAL CORRESPONDENCE

FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION

IMPORTANT - YOU MUST READ THIS GUIDANCE

TO: DAS 4 (Sec) MC REF NUMBER: US3608/2001

Copy to:

MINISTER REPLYING: US OFD DRAFT REQUIRED BY: 25/07/2001

DATE: 16/7/2001 FROM: Section 40 Ministerial Correspondence Unit

Room 221WH TEL: Section 40 FAX: Section 40

YOU WILL BE HELD ACCOUNTABLE FOR THE DRAFT ANSWER AND ADVICE, WHICH MUST BE ACCURATE AND NOT MISLEADING IN ANY WAY.

ENSURE THE DEADLINE IS MET: THE DEPARTMENT IS COMMITTED TO ANSWERING 90% OF IT'S MINISTERIAL CORRESPONDENCE WITHIN 15 WORKING DAYS; OUR PERFORMANCE IN FY 2000/01 – WHILE MUCH IMPROVED – WAS SIGNIFICANTLY LOWER THAN THIS.

A NAMED OFFICIAL AT PAY BAND B2 LEVEL OR ABOVE MUST CLEAR ALL DRAFTS. OTHER GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS OR MOD DIVISIONS SHOULD BE CONSULTED AS NECESSARY.

IF YOU ARE AN AGENCY, THE MINISTER'S OFFICE HAS DIRECTED THAT THIS LETTER SHOULD RECEIVE A MINISTERIAL – NOT CHIEF EXECUTIVE – REPLY.

E-MAIL DRAFTS TO *'PARLIAMENTARY ENQUIRIES'*, NOT TO PE CLERKS OR PRIVATE OFFICES.
(Please ensure sensitivity of your email message is 'Normal'.)

IF THIS CORRESPONDENCE SHOULD BE DEALT WITH BY ANOTHER BRANCH, PLEASE PASS IT ON AND INFORM US IMMEDIATELY.

Number of pages sent by fax: 4

DAS 3
16 JUL 2001
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

** TO BE GIVEN PRIORITY AT ALL TIMES **

** TO BE GIVEN PRIORITY AT ALL TIMES **

INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

** TO BE GIVEN PRIORITY AT ALL TIMES **

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

- DEADLINES: It is important that your draft is with us by the date shown at the top of this notice, as Ministers must send a written reply within 15 WORKING DAYS OF RECEIPT. The Department's performance is reported each year to Parliament. If you cannot meet the deadline, you should therefore provide an interim reply that apologises for the delay, sets out the action being taken to answer the letter, and advises when a substantive reply can be expected. You should aim to provide a substantive draft reply within a further 8 working days. Interim replies should be used infrequently, as every effort must be made to reply to Ministerial Correspondence promptly.

- **Action at official level on the same case should be held until the Minister has sent a full reply. Please discuss any questions about the substance of the drafts, or other policy aspects, direct with the relevant Private Office.**

- LAYOUT: Draft replies should be double-spaced. Always include the full reference number at the top left of the draft. Put the MP's full title at the bottom left of the first page. Only add the address if the letter is from the Minister direct to a constituent.

- MINISTER RESPONDING: SofS will usually reply to Cabinet colleagues, Privy Councillors (the Rt Hon) and Opposition Defence spokesmen, unless they have written direct to a junior Minister. Correspondence from other MPs, MEPs and Peers will generally be handled by a junior Minister with relevant policy responsibility.

- OPENING AND CLOSING: All Ministers prefer to start: *"Thank you for your letter of ...(MP's ref if given) on behalf of/enclosing one from your constituent, Mr ... of ... about ..."*
If a Minister is replying on behalf of another, start: *"Thank you for your letter of ... to Geoff Hoon/Adam Ingram/Willy Bach/Lewis Moonie on behalf etc"*
For Mr Ingram, add: *"I am replying in view of my responsibility for ..."*
For Lord Bach, add: *"I am responding because of my responsibility for this issue." (or, in the case of letters from fellow Peers: "I have been asked to respond.")*
For Dr Moonie, add: *"I am replying as this matter falls within my area of responsibility."*
Choose an appropriate ending (except for Dr Moonie, who will add his own) - such as:
"I hope this is helpful"; "I hope this explains the position/situation"; "I am sorry I cannot be more helpful"; or *"I am sorry to send what I know will be a disappointing reply"*.

OPEN GOVERNMENT: Replies MUST be drafted in accordance with the Code of Practice on Access to Government Information. It is set out in DCI 223/99. If you are recommending to a Minister that some or all information is withheld, the answer must specify the law or exemption in the Code under which it is being withheld - eg "I am withholding the information requested under exemption 1 of Part II of the *Code of Practice on Access to Government Information.*" It is NOT acceptable to rely on past practice. Further information is available from DG Info on Section 40

INTERIM REPLIES: If it is obvious on receipt of a piece of Ministerial Correspondence that you cannot reply in full, an interim MUST be provided by the deadline stated. REMEMBER: an interim reply covering the majority of the issues raised could help our performance statistics.

** TO BE GIVEN PRIORITY AT ALL TIMES **

** TO BE GIVEN PRIORITY AT ALL TIMES **

INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Anne Campbell MP
Alex Wood Hall, Norfolk Street
Cambridge CB1 2LD
Tel: 01223 506500 Fax: 01223 311315
e-mail: anne.campbell.mp@dial.pipex.com

Rt Hon Geoffrey Hoon MP
Secretary of State for Defence
Main Building
Whitehall
London SW1A 2HB

Our Ref: Section 40 004/011185/SS

09 July 2001

Dear Geoff

Please find attached a letter I have received from Section 40 of Section 40 Cambridge Section 40

I would be grateful for your comments in a form that I can forward to my constituent.

Yours sincerely

Section 40

ANNE CAMPBELL
Member of Parliament for Cambridge

RECEIVED BY
PARLIAMENTARY BRANCH
ON: 13/07/01
MINISTER REPLYING:
KEYWORD(S):
LEAD BRANCH:
COPIED TO:
RELATED CASE:
CLERK: Section 40

Section 40

Cambridge

Section 40

Section 40

11 June 2001

Dear Anne

Congratulations on your recent re-election. I hope you continue to represent the constituency in your fine style. I write to you in order to draw your attention to an issue with grave ramifications that needs urgent Parliamentary scrutiny of the highest calibre.

On May 9th 2001The Disclosure Project, a non-profit research UFO and extraterrestrial organisation, convened 20 military, intelligence, defence contractor and civilian witnesses to establish the reality of UFOs or extraterrestrial vehicles, extraterrestrial life forms, and resulting advanced energy and propulsion technologies.

The Project has identified several hundred witnesses throughout the world and spanning every branch of the US armed services, the National Reconnaissance Office (NRO), DIA, CIA, NASA, Russia, *UK* and other agencies and other countries. "These testimonies establish once and for all that we are not alone. Technologies related to extraterrestrial phenomena are capable of providing solutions to the global energy crisis, and other environmental and security challenges," said Dr. Steven Greer, project organiser.

These numerous recorded witnesses constitute only a small portion of a vast pool of identified present or former military, intelligence, corporate, aviator, flight control, law enforcement officers, scientists and other witnesses, who will come forward when subpoenaed to testify at U.S. Congressional hearings. Without a grant of immunity releasing them from their security oaths, many such unimpeachable witnesses fear to speak out.

Clearly this project has a significant US bias but I have been made aware that the select, tightly controlled compartmentalised 'black projects' (above top secret, unacknowledged military R&D programmes) behind which such technologies are being developed also exist within the UK military, intelligence and defence contractor system - totally and illegally removed from any form of Parliamentary oversight, accountability or budgetary control.

May I suggest that you personally take some time to review the briefings and witness testimony that are archived at www.disclosureproject.org and decide for yourself.

It is requested that Parliament undertake the following actions without delay:

- To hold open, comprehensive, secrecy-free hearings to take military/agency witness testimony on events and evidence relating to an Extraterrestrial presence on and around Earth.
- To hold open hearings on advanced energy and propulsion systems, relating to extraterrestrial phenomena that, when publicly released, will provide solutions to global environmental challenges.
- To enact legislation which will ban all space-based weapons, and to enact and implement international treaty and legal standards prohibiting the weaponisation of space.
- To enact comprehensive legislation to research, develop and explore space peacefully and co-operatively with all cultures on Earth and in space.

I shall look forward to hearing your opinion on this most profound issue. Please visit the Disclosure Project's web site at your earliest convenience.

With kind regards

Section 40

** TO BE GIVEN PRIORITY AT ALL TIMES **

14/1

Section 40 [redacted]

This for info only. Lord Bach will adapt draft provided for me

MINISTERIAL CORRESPONDENCE DP 2632/01

Section 40 [redacted]

FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION

IMPORTANT - YOU MUST READ THIS GUIDANCE

TO: DAS4A1 (Sec) MC REF NUMBER: 3005 /2001

Copy to:

MINISTER REPLYING: DP DRAFT REQUIRED BY: N/A /2001

DATE: 10 / 7 /2001 FROM: Section 40 [redacted], Ministerial Correspondence Unit

Room 222WH TEL Section 40 [redacted] FAX: Section 40 [redacted]

YOU WILL BE HELD ACCOUNTABLE FOR THE DRAFT ANSWER AND ADVICE, WHICH MUST BE ACCURATE AND NOT MISLEADING IN ANY WAY.

ENSURE THE DEADLINE IS MET: THE DEPARTMENT IS COMMITTED TO ANSWERING 90% OF IT'S MINISTERIAL CORRESPONDENCE WITHIN 15 WORKING DAYS; OUR PERFORMANCE IN FY 2000/01 – WHILE MUCH IMPROVED – WAS SIGNIFICANTLY LOWER THAN THIS.

A NAMED OFFICIAL AT PAY BAND B2 LEVEL OR ABOVE MUST CLEAR ALL DRAFTS. OTHER GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS OR MOD DIVISIONS SHOULD BE CONSULTED AS NECESSARY.

IF YOU ARE AN AGENCY, THE MINISTER'S OFFICE HAS DIRECTED THAT THIS LETTER SHOULD RECEIVE A MINISTERIAL – NOT CHIEF EXECUTIVE – REPLY.

E-MAIL DRAFTS TO *'PARLIAMENTARY ENQUIRIES'*, NOT TO PE CLERKS OR PRIVATE OFFICES.

(Please ensure sensitivity of your email message is 'Normal'.)

IF THIS CORRESPONDENCE SHOULD BE DEALT WITH BY ANOTHER BRANCH, PLEASE PASS IT ON AND INFORM US IMMEDIATELY.

Number of pages sent by fax: 3

** TO BE GIVEN PRIORITY AT ALL TIMES **

INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

** TO BE GIVEN PRIORITY AT ALL TIMES **

** TO BE GIVEN PRIORITY AT ALL TIMES **

** TO BE GIVEN PRIORITY AT ALL TIMES **

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

- **DEADLINES:** It is important that your draft is with us by the date shown at the top of this notice, as Ministers must send a written reply within **15 WORKING DAYS OF RECEIPT**. The Department's performance is reported each year to Parliament. If you cannot meet the deadline, you should therefore provide an interim reply that apologises for the delay, sets out the action being taken to answer the letter, and advises when a substantive reply can be expected. You should aim to provide a substantive draft reply within a further 8 working days. Interim replies should be used infrequently, as every effort must be made to reply to Ministerial Correspondence promptly.

- **Action at official level on the same case should be held until the Minister has sent a full reply. Please discuss any questions about the substance of the drafts, or other policy aspects, direct with the relevant Private Office.**

- **LAYOUT:** Draft replies should be double-spaced. Always include the full reference number at the top left of the draft. Put the MP's full title at the bottom left of the first page. Only add the address if the letter is from the Minister direct to a constituent.

- **MINISTER RESPONDING:** SofS will usually reply to Cabinet colleagues, Privy Councillors (the Rt Hon) and Opposition Defence spokesmen, unless they have written direct to a junior Minister. Correspondence from other MPs, MEPs and Peers will generally be handled by a junior Minister with relevant policy responsibility.

- **OPENING AND CLOSING:** All Ministers prefer to start: *"Thank you for your letter of ...(MP's ref if given) on behalf of/enclosing one from your constituent, Mr ... of ... about ..."*
  If a Minister is replying on behalf of another, start: *"Thank you for your letter of ... to Geoff Hoon/Adam Ingram/William Bach/Lewis Moonie on behalf etc"*
  For Mr Ingram, add: *"I am replying in view of my responsibility for ..."*
  For Lord Bach, add: *"I am responding because of my responsibility for this issue." (or, in the case of letters from fellow Peers: "I have been asked to respond.")*
  For Dr Moonie, add: *"I am replying as this matter falls within my area of responsibility."*
  Choose an appropriate ending (except for Dr Moonie, who will add his own) - such as:
  "I hope this is helpful"; "I hope this explains the position/situation"; "I am sorry I cannot be more helpful"; or *"I am sorry to send what I know will be a disappointing reply"*.

- **OPEN GOVERNMENT:** Replies **MUST** be drafted in accordance with the Code of Practice on Access to Government Information. It is set out in **DCI 223/99**. If you are recommending to a Minister that some or all information is withheld, the answer must specify the law or exemption in the Code under which it is being withheld - eg "I am withholding the information requested under exemption 1 of Part II of the *Code of Practice on Access to Government Information.*" It is **NOT** acceptable to rely on past practice. Further information is available from DG Info on Section 40

- **INTERIM REPLIES:** If it is obvious on receipt of a piece of Ministerial Correspondence that you cannot reply in full, an interim **MUST** be provided by the deadline stated. **REMEMBER:** an interim reply covering the majority of the issues raised could help our performance statistics.

** TO BE GIVEN PRIORITY AT ALL TIMES **

** TO BE GIVEN PRIORITY AT ALL TIMES **

** TO BE GIVEN PRIORITY AT ALL TIMES **

INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Section 40

Neil
do we respond?
W.B
8.7.01



Admiral of the Fleet The Lord Hill-Norton GCB

The Lord Bach
Ministry of Defence
Old War Office Building
London SW1A 2EU

2nd July 2001

Dear Lord Bach,

Thank you for your letter of 23rd June.

May I welcome you to the Defence Department, which is still much more important than many now listed above it. Defence Procurement has been a mess, and worse, ever since I have known it, and I first served in one of its Naval Staff Divisions in 1943, before you were born I suspect.

My correspondence with Lady Symons about the UFO landing at Rendlesham Forest twenty years ago is important, although your officials pretend not to think so. I use the words "UFO landing" because that is how the Deputy Commander of the USAF base described it at the time.

I really would be glad if you would personally read the last half dozen written exchanges between me and Lady Symons, because this is going to go on and on until the gravity of the incident to the Defence of the Realm is officially recognized. That is my only purpose on pursuing it.

May I also beg you to listen yourself to the tape, with a truly open mind? I do not believe that any one who does so can fail to conclude that the people in action and speaking on the tape, made officially at the time, had no doubt whatever that they were investigating the site at which some thing physical had just landed and taken off again. I have tried it on several individuals, including one former Chief of the Air Staff. They all agree with what I have written above.

Yours sincerely,

Hill-Norton.

L :4A1(SEC)

14+3

From: PARLIAMENTARY TYPIST3 on behalf of PARLIAMENTARY ENQUIRIES
To: DAS4A1(SEC)
Sent: 13 June 2001 08:45
Subject: Read: PE DP2632/2001

Your message

To: PARLIAMENTARY ENQUIRIES
Subject: PE DP2632/2001
Sent: 13/06/01 08:41

was read on 13/06/01 08:45.

DAS4A1(SEC)

From: DAS4A1(SEC)
Sent: 13 June 2001 08:41
To: PARLIAMENTARY ENQUIRIES
Subject: PE DP2632/2001

Please see attached our reply to the above mentioned PE which is due today.

The copy of Lieutenant Colonel Halt's memorandum mentioned in para 3 of the covering letter will be walked over to you. You may wish to advise APS to Lord Bach that DAS have the CD and photographs when required. Lord Bach will need to listen to the CD in due course and the APS thought it likely that as he is new to the post he would probably want DAS to brief him personally about these matters.

LOOSE MINUTE

D/DAS(Sec)64/4

12th June 2001

PE Unit
(through DAS [redacted] Section 40 12/6

PARLIAMENTARY ENQUIRY – DP2632/2001 – ADMIRAL OF THE FLEET THE LORD HILL-NORTON GCB

1. Lord Hill-Norton, Chief of Defence Staff from 1973 to 1976, has a long standing interest in 'unidentified flying objects' and this year he has tabled ten PQs and written two PEs on the subject of a well known 'UFO' sighting in Rendlesham Forest, Suffolk in December 1980.

2. In a previous letter, dated 22 April, the Peer said he had been given a recording which, it is claimed, was made at the time of the Rendlesham Forest incident and contains the voice of Lieutenant Colonel Halt, the Deputy Base Commander at RAF Woodbridge. He asked that the Minister listen to the recording. We concluded that should the Minister not agree to his request, Lord Hill-Norton would accuse the Department of not being open-minded and in her reply, Baroness Symons agreed to listen to the recording.

3. In his letter of 24 May, the Peer enclosed the compact disc and some photographs which he said are part of an "enormous mass of new evidence". He asked for an investigation to be opened in to these events. DAS staff have listened to the recording several times and while it provides a more graphic account of events described in a memorandum written by Lieutenant Colonel Halt on 13 January 1981 (copy attached), we do not believe that it constitutes clear evidence that the UK Air Defence Region was compromised. It is now over twenty years since these events are reported to have taken place and we believe it would not be appropriate to commit MOD resources to further enquiries which are unlikely to produce any other conclusion than that which was made at the time; namely that nothing occurred which was of defence concern.

4. Lord Hill-Norton has also referred to records for Hollesley Prison in Suffolk. This prison is located in the vicinity of Rendlesham Forest and some of those who have written about these events have claimed that the prison was evacuated. A previous PQ answer from the Home Office stated that "records [for the period in question] were no longer available". The Peer is clearly suspicious about this, claiming that a former Prison Officer has been able to determine that the logs for Hollesley Prison "were available but the records covering December 1980 through to January 1981 are missing, although everything either side of these dates is intact". So far as we are aware, there is no mention of the prison in any papers held by the MOD. This is, therefore, clearly a matter for the Home Office and we would not wish to comment on their record keeping.

5. A reply, along these lines, is attached. The draft also makes the point that DAS are to undertake a review of UFO files in the context of the Freedom of Information Act. However, given that the Minister was appointed only yesterday, it is suggested that a holding reply is sent to Lord Hill-Norton to enable the Minister to be briefed more fully and for him to listen to the recording. A draft holding reply is attached.

Section 40 [redacted]

DAS 4a1
MB8245 Section 40

Drafted by: Section 40 [redacted] DAS 4a1
Authorised by: DAS AD4

DP 2632/2001 June 2001

DRAFT REPLY TO ADMIRAL OF THE FLEET THE LORD HILL-NORTON GCB

Thank you for your letter of 24 May 2001 addressed to my predecessor and enclosing a compact disc and some photographs of the events in Rendlesham Forest in 1980.

I have only recently been appointed to this post and have yet to have the opportunity to listen to the recording. However, I intend to do so and to reply more fully as soon as possible.

THE LORD BACH

Admiral of the Fleet The Lord Hill-Norton GCB

FORWARDED AT THE REQUEST OF APS TO LORD BACH, BUT NOT TO BE RELEASED WITHOUT HIS AUTHORITY
(See paragraph 5 of covering minute)

DP 2632/2201 June 2001

DRAFT REPLY TO ADMIRAL OF THE FLEET THE LORD HILL-NORTON GCB

Further to my letter of [ ] June 2001, I am now in a position to reply to your letter of 24th May concerning the events in Rendlesham Forest in 1980.

I have listened to the compact disc and it does indeed provide a graphic account of the comments contained in Lieutenant Colonel Halt's letter dated 13 January 1981.

But notwithstanding the fact that the recording will no doubt be of great interest to those who have made a study of these matters, I do not believe it offers any clear evidence that the UK's Air Defence Region was compromised by whatever occurred all those years ago. As has been said before, the conclusion at the time was that this was not the case and that is the key issue for us in any investigation of reported UFO sightings. Given this, and the length of time that has elapsed, I do not believe it would now be appropriate to commit MOD resources to any further enquiries that would be unlikely to be productive.

Nonetheless, in light of the passing of the Freedom of Information Act, my officials are undertaking a review of UFO files in anticipation of an increase in enquiries on these matters. In the course of this review they will consult the Home Office, although it seems unlikely that they are holding any papers of defence interest. Please be assured that should anything new on the Rendlesham Forest incident be revealed, I will let you know.

In the meantime, I am returning the compact disc and the photographs you sent with your letter of 24 May.

THE LORD BACH

Admiral of the Fleet The Lord Hill-Norton GCB

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS 81ST COMBAT SUPPORT GROUP (USAFE)
APO NEW YORK 09755

REPLY TO ATTN OF: CD

13 Jan 81

SUBJECT: Unexplained Lights

TO: RAF/CC

1. Early in the morning of 27 Dec 80 (approximately 0300L), two USAF security police patrolmen saw unusual lights outside the back gate at RAF Woodbridge. Thinking an aircraft might have crashed or been forced down, they called for permission to go outside the gate to investigate. The on-duty flight chief responded and allowed three patrolmen to proceed on foot. The individuals reported seeing a strange glowing object in the forest. The object was described as being metalic in appearance and triangular in shape, approximately two to three meters across the base and approximately two meters high. It illuminated the entire forest with a white light. The object itself had a pulsing red light on top and a bank(s) of blue lights underneath. The object was hovering or on legs. As the patrolmen approached the object, it maneuvered through the trees and disappeared. At this time the animals on a nearby farm went into a frenzy. The object was briefly sighted approximately an hour later near the back gate.

2. The next day, three depressions 1 1/2" deep and 7" in diameter were found where the object had been sighted on the ground. The following night (29 Dec 80) the area was checked for radiation. Beta/gamma readings of 0.1 milliroentgens were recorded with peak readings in the three depressions and near the center of the triangle formed by the depressions. A nearby tree had moderate (.05-.07) readings on the side of the tree toward the depressions.

3. Later in the night a red sun-like light was seen through the trees. It moved about and pulsed. At one point it appeared to throw off glowing particles and then broke into five separate white objects and then disappeared. Immediately thereafter, three star-like objects were noticed in the sky, two objects to the north and one to the south, all of which were about 10^0 off the horizon. The objects moved rapidly in sharp angular movements and displayed red, green and blue lights. The objects to the north appeared to be elliptical through an 8-12 power lens. They then turned to full circles. The objects to the north remained in the sky for an hour or more. The object to the south was visible for two or three hours and beamed down a stream of light from time to time. Numerous individuals, including the undersigned, witnessed the activities in paragraphs 2 and 3.

CHARLES I. HALT, Lt Col, USAF
Deputy Base Commander

** TO BE GIVEN PRIORITY AT ALL TIMES **

PRENCIS -
23911/01
11927/01

PARLIAMENTARY ENQUIRY

FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION

IMPORTANT: YOU MUST READ THIS GUIDANCE

TO: DAS

Copy to:

MINISTER REP ...001

DATE: 4/6

Parly branch -

Section 40 [redacted] - 8 working days.

YOU WILL BE ...ICH

nor appc.

ENSURE THE DEADLINE IS MET: THE DEPARTMENT IS COMMITTED TO ...NG 90% OF IT'S MINISTERIAL ENQUIRIES WITHIN 15 WORKING DAYS; OUR PERFORMANCE IN FY 2000/01 – WHILE MUCH IMPROVED – WAS SIGNIFICANTLY LOWER THAN THIS.

A NAMED OFFICIAL AT B2 (GRADE 7) LEVEL OR ABOVE MUST CLEAR ALL DRAFTS. OTHER GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS OR MOD DIVISIONS SHOULD BE CONSULTED AS NECESSARY.

IF YOU ARE AN AGENCY, THE MINISTER'S OFFICE HAS DIRECTED THAT THIS ENQUIRY SHOULD RECEIVE A MINISTERIAL – NOT CHIEF EXECUTIVE – REPLY.

E-MAIL DRAFTS TO *'PARLIAMENTARY ENQUIRIES'*, NOT TO PE CLERKS OR PRIVATE OFFICES.
(Please ensure sensitivity of your email message is 'Normal'.)

IF THIS CORRESPONDENCE SHOULD BE DEALT WITH BY ANOTHER BRANCH, PLEASE PASS IT ON AND INFORM US IMMEDIATELY.

Number of pages sent by fax: 9

** TO BE GIVEN PRIORITY AT ALL TIMES **

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
DAS 3
04 JUN 2001
FILE

INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

** TO BE GIVEN PRIORITY AT ALL TIMES **

** TO BE GIVEN PRIORITY AT ALL TIMES **

** TO BE GIVEN PRIORITY AT ALL TIMES **

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

- **DEADLINES:** It is important that your draft is with us by the date shown at the top of this notice, as Ministers must send a written reply within 15 WORKING DAYS OF RECEIPT OF THIS ENQUIRY. The Department's performance is reported each year to Parliament. If you cannot meet the deadline, you should therefore provide an interim reply that apologises for the delay, sets out the action being taken to answer the enquiry, and advises when a substantive reply can be expected. You should aim to provide a substantive draft reply within a further 8 working days. Interim replies should be used infrequently, as every effort must be made to reply to correspondence from MPs (and others) promptly.

- **Action at official level on the same case should be held until the Minister has sent a full reply. Please discuss any questions about the substance of the drafts, or other policy aspects, direct with the relevant Private Office.**

- **LAYOUT:** Draft replies should be double-spaced. Always include the full reference number at the top left of the draft. Put the MP's full title at the bottom left of the first page. Only add the address if the letter is from the Minister direct to a constituent.

- **OPENING AND CLOSING:** All Ministers prefer to start: *"Thank you for your letter of ...(MP's ref if given) on behalf of/enclosing one from your constituent, Mr ... of ... about ..."*
  If a Minister is replying on behalf of another, start: *"Thank you for your letter of ... to Geoff Hoon/Liz Symons/John Spellar/Lewis Moonie on behalf etc"*
  For Mr Spellar, add: *"I am replying in view of my responsibility for ..."*
  For Baroness Symons, add: *"I am responding because of my responsibility for this issue." (or, in the case of letters from fellow Peers: "I have been asked to respond.")*
  For Dr Moonie, add: *"I am replying as this matter falls within my area of responsibility."*
  Choose an appropriate ending (except for Dr Moonie, who will add his own) - such as: *"I hope this is helpful"; "I hope this explains the position/situation"; "I am sorry I cannot be more helpful"*; or *"I am sorry to send what I know will be a disappointing reply"*.

- **OPEN GOVERNMENT:** Replies MUST be drafted in accordance with the Code of Practice on Access to Government Information. It is set out in **DCI 223/99**. If you are recommending to a Minister that some or all information is withheld, the answer must specify the law or exemption in the Code under which it is being withheld - eg "I am withholding the information requested under exemption 1 of Part II of the *Code of Practice on Access to Government Information*." It is NOT acceptable to rely on past practice. Further information is available from DG Info on Section 40

INTERIM REPLIES: If it is obvious on receipt of a Ministerial enquiry that you cannot reply in full, an interim **MUST** be provided by the deadline stated. **REMEMBER:** an interim reply covering the majority of the issues raised could help our performance statistics.

** TO BE GIVEN PRIORITY AT ALL TIMES **

** TO BE GIVEN PRIORITY AT ALL TIMES **

** TO BE GIVEN PRIORITY AT ALL TIMES **

INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Admiral of the Fleet The Lord Hill-Norton GCB

The Baroness Symons of Vernham Dean
House of Lords
London SW1A OPW

24th May 2001

Dear Lady Symons,

Thank you for your letter dated 16 May, which reached me on 22 May, perhaps your Private Office will enquire what went wrong. I had begun to fear that you were not going to reply.

I enclose with this letter, the compact disc. I am confident that you, and anyone else who listens to it with an open mind, cannot fail to conclude that it is an official document, made at the time of the incident, which reveals that something most unusual was going on, and that Col. Halt and his men certainly thought so. Should the disc accidentally get lost, or wiped, as has happened more than once to UFO related material sent to Ministry people, do not despair, I have several copies, some of which are now being considered by persons better qualified than you, or I, or your Private Secretary to judge the content.

I do not want, until you have heard the tape and written again, to reopen our dispute but there is one observation that no one reading your letter could fail to make. You say that "no further investigation was made", and then go on to say "to date we have seen no official documentation to give us reason to believe that the original assessment was incorrect" Of course you haven't if no official work has been done on it. What I have been trying, for nearly 20 years now, is to persuade your predecessors, and now you, that in the light of an enormous mass of new evidence - none of which you have ever looked at, none of which your Ministry has ever rebutted - you most certainly should have investigated. The hard evidence is there, much of it from official or quasi-official sources both here and in the United States. On every other subject in the world the responsible Minister would have at once directed the appopriate people, officiers or officials to look very carefully into it. Why on earth do you still refuse to do it?

Continued:

RECEIVED IN
...NCH
ON: 1/6/01.
...: DP
...(S): UFOS
...BRANCH: DAS 4
...TO:
...: 239.101
CLERK:

As for Hollesley, the fact that you have to ask me for information might suggest that ytour own people have hardly been diligent in looking in to extremely disturbing allegations, made publiclyt by one whose bona fides are unquestioned. This thread of apathy, refusal to face well-documented facts has characterised every exchange I have had with the Ministry since first I started this Campaign about 1981.

The information is as follows

"A former Prison Officer has managed to obtain information regarding Hollesley Prison. Joe Soap (I will not reveal his name until I have to in case he should suffer some unexpected and most unfortunate mishap, like other evidence) has said that through his contacts within the Prison Service he was able to determine that the logs for Hollesley were available but the records covering December 1980 through to January 1981 are missing, although everything either side of these dates is intact."

library asked to search for

You may like to relate this to a Question I asked on 23 December 1997, when I was told that "the records were no longer available". Perhaps you do not think this matter is decidedly odd (I am aware that it was not given by you), I most certainly do. I also find, in the light of this disclosure that the Answer was certainly ingenuous, if not downright misleading. When I have taken the oath, I may have to return to it.

More or less of a P.S. I shall also enclose some photographgs taken at the scene, at the same time as the compact disc was made. I shall be interested to hear what an official analyst makes of them and I am sure you will too.

I fear that my poor sight will not let me read the papers you sent to me, but I shall pass them to a thoroughly reliable UFO researcher.

I will let you know if he has any useful comments.

Yours Sincerely,

Hill-Norton

1 Parl. Branch

letter + photos for DAS Sec to draft reply.

I have the CD

Section 40

Photo 2: ground indentation (Rendlesham Forest UFO 1980)



Photo 3: ground indentation. (Rendlesham Forest UFO -1980)
copy of USAF Photo

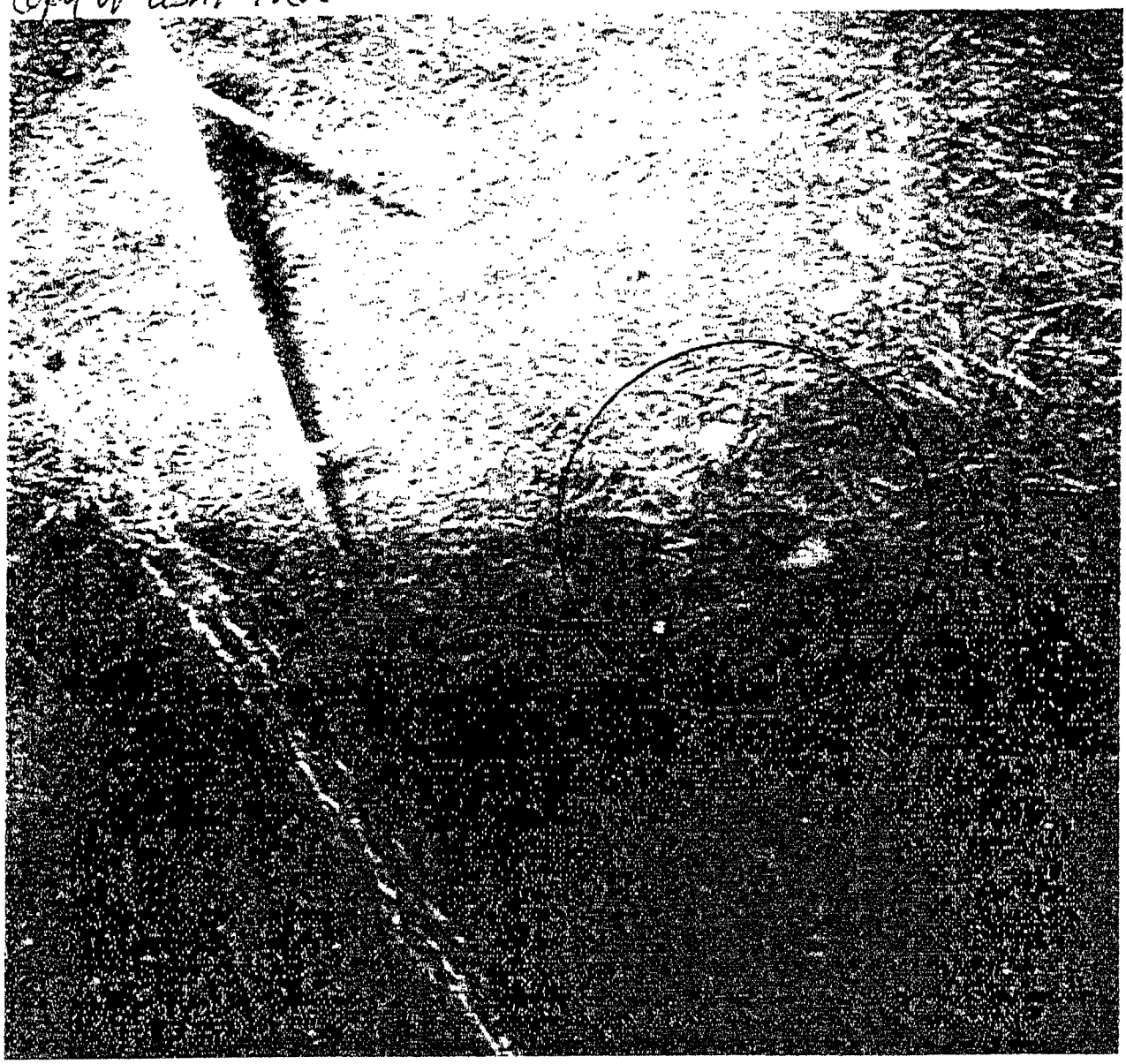
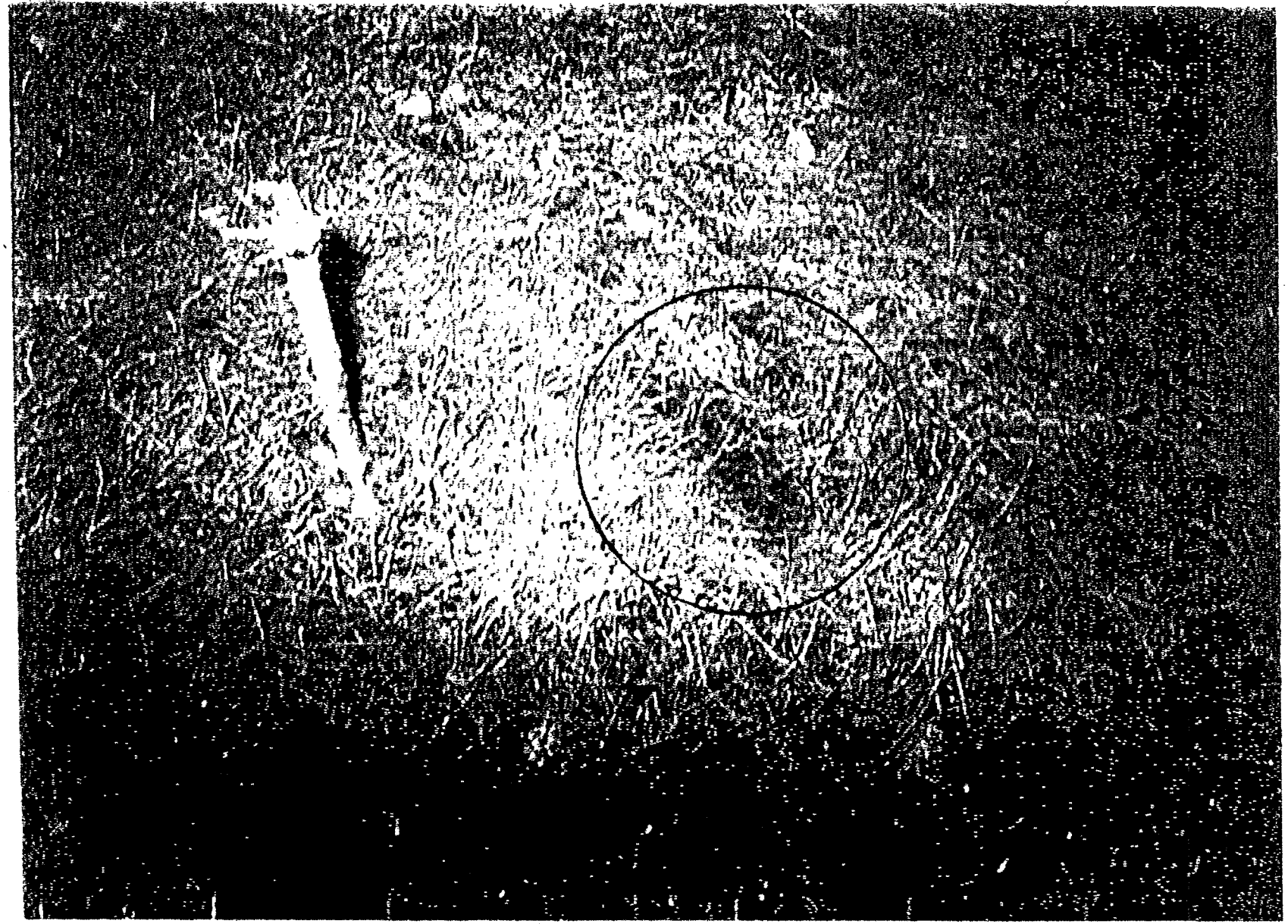


Photo 1 Original enhancement (Rendlesham Forest UFO Dec -1980)



04 JUN 2001 8:40 FR FROM


Copy of USAF photo of initial landing site
Rendlesham Forest 25 Dec 1980
Officers examining the site on 26 Dec 1980
PC Brian Cresswell, Woodbridge Police (centre)
Capt Mike Verrano USAF (right)
Georgina Bruni file

Ground indentation at the initial landing site.
USAF photo taken after the incident
Georgina Bruni File

FAX COVER SHEET

13/1

Ministry of Defence
Whitehall Information & Library Service,
Room 1.02
3 - 5 Great Scotland Yard
London SW1A 2HW
Tel : Section 40 [redacted]
Fax : [redacted]

To: Section 40 [redacted]

Tel: Section 40 [redacted]
Fax: [redacted]

From: Section 40 [redacted]

Date: 4/6/01

No. of Pages: 4
(including covering sheet)

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Please acknowledge receipt: ~~YES~~/NO

Subject/Message:

With reference to your enquiry
- Lord Hill-Norton PQ's Hollesley Bay Youth Correction Centre.

Please contact me if I can be of any further assistance

Regds

Section 40 [redacted]

Parlianet
First for all UK Parliamentary Information



Search Parlianet
- Search Wizards
- Advanced Search
- Free Text Search

Additional Services
- Bills before Parliament
- What's On in Parliament
- Glossary

Parlianet Logoff
Logoff

Print Download Help

Previous Document

1

Accession No.	944309332
Group	Parliamentary Questions
Type	Lords Questions
Date	23/01/2001
Reference	621 c7-8WA
Session	00/01
Member	Hill-Norton, Lord
Responding Minister	Bassam of Brighton, Lord
Description	Whether staff at Blundeston Prison or Hollesley Bay Youth Correction Centre received any instructions to prepare for a possible evacuation at some time between 25 and 30 December 1980; and if so, why these instructions were issued. [HL 319].
Subject Terms	Blundeston Prison - Hollesley Bay Prison and Young Offender Institution
Legislature	UK

Previous Document

Print Download Help

Privacy | Terms of Use
Context Ltd 2001 All rights Reserved. Context Limited - Grand Union House, 20 Kentish Town Road, London, NW1 9NR, United Kingdom
Tel: +44 (0)20 7267 8989 - Fax: +44 (0)20 7267 1133 - DX 121900 Kentish Town 3 - E-mail: webmaster@context.co.uk

Written Answers

Tuesday, 23rd January 2001.

Civil Society Challenge Fund

The Earl of Sandwich asked Her Majesty's Government:

Which non-governmental organisations in the United Kingdom received support for international development projects under the pound-for-pound scheme in the last financial year; at what cost; and whether that scheme has now been concluded. [HL188]

Baroness Amos: In the fiscal year 1999/2000 a total of £35.2 million was provided to UK NGOs through the Joint Funding Scheme. A list of these organisations can be found in *Statistics on International Development: 1995/1996–1999/2000*, which is available in the Library of the House.

The Civil Society Challenge Fund (CSCF) was launched in October 1999 to replace the Joint Funding Scheme, which will be phased out by 2004 when current commitments cease. The CSCF is open to any non-profitmaking organisation or network, which shares DFID's focus on poverty reductions and is designed to help build a stronger civil society in developing countries that enables the voices of the poor to be heard. As with the Joint Funding Scheme, the CSCF is based on matched funding.

River Danube: Clearance

Lord Hylton asked Her Majesty's Government:

Whether the European Union-funded programme for clearing obstructions in the River Danube has yet let its main contracts; and, if not, when it is expected to do so. [HL360]

Baroness Amos: A Project Director was appointed by the Danube Commission on 16 October 2000. He is currently finalising the terms of reference for the architect. Awarding of contracts will occur during the first quarter of 2001. A tender for a bathymetric survey will be published this month. It is expected that work will begin during March.

Blundeston Prison and Hollesley Bay YCC: Possible Evacuation

Lord Hill-Norton asked Her Majesty's Government:

Whether staff at Blundeston Prison or Hollesley Bay Youth Correction Centre received any instructions to prepare for a possible evacuation at some time between 25 and 30 December 1980; and if so, why these instructions were issued. [HL319]

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Home Office (Lord Bassam of Brighton): We can find no record of any such instructions.

Lawfully Held Firearms and Public Safety

The Earl of Shrewsbury asked Her Majesty's Government:

Whether they will provide details of all cases since the Firearms (Amendment) Act 1997 came into effect in which the possession of lawfully authorised Section 1 firearms of a type usually called long-barrelled revolvers has resulted in any identifiable danger to public safety. [HL293]

Lord Bassam of Brighton: This information is not recorded centrally and could only be obtained at disproportionate cost. The number of lawfully authorised weapons of this kind is comparatively small at present and the Government are not aware of any cases involving the misuse of such weapons after 1997. However, the Government understand that in the 1980s there were cases in which long barrelled smooth-bore revolvers were sawn off and used in serious crime.

The Earl of Shrewsbury asked Her Majesty's Government:

Whether they will provide details of all cases arising in the past five years in which rifles of .50 calibre or greater which are held on firearm certificates have been a cause for any concern about public safety. [HL294]

Lord Bassam of Brighton: This information is not recorded centrally and could only be obtained at disproportionate cost. The number of lawfully authorised weapons of this kind in current use is small at present and the Government are not aware of any cases involving the misuse of any such weapons which are lawfully held. However, we are aware of concerns about the misuse of weapons of this type by terrorists in Northern Ireland.

Dogs Kept in High Rise Tower Blocks

Lord Patten asked Her Majesty's Government:

Whether they think that the keeping of dogs in high rise tower blocks of flats is cruel; and if so, whether they have plans to prevent it. [HL398]

Lord Bassam of Brighton: The law places the responsibility for taking care of animals on their owners or keepers, who may not cause them harm, intentionally or through neglect. Under the Protection of Animals Act 1911, it is an offence to cause any unnecessary suffering to any domestic or capitve animal.

Since the mistreatment of animals can take many forms, the 1911 Act has been widely drawn to apply to any situation of unnecessary suffering. Any person or organisation may initiate criminal proceedings under

Written Answers

Thursday, 23rd October 1997.

Family Planning Agencies: Funding Criteria

Lord Braine of Wheatley asked Her Majesty's Government:

Whether they will make funding to the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF) and the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA) dependent on these agencies not supporting or participating in the management of programmes of coercive abortion or involuntary sterilisation.

Lord Whitty: All funding from the Department for International Development for reproductive health is contingent on respect for the principles upheld at the 1994 Cairo International Conference on Population and Development, including the principle of informed free choice in family planning programmes. UNFPA and IPPF neither engage in nor condone coercive family planning practices. Both are at the forefront of international efforts to encourage observance of the standards of family planning agreed at Cairo.

Mental Incapacity: Law Commission Report

Lord Peston asked Her Majesty's Government:

Whether they will take forward the Law Commission's Report on Mental Incapacity.

The Lord Chancellor (Lord Irvine of Lairg): The Law Commission's Report on Mental Incapacity is a thorough and detailed examination of the current law. It provides a coherent framework for reform. The Government recognise, however, that the report addresses sensitive issues on which strong personal views may be held.

The Government do not consider that it would be appropriate to legislate in this area without fresh public consultation. They therefore hope to issue a consultation paper by the end of the year seeking views on the full range of the Law Commission's recommendations.

The Law Commission's report does not make any recommendations concerning euthanasia. The Government are of the certain view, in line with the House of Lords Select Committee on Medical Ethics, that euthanasia cannot be sanctioned in any circumstances. The consultation paper will therefore not seek views on this subject.

Scotland: Right of Appeal to House of Lords

Lord Campbell of Croy asked Her Majesty's Government:

Whether they have yet taken decisions on a question raised in the debate on the White Paper on Scotland on 30 July, namely on the means by which the proposed legislation on a Scottish Parliament would give effect to their intention to devolve the present right of appeal from a Scottish Court to the House of Lords (HL Debates, col. 203).

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Scottish Office (Lord Sewel): The Government's proposal, as set out in the White Paper, *Scotland's Parliament* (Cm 3658) is that responsibility for the criminal and civil courts in Scotland should be devolved. We are now considering how best to give effect to that proposal and in particular how it should affect the right of appeal to the House of Lords in civil cases.

Human Rights Legislation

Lord Graham of Edmonton asked Her Majesty's Government:

What are their plans to incorporate the European Convention on Human Rights into domestic law.

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Home Office (Lord Williams of Mostyn): We are introducing the Human Rights Bill into Your Lordships' House today. We will publish a White Paper tomorrow to explain how our proposals will work.

Highpoint Prison

Lord Hill-Norton asked Her Majesty's Government:

Whether staff at Highpoint Prison in Suffolk received instructions to prepare for a possible evacuation of the prison at some time between 25 and 30 December 1980, and if so, why these instructions were issued.

Lord Williams of Mostyn: I regret to advise the noble Lord that I am unable to answer his Question, as records for Highpoint Prison relating to the period concerned are no longer available. The governor's journal is the record in which a written note is made of significant events concerning the establishment on a daily basis. It has not proved possible to locate that journal.

To [redacted]
Company [redacted]
From [redacted]
Company [redacted]
Tel No. [redacted]

FAX

Thanks. Pl file

For your information. This is what the Forestry Commission sent to Lord Hill-Norton in reply to their PE.

13
+1

From the Minister of St
The Rt. Hon. the Baron

Admiral of the [redacted]
Fordingbridge
Hampshire
[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted] od,
V1P 3JR
[redacted]

46

18th May 2001

Dear Lord Hill-Norton

Thank you for your letter of 2 May concerning my reply to your Question asking if any instructions had been given to the Forestry Commission to fell trees in Rendlesham Forest or Tanham Woods in December 1980.

You are, of course, correct in assuming that I had absolutely no intention of misleading Parliament when I answered your Question. I am sure that Baroness Symons equally had no such intention when she used the same term in answering the Questions you tabled in January. I am also aware that the report to which you refer has indeed been in the public domain for many years.

On the substantive issue raised in your Question, I am assured that the information I gave about the Forestry Commission's actions is correct.

Yours sincerely

[redacted]

THE RT HON THE BARONESS HAYMAN

To:- [redacted] (FC)

Your minute of 14th May refers. Thank you.

Cc:- [redacted]

[redacted]

APs/Baroness Hayman.
18/5

Recycled Paper

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
MAIN BUILDING WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2HB

Telephone Section 40 (Direct Dialling)
(020) 7218 9000 (Switchboard)
Fax Section 40

MINISTER OF STATE FOR
DEFENCE PROCUREMENT

12

FROM: THE RT HON BARONESS SYMONS

D/MIN(DP)/ECS 2391/01/P

16 May 2001

Dear Lord Hill-Norton.

Thank you for your letters of 17 and 22 May (-April) about the events at Rendlesham Forest and the recording you have received from Ms Georgina Bruni.

I note your comments in your letter of 17 April. These events occurred over 20 years ago, and my earlier responses to you have necessarily been based on the surviving official records held by the Ministry of Defence. These records show that on receipt, Lieutenant Colonel Halt's memorandum was examined by those responsible for air defence matters and they concluded that there was nothing of defence interest in the report. No further investigation was made and to date we have seen no official documentation which gives us reason to believe that the original assessment made by the Ministry of Defence was incorrect. Nevertheless, if you would like to send me the compact disc I shall, of course, be happy to listen to it with a completely open mind.

Moreover, I would be grateful if at the same time you would provide what information you have on the, "very recent disclosures by a former prison officer at Hollesley."

In the meantime, I enclose for your information a number of papers on the Rendlesham Forest incident that have recently been released to a member of the public under the Code of Practice on Access to Government Information. Some have been sanitised to protect the privacy of those who have corresponded with the Ministry of Defence.

I will write to you again once I have received and listened to the recording.

Thank you for your personal letter. Which I appreciated very much. Look forward to listening to the tapes.

Yours sincerely,

Admiral of the Fleet Lord Hill-Norton CB KCB

Section 40

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Private Office
21 MAY 2001

INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

DAS4A1(SEC)

11

From: ASST PARLIAMENTARY CLK2 on behalf of PARLIAMENTARY ENQUIRIES
To: DAS4A1(SEC)
Sent: 17 May 2001 12:41
Subject: Read: PE DP2391/2001

Your message

To: PARLIAMENTARY ENQUIRIES
Subject: PE DP2391/2001
Sent: 17/05/01 12:21

was read on 17/05/01 12:41.

LOOSE MINUTE

D/DAS(Sec)64/4

17 May 2001

PE Unit
(through DAS [redacted])

PARLIAMENTARY ENQUIRY – DP2391/2001 – ADMIRAL OF THE FLEET THE LORD HILL-NORTON GCB

1. Lord Hill-Norton has a long standing interest in 'unidentified flying objects' and in January 2001 he tabled ten PQs on the subject of a well known 'UFO' sighting in Rendlesham Forest, Suffolk in December 1980. In February 2001 the Department received a PE from Lord Hill-Norton in which he expressed his dissatisfaction with the answer to PQ0392L.

2. In his letter of 17 April, the Peer disagrees with the Minister's reply to his previous PE, particularly as he claims a wealth of new evidence has been uncovered in the intervening 20 years by 'UFO' investigators. It is true that several books have been written about these events and a number of people have claimed to have been involved. However, the only documentary evidence the Ministry holds is that which is contained in our files and written around the time of the event. These documents show a clear chain of events which have already been explained to Lord Hill-Norton and many others.

3. Also in his letter of 17 April, the Peer asks the Minister a number of direct questions about "very recent disclosures by a former prison officer at Hollesley about the apparently unauthorised removal of certain pages of records covering the time of the incident". Rather than attempt to answer questions about something of which we were not aware, the draft reply asks Lord Hill-Norton to forward what information he has on these disclosures.

4. In his letter of 22 April, the Peer says that Ms Bruni has given him a recording which she claims was made at the time of the incident and contains the voice of Lieutenant Colonel Halt, the Deputy Base Commander at RAF Woodbridge. He asks the Minister to agree to listen to the recording. It is likely that if the Minister did not agree to his request, Lord Hill-Norton would probably say that the Department was not being open-minded and, accordingly, we suggest that the Minister should agree to listen to the recording.

5. The papers we hold on this incident have recently been released to a member of the public who requested them under the Code of Practice on Access to Government Information. Although Lord Hill-Norton has not actually asked to see these documents, as they are in the public domain, it may now be appropriate to make them available to him. In due course, the Minister may wish to meet with the Peer to discuss these issues, although the potential for any such meeting to diffuse a volatile situation will need to be weighed against the fact that there is unlikely to be anything new to say. For this reason, the prospect of a meeting has not been raised in the draft reply.

6. I enclose a draft reply, together with the papers referred to in the previous paragraph, for Min(DP) to send to Lord Hill-Norton in response to his letters of 17 and 22 April.

Section 40

DAS 4a1
MB8245 Section 40

Drafted by: Section 40 DAS 4a1
Authorised by: DAS AD4

DP 2391/2001 May 2001

DRAFT REPLY TO ADMIRAL OF THE FLEET THE LORD HILL-NORTON GCB

Thank you for your letters of 17 and 22 May concerning the events at Rendlesham Forest and the recording you have received from Ms Georgina Bruni.

I note your comments in your letter of 17 April. These events occurred over 20 years ago, and my earlier responses to you have necessarily been based on the surviving official records held by the Ministry of Defence. These records show that on receipt, Lieutenant Colonel Halt's memorandum was examined by those responsible for air defence matters and they concluded that there was nothing of defence interest in the report. No further investigation was made and to date we have seen no official documentation which gives us reason to believe that the original assessment made by the Ministry of Defence was incorrect. Nevertheless, if you would like to send me the compact disc I shall, of course, be happy to listen to it with a completely open mind. Moreover, I would be grateful if at the same time you would provide what information you have on the "very recent disclosures by a former prison officer at Hollesley".

In the meantime, I enclose for your information a number of papers on the Rendlesham Forest incident that have recently been released to a member of the public under the Code of Practice on Access to Government Information. Some have been sanitised to protect the privacy of those who have corresponded with the Ministry of Defence.

I will write to you again after I have listened to the recording.

** TO BE GIVEN PRIORITY AT ALL TIMES **

PARLIAMENTARY ENQUIRY

FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION

IMPORTANT - YOU MUST READ THIS GUIDANCE

TO: DAS 4 (See)

PE REF NUMBER: DP 2391/2001

Copy to:

MINISTER REPLYING: Min (DP)

DRAFT REQUIRED BY: 17/5/2001

DATE: 4/5/2001

FROM: Section 40 PE Unit

TEL: Section 40

Discuss Section 40

YOU WILL BE ... ICH

ENSURE THE DE... ...IG 90% OF IT'S MINISTI... ...E IN FY 2000/01 – W... ...S.

A NAMED OI... ...FTS. OTHER GOVE... ...ED AS

IF YOU ARE A... ...QUIRY SHOU...

Question - do we want to advise the Coroner to listen to the tape. ✓

We cannot in the UK, carry the investigation any further. The US might.

E-MAIL DRAFTS TO 'PARLIAMENTARY ENQ...'

NOT TO PE CLERKS OR PRIVATE OFFICES.

(Please ensure sensitivity of your email message is 'Normal'.)

IF THIS CORRESPONDENCE SHOULD BE DEALT WITH BY ANOTHER BRANCH, PLEASE PASS IT ON AND INFORM US IMMEDIATELY.

Number of pages sent by fax: 8

** TO BE GIVEN PRIORITY AT ALL TIMES **

INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

** TO BE GIVEN PRIORITY AT ALL TIMES **

** TO BE GIVEN PRIORITY AT ALL TIMES **

** TO BE GIVEN PRIORITY AT ALL TIMES **

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

- **DEADLINES:** It is important that your draft is with us by the date shown at the top of this notice, as Ministers must send a written reply within 15 WORKING DAYS OF RECEIPT OF THIS ENQUIRY. The Department's performance is reported each year to Parliament. If you cannot meet the deadline, you should therefore provide an interim reply that apologises for the delay, sets out the action being taken to answer the enquiry, and advises when a substantive reply can be expected. You should aim to provide a substantive draft reply within a further 8 working days. Interim replies should be used infrequently, as every effort must be made to reply to correspondence from MPs (and others) promptly.

- **Action at official level on the same case should be held until the Minister has sent a full reply. Please discuss any questions about the substance of the drafts, or other policy aspects, direct with the relevant Private Office.**

- **LAYOUT:** Draft replies should be double-spaced. Always include the full reference number at the top left of the draft. Put the MP's full title at the bottom left of the first page. Only add the address if the letter is from the Minister direct to a constituent.

- **OPENING AND CLOSING:** All Ministers prefer to start: *"Thank you for your letter of ...(MP's ref if given) on behalf of/enclosing one from your constituent, Mr ... of ... about ..."*
If a Minister is replying on behalf of another, start: *"Thank you for your letter of ... to Geoff Hoon/Liz Symons/John Spellar/Lewis Moonie on behalf etc"*
For Mr Spellar, add: *"I am replying in view of my responsibility for ..."*
For Baroness Symons, add: *"I am responding because of my responsibility for this issue." (or, in the case of letters from fellow Peers: "I have been asked to respond.")*
For Dr Moonie, add: *"I am replying as this matter falls within my area of responsibility."*
Choose an appropriate ending (except for Dr Moonie, who will add his own) - such as: *"I hope this is helpful"; "I hope this explains the position/situation"; "I am sorry I cannot be more helpful"*; or *"I am sorry to send what I know will be a disappointing reply"*.

- **OPEN GOVERNMENT:** Replies MUST be drafted in accordance with the Code of Practice on Access to Government Information. It is set out in **DCI 223/99**. If you are recommending to a Minister that some or all information is withheld, the answer must specify the law or exemption in the Code under which it is being withheld - eg "I am withholding the information requested under exemption 1 of Part II of the *Code of Practice on Access to Government Information.*" It is **NOT** acceptable to rely on past practice. Further information is available from DG Info on Section 40

INTERIM REPLIES: If it is obvious on receipt of a Ministerial enquiry that you cannot reply in full, an interim **MUST** be provided by the deadline stated. **REMEMBER:** an interim reply covering the majority of the issues raised could help our performance statistics.

** TO BE GIVEN PRIORITY AT ALL TIMES **

** TO BE GIVEN PRIORITY AT ALL TIMES **

** TO BE GIVEN PRIORITY AT ALL TIMES **

MINISTER OF STATE FOR DEFENCE PROCUREMENT

PB - for PE action.

Two PEs to be answered together. DAS Sec to draft.

For DAS Sec: Min (DP) will give undertaking to listen to CD recording held by Hill Norton.

Clearly others will want/need to listen to it too.

DP

Section 40 [redacted]

DAS [illegible]

UFO:

[illegible]

[illegible] too.

Lord HILL-NORTON

Section 40 [redacted]

Personal

Hythe

22. iv. 01

Dear Lady Symons,

This is partly an olive branch and partly an invitation. I have no wish to quarrel with you — we have never met, nor to continue an [illegible] for late Cuneo business. But I am sure that Minister of State at Defence you must, for [illegible] force, be as anxious to know the truth of what happened at Ruddlesham 20 years ago, as I (and numerous other service people) am. I am deliberately writing this by hand, but my sight is now poor so I hope you can read it.

A couple of days after I sent you my last letter I received from G. Bowen a tape, which is both astonishing, and highly relevant. The incident so much so that it is strange that it has not come my way before.

The tape was made at the time of the incident on a routine practice by the US Air Force. It contains the voices of Colonel Hall and a number

D.

HOUSE OF LORDS

This was, as they found, since the landing site which they had marked down, for traces of radio activity on wider tubes in the ground, and on adjacent trees. These findings were, beyond dispute, positive. The second part of the tape, taken at the same time, records their observation of, and comments upon, two objects in the air carrying out activities which included projecting beams of light down [redacted] lights and some energy release, probably [redacted]

You will thus appreciate my [redacted] at my time of life and with my [redacted] have to tell you that it has left me in no doubt that they were watching something physical in our air space, and of no known origin.

The tape that has been authenticated by Col. Hall who has confirmed that it was made at the time, at his orders, and has not been tampered with since.

My invitation is to ask you to listen to the tape yourself. I know that you are busy, but it runs for only 25 minutes and I think it is important that you should form your own opinion of it, and this I and many others, are saying.

If I send you the tape (it is actually a Compact Disc) will you do me the courtesy of listening to it.

3

HOUSE OF LORDS

yourself, and with an open mind? I can conceive of no good reason why your should decline. It could be of great importance, not just in this matter, but in many others.

The only cause than to grant, is to ensure the safe Defence of the Realm, so I do hope that you will agree

Yours sincerely,

Peter Hain

Admiral of the Fleet The Lord Hill-Norton GCB

The Rt. Hon The Baroness Symons of Vernham Dean
House of Lords
Westminster
SW1 OPW

17th April 2001

Dear Lady Symons,

I have now had time to have a proper look at your letter dated 22nd March, and I find it not so much disappointing as absurd. This is for various reasons but mainly because you seem unable to grasp what we are arguing about.

The gravamen of my letter of 12th February is that you have not answered the Question I put down (HL 354). This is a matter of the English language and has nothing to do with Defence. I am seeking a remedy through official channels; and you will hear more later.

In the meantime I am bound to make the following points arising from your reply:

a. You assert that you do not agree that the (only) two possible explanations for what actually happened, and was reported by the Deputy Commander at the base at the time, but although I asked you to say why, you did not in the PQ you have not done so.

b. You assert that your Department has no reason to disagree with the judgement which was published at the time, that the events were of no Defence interest. But over the past 20 years a wealth of new evidence has been uncovered by serious, diligent, and experienced investigators. At least half a dozen books have been published about the incident, one of them by one of the US armed men who took part at the time. If, indeed, your Ministry has taken no steps to re-open the alleged military investigation at the time, that would amount to gross dereliction of duty. But I know that your assertion is simply untrue.

Continued:

c. Are you personally aware of very recent disclosures by a former prison officer at Hollesley about the apparently unauthorised removal of certain pages of records covering the time of the incident? If not, why not? I and a great many others are privy to this astounding new evidence. Has it been tested and accounted for in your Ministry? If not why ever not? Do you genuinely believe that this does not matter?

I suggest that all this, and there is a great deal more, now in the public domain which makes it beyond any possible doubt that the incident most certainly was of considerable Defence interest, and it is absurd of you to pretend otherwise.

But my Question has not been answered and I have a right to an Answer, and you have the duty of providing it. I might have supposed that my former appointments and track record since would have entitled me to rather more intelligent consideration, if you had been treating the matter as seriously as you should.

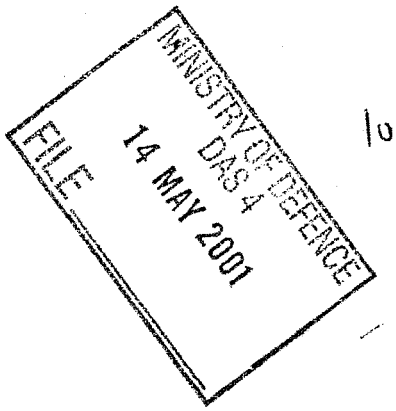
Yours sincerely,

Htui-Hutton.

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2HB
Telephone Section 40

10

SECRETARY OF STATE



D/S of S/GH 2257/01/P

10th May 2001

Dear John,

Thank you for your letter of 23 April enclosing one from your constituent, Section 40 of Section 40 Felixstowe, about an alleged sighting of 'unidentified flying objects' in Rendlesham Forrest, Suffolk in December 1980.

As Section 40 will be aware from his previous correspondence with my officials, the Ministry of Defence (MOD) has only a limited interest in 'UFO' sightings and any reports received are examined solely to establish whether what was seen might have some defence significance. The MOD's only concern is to establish 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 military source - and to date no 'UFO' reported to us has revealed such a threat - 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

The Rt Hon John Gummer MP

Recycled Paper

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.

With regard to the events which are alleged to have occurred at Rendlesham Forest/RAF Woodbridge in December 1980, it is clear from surviving Departmental records that when Lieutenant Colonel Halt's memorandum was received in my Department it was passed to the military authorities with responsibility for air defence matters. Their conclusion was that there was nothing of defence interest in the report. Once this was established, no further investigation was made. These events happened over 20 years ago and nothing has emerged in those intervening years which has given us reason to believe that the original assessment was incorrect.

Finally, I must say that the MOD has no expertise or role in respect of the existence or otherwise of extraterrestrial lifeforms (about which it remains open-minded), and I should add that to date the MOD knows of no evidence to substantiate the existence of these alleged phenomena.

I hope this explains the situation.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

GEOFFREY HOON

9

From: Section 40
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Directorate of Air Staff 4a1
Room 8245, Main Building, Whitehall
LONDON SW1A 2HB

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

FAX MESSAGE

TO: Section 40 **- Forestry Commission –Secretariat**

SUBJECT: Parliamentary Enquiry

DATE: 10 May 2001 **NUMBER OF PAGES INCLUDING THIS COVER: 3**

PLEASE PASS IMMEDIATELY TO BRUCE INGLIS – TEL: Section 40

From: Section 40 Assistant Director
Directorate of Air Staff 4

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Room 8247, Main Building, Whitehall, London, SW1A 2HB

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

Section 40
Forestry Commission
Section 40
Edinburgh
Section 40

Your Reference

Our Reference
D/DAS(Sec)64/4
Date
10 May 2001

Dear Section 40

I am writing with reference to your telephone conversation yesterday with my colleague Section 40 Section 40 concerning the Parliamentary Enquiry from Admiral of the Fleet The Lord Hill-Norton GCB.

As you may be aware, Lord Hill-Norton has a long standing interest in 'unidentified flying objects' and my Department has replied to a number of Parliamentary Questions in the passed few months, many of which concerned the sightings at Rendlesham Forest. Following one reply Lord Hill-Norton wrote to our Minister, The Rt Hon Baroness Symons, also complaining about her use of the word 'alleged'. We therefore suggest that Lady Hayman may wish to reply along the following lines:

"Your comments regarding the use of the word 'alleged' are noted and I can assure you there was absolutely no intention to mislead Parliament."

You could leave it there, or go on to add:

"I have seen Lieutenant Colonel Halt's memorandum and agree that something unusual seems to have occurred in Rendlesham Forest in December 1980. It is, perhaps, a lack of understanding as to precisely what happened on the night in question that leads some to use the word 'alleged' when referring to this UFO sighting. Nonetheless, the circumstances of the incident have been widely written about and I have a completely open mind about what actually occurred."

As you may not have seen Lieutenant Colonel Halt's memorandum, I have attached a copy for your information.

I hope this is helpful.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS 81ST COMBAT SUPPORT GROUP (USAFE)
APO NEW YORK 09755

REPLY TO ATTN OF: CD

13 Jan 81

SUBJECT: Unexplained Lights

TO: RAF/CC

1. Early in the morning of 27 Dec 80 (approximately 0300L), two USAF security police patrolmen saw unusual lights outside the back gate at RAF Woodbridge. Thinking an aircraft might have crashed or been forced down, they called for permission to go outside the gate to investigate. The on-duty flight chief responded and allowed three patrolmen to proceed on foot. The individuals reported seeing a strange glowing object in the forest. The object was described as being metalic in appearance and triangular in shape, approximately two to three meters across the base and approximately two meters high. It illuminated the entire forest with a white light. The object itself had a pulsing red light on top and a bank(s) of blue lights underneath. The object was hovering or on legs. As the patrolmen approached the object, it maneuvered through the trees and disappeared. At this time the animals on a nearby farm went into a frenzy. The object was briefly sighted approximately an hour later near the back gate.

2. The next day, three depressions 1 1/2" deep and 7" in diameter were found where the object had been sighted on the ground. The following night (29 Dec 80) the area was checked for radiation. Beta/gamma readings of 0.1 milliroentgens were recorded with peak readings in the three depressions and near the center of the triangle formed by the depressions. A nearby tree had moderate (.05-.07) readings on the side of the tree toward the depressions.

3. Later in the night a red sun-like light was seen through the trees. It moved about and pulsed. At one point it appeared to throw off glowing particles and then broke into five separate white objects and then disappeared. Immediately thereafter, three star-like objects were noticed in the sky, two objects to the north and one to the south, all of which were about 10^{0} off the horizon. The objects moved rapidly in sharp angular movements and displayed red, green and blue lights. The objects to the north appeared to be elliptical through an 8-12 power lens. They then turned to full circles. The objects to the north remained in the sky for an hour or more. The object to the south was visible for two or three hours and beamed down a stream of light from time to time. Numerous individuals, including the undersigned, witnessed the activities in paragraphs 2 and 3.

CHARLES I. HALT, Lt Col, USAF
Deputy Base Commander

Forestry Commission
The Department of Forestry for Great Britain

[redacted]
[redacted]
Edinburgh
[redacted]
Tel: [redacted]
Fax: [redacted]

FAX COVER SHEET

Total No. of Pages 3

To: Name: [redacted] Fax No: [redacted]

Organisation: MOD

From: Name: [redacted] Extn. No [redacted]

Division: SECRETARIAT

Supplementary Message:

[redacted] AS DISCUSSED. HAVE YOU ANYTHING YOU COULD SEND ME TO HELP WITH A DRAFT REPLY? THANKS. [redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted] might go back along the lines of:

"How comments re use of the word 'alleged' are noted and I can assure you there was absolutely no intention to mislead Parliament."

He could leave it at that, or he could go on:

"I have seen but Sir Hall's memorandum and agree that something unusual seems to have occurred in RH in December 1980.

Nonetheless, the circumstances of the incident have been widely ~~recorded~~ written about and I have a completely open mind about what actually occurred.

It is, perhaps, the lack of proof as to precisely what happened on the night in question that leads

Admiral of the Fleet The Lord Hill-Norton GCB

The Rt. Hon The Baroness Hayman
House of Lords
Westminster
SW1 OPW

2nd May 2001

Dear Lady Hayman,

In your reply to my Question (PQ 1587) you twice refer to the "alleged incident". This is a factual mistake in English. There is no doubt or question that there was an incident at Rendlesham in December 1980.

Indeed it was the subject of a formal and official Report from the Base Commander (Colonel Halt USAF) to the Ministry of Defence in January 1981, of which I have a copy. Indeed his report has been in the public domain for twenty years. This Memorandum was forwarded to the MOD by the RAF Liaison Officer, Squadron Leader Moreland in a separate covering note dated 15th January 1980.

Thus your mistaken use of the word "alleged" is likely to mislead anyone who reads your Written Answer. I assume that you did not intend to mislead Parliament, which would be a very grave matter, but I suppose it must be put down to ignorance. It would be wise not to let your officials do it again

Yours truly,

Hill-Norton.

PAR 2/2392,

No. 8/40

HANSARD EXTRACT - FOR INFORMATION

House of Lords 30 April 2001 Vol.624 No. 69 Col WA248

Rendlesham Forest: Tree Felling

Lord Hill-Norton asked Her Majesty's Government:

Whether they requested or instructed the Forestry Commission to fell any trees in Rendlesham Forest or Tanham Woods in the aftermath of the Rendlesham Forest incident; and, if so, on what grounds. [HL1810]

Baroness Hayman: The Forestry Commission was not instructed to fell any trees after the alleged incident in Rendlesham Forest in December 1980. Most of the trees in the area had been selected and marked for felling well before the alleged incident and were felled several months after it.

The UK is already fully committed to playing its part in a greater and better co-ordinated international effort to tackle commuicable diseases in the developing world. The ideas in the PIU report will help the UK pursue this agenda internationally at the highest level.

Copies have been placed in the House Library.

Northern Ireland: Air Sea Rescue

Lord Rogan asked Her Majesty's Government:

What is the estimated expenditure on air sea rescue in Northern Ireland in the financial year 2002-03. [HL1471]

The Minister of State, Ministry of Defence (Baroness Symons of Vernham Dean): Current daytime provision of search and rescue (SAR) in Northern Ireland is carried out by both a Wessex helicopter from RAF Aldergorve and by Sea King helicopters at RNAS Prestwick and RAF Valley. The Wessex helicopter provides a limited daytime service incorporated within its principal task of providing a trooping capabilitiy. By night both Prestwick and Valley provide cover for Northern Ireland and the surrounding seas.

The Wessex reaches the end of its operational service at the end of March 2002, and after that date day and night SAR cover will continue to be provided from the mainland. The Sea Kings are dedicated, all weather capable SAR aircraft, with fully trained crews, and can respond to an emergency much faster than a Wessex. They have greater endurance and greater lift capacity and can remain on a task for longer without needing to refuel.

Other military aircraft deployed in Northern Ireland will be available for search and medical evacuations at one hour's notice in support of the mainland SAR aircraft. A decision on a replacement aircraft for the Wessex in the support helicopter role in Northern Ireland has yet to be taken. and so it is not possible at the moment to estimate expenditure on SAR operations in Northern Ireland during the next financial year.

UFOs and MoD House Journal

Lord Hill-Norton asked Her Majesty's Government:

Whose decision it was to drop various features concerning unidentified flying objects from the December edition of the Ministry of Defence's house journal *Focus*; why this decision was taken; and whether any defence Ministers were briefed on this. [HL1812]

Baroness Symons of Vernham Dean: The editorial team of the in-house journal *Focus* decides the content of each edition, selecting from a range of competing potential topics and looking to achieve a balance of departmental news and more general interest pieces. In common with the overwhelming majority of such decisions, Ministers were not briefed about the selection of articles for the December 2000 edition.

Sunken Warships

Lord Northbrook asked Her Majesty's Government:

Whether warships lost at sea, either in conflict or under stress of weather, are government property; and whether those entering these sunken warships or removing items from them without government approval and the approval of the survivors' association related to that ship are committing a criminal offence. [HL1893]

Baroness Symons of Vernham Dean: The rights of ownership enjoyed by Her Majesty's Government in respect of their military vessels are not lost merely because those vessels have sunk or foundered. Diving on a sunken military vessel in United Kingdom waters is not a criminal offence, although those who remove any items from a sunken military vessel may be guilty of theft. Where there is evidence of theft from vessels in international waters, representations would be made to the appropriate authorities.

Foot and Mouth Outbreak: Cost of Military Assistance

The Earl of Caithness asked Her Majesty's Government:

What is the cost to date of the involvement of the Army in helping with the foot and mouth outbreak; and from which budget it is funded. [HL1942]

Baroness Symons of Vernham Dean: The additional cost to date of the military assistance provided during the current outbreak of foot and mouth disease is estimated at around £1.5 million. Although costs are falling initially to the defence budget, they will be recovered from the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (and, in Northern Ireland, from the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development) at the end of the military involvement. This is in line with the normal practice for military aid to the civil authorities.

Army Pay

Lord Hodson of Astley Abbotts asked Her Majesty's Government:

Further to the Written Answer by Baroness Symons of Vernham Dean on 26th March (*WA 11*) to a Question tabled on 15th January, why they are unable to give the additional amount in pounds sterling which would be payable to a private soldier on a one-month overseas unaccompanied emergency tour if he were paid at the rate of the national minimum wage. [HL2006]

However, the first of this year's exercises at the British Army Training Unit Suffield in Canada, Exercise Medicine Man 1, is among those that have been cancelled.

Unidentified Flying Objects

* **Lord Hill-Norton** asked Her Majesty's Government:

Further to the Written Answer by the Baroness Symons of Vernham Dean on 25 January (*WA 22*), why the unidentified flying objects documents referred to were classified secret; whether these documents had any caveats attached to them; and what was the reason for any such caveats. [HL1808]

Baroness Symons of Vernham Dean: One document was classified "Secret" with a "UK Eyes Only" caveat because it contained information about the UK air defence ground environment that could be of significant value to hostile or potentially hostile states. Associated correspondence was given the same classification. Generally, however notifications of and correspondence on the subject of "UFO" sightings are unclassified.

* **Lord Hill-Norton** asked Her Majesty's Government:

Whether, in line with previous ministerial commitments, they will give an undertaking not to destroy any files containing information on unidentified flying objects. [HL1811]

Baroness Symons of Vernham Dean: The Public Records Acts of 1958 and 1967 place a responsibility on all government departments to review the records which are generated within the department, to select those which are worthy of permanent preservation and transfer them to the Public Record Office.

It was generally the case that before 1967 all "UFO" files were destroyed after five years, as there was unsufficient public interest in the subject to merit their permanent retention. However, since 1967, given the general levels of public and occasional academic interest, it has been Ministry of Defence policy to preserve "UFO" report files. There are no plans to change this policy.

* **Lord Hill-Norton** asked Her Majesty's Government:

How many unidentified flying object sightings were reported to the Ministry of Defence in 1998, 1999 and 2000. [HL1813]

Baroness Symons of Vernham Dean: The numbers of "unidentified flying object" sightings reported to the Ministry of Defence in 1998, 1999 and 2000 were as follows:

1998: 193

1999: 229

2000: 210

Special Educational Needs Code of Practice

Baroness Darcy De Knayth asked Her Majesty's Government:

When the final version of the code of practice on special educational needs will be laid before Parliament for approval. [HL1959]

The Minister of State, Department for Education and Employment (Baroness Blackstone): The final version of the revised special educational needs code of practice will be laid before Parliament for approval as soon as practicable after the Special Educational Needs and Disability Bill receives Royal Assent.

Universities: EU Funding

Lord Pearson of Rannoch asked Her Majesty's Government:

How many posts are funded by the European Union in British universities: under which European Union schemes and at what annual cost; and whether the university or the European Union has the final say in who is appointed to those posts. [HL1876]

Baroness Blackstone: 102 Chairs are funded in the UK under the European Commision's Jean Monnet Project: 87 Chairs and 15 Chairs Ad Personam. In 2000–01, the subsidy is a maximum of 10,000 euros per Chair and 4,000 euros per Chair Ad Personam for up to three years. The European Commission has asked for nominations for 2001–02 Ad personam Chairs, but no funding will be available within EU member states. Universities applying for a Chair propose a preferred candidate with details of his or her academic record to the European selection panel. Ad Personam Chairs are awarded to individuals. For details of where these Chairs are located, I refer the noble Lord to the reply I gave on 29 January, *Official Report, WA 27-28.*

Foot and Mouth Disease: Course

Lord Elder asked Her Majesty's Government:

What progress has been made towards eradicating foot and mouth disease. [HL2032]

The Minister of State, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (Baroness Hayman): Copies will be placed in the Libraries of the House today of the latest graphs produced for the Chief Scientific Adviser's group on the course of the disease. These demonstrate that in the seven-day period ending Wednesday 2 May there was an average of approximately eight new confirmed cases each day compared with 16 in the seven-day period ending 22 April and with a weekly average of 43 at the peak in late March. We can therefore be optimistic about the future course of the disease, although the Chief Scientific Adviser has warned that cases will continue to occur for some time yet.

** TO BE GIVEN PRIORITY AT ALL TIMES **

PARLIAMENTARY ENQUIRY

FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION

IMPORTANT - YOU MUST READ THIS GUIDANCE

TO: DAS4 (Sec)

Copy to: DAS 3 (Sec)

PE REF NUMBER: SS2257/2001

MINISTER REPLYING: SofS

DRAFT REQUIRED BY: 8/5/2001

DATE: 25/4/2001 FROM: Section 40 PE Unit TEL Section 40

FAX: Section 40

YOU WILL BE HELD ACCOUNTABLE FOR THE DRAFT ANSWER AND ADVICE, WHICH MUST BE ACCURATE AND NOT MISLEADING IN ANY WAY.

ENSURE THE DEADLINE IS MET: THE DEPARTMENT IS COMMITTED TO ANSWERING 90% OF IT'S MINISTERIAL ENQUIRIES WITHIN 15 WORKING DAYS; OUR PERFORMANCE IN FY 2000/01 – WHILE MUCH IMPROVED – WAS SIGNIFICANTLY LOWER THAN THIS.

A NAMED OFFICIAL AT B2 (GRADE 7) LEVEL OR ABOVE MUST CLEAR ALL DRAFTS. OTHER GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS OR MOD DIVISIONS SHOULD BE CONSULTED AS NECESSARY.

IF YOU ARE AN AGENCY, THE MINISTER'S OFFICE HAS DIRECTED THAT THIS ENQUIRY SHOULD RECEIVE A MINISTERIAL – NOT CHIEF EXECUTIVE – REPLY.

E-MAIL DRAFTS TO *'PARLIAMENTARY ENQUIRIES'*, NOT TO PE CLERKS OR PRIVATE OFFICES.

(Please ensure sensitivity of your email message is 'Normal'.)

IF THIS CORRESPONDENCE SHOULD BE DEALT WITH BY ANOTHER BRANCH, PLEASE PASS IT ON AND INFORM US IMMEDIATELY.

Number of pages sent by fax: 5

** TO BE GIVEN PRIORITY AT ALL TIMES **

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
DAS 3 (SEC)
25 APR 2001
FILE

INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Revised 2 April 2001

** TO BE GIVEN PRIORITY AT ALL TIMES **

** TO BE GIVEN PRIORITY AT ALL TIMES **

** TO BE GIVEN PRIORITY AT ALL TIMES **

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

- DEADLINES: It is important that your draft is with us by the date shown at the top of this notice, as Ministers must send a written reply within 15 WORKING DAYS OF RECEIPT OF THIS ENQUIRY. The Department's performance is reported each year to Parliament. If you cannot meet the deadline, you should therefore provide an interim reply that apologises for the delay, sets out the action being taken to answer the enquiry, and advises when a substantive reply can be expected. You should aim to provide a substantive draft reply within a further 8 working days. Interim replies should be used infrequently, as every effort must be made to reply to correspondence from MPs (and others) promptly.

- **Action at official level on the same case should be held until the Minister has sent a full reply. Please discuss any questions about the substance of the drafts, or other policy aspects, direct with the relevant Private Office.**

- LAYOUT: Draft replies should be double-spaced. Always include the full reference number at the top left of the draft. Put the MP's full title at the bottom left of the first page. Only add the address if the letter is from the Minister direct to a constituent.

- OPENING AND CLOSING: All Ministers prefer to start: *"Thank you for your letter of ...(MP's ref if given) on behalf of/enclosing one from your constituent, Mr ... of ... about ..."*
  If a Minister is replying on behalf of another, start: *"Thank you for your letter of ... to Geoff Hoon/Liz Symons/John Spellar/Lewis Moonie on behalf etc"*
  For Mr Spellar, add: *"I am replying in view of my responsibility for ..."*
  For Baroness Symons, add: *"I am responding because of my responsibility for this issue." (or, in the case of letters from fellow Peers: "I have been asked to respond.")*
  For Dr Moonie, add: *"I am replying as this matter falls within my area of responsibility."*
  Choose an appropriate ending (except for Dr Moonie, who will add his own) - such as: *"I hope this is helpful"; "I hope this explains the position/situation"; "I am sorry I cannot be more helpful"*; or *"I am sorry to send what I know will be a disappointing reply"*.

- OPEN GOVERNMENT: Replies MUST be drafted in accordance with the Code of Practice on Access to Government Information. It is set out in DCI 223/99. If you are recommending to a Minister that some or all information is withheld, the answer must specify the law or exemption in the Code under which it is being withheld - eg "I am withholding the information requested under exemption 1 of Part II of the *Code of Practice on Access to Government Information*." It is NOT acceptable to rely on past practice. Further information is available from DG Info on Section 40

INTERIM REPLIES: If it is obvious on receipt of a Ministerial enquiry that you cannot reply in full, an interim MUST be provided by the deadline stated. REMEMBER: an interim reply covering the majority of the issues raised could help our performance statistics.

** TO BE GIVEN PRIORITY AT ALL TIMES **

** TO BE GIVEN PRIORITY AT ALL TIMES **

** TO BE GIVEN PRIORITY AT ALL TIMES **

From: The Rt. Hon. John Gummer MP

HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

Rt Hon Geoffrey Hoon MP
Secretary of State for Defence
Main Building
Whitehall
London SW1A 2HB

23rd April 2001

RECEIVED BY CLERK
PARLIAMENTARY BRANCH
ON: 24/4/01
MINISTER REPLYING: SofS
KEYWORD(S): LAA's
LEAD BRANCH: DAS 4 (Sec)
COPIED TO: DAS 3 (Sec)
RELATED CASE:
HOUSE OF COMMONS
CLERK Section 40

I have received a letter from a constituent of mine, Section 40 I enclose a copy for your information. I believe the matters raised are of concern to your department. I would be grateful to you for your comments on the points made. Thank you in advance for your kind assistance.

Section 40

[redacted]

Rt Hon John Gummer
Suffolk Coastal Constituency
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

Section 40
Felixstowe
Suffolk
Section 40

5th April 2001

Dear Sir

I am writing with regards to the alleged Rendlesham forest 'UFO' incident(s) that occurred in December 1980.

As you are no doubt aware, over a period of approximately three nights in December 1980 something unexplained was encountered on the outside parimeter of RAF Woodbridge by USAF personnel.
I know this is the case as I have copies of Squadron Leader D.M. Moreland's covering letter and Lt Col Halt's (USAF) memorandum in my possession. They were sent to me following my request to the Ministry Of Defence at Whitehall.

Whilst I am very sceptical of many 'UFO' claims this case will not go away. There are just too many military and civilian witness statements. Never before has such a thought provoking incident taken place.
Yes, I am aware of the alleged 'Roswell incident' but although I have received a copy of the official findings from the Department of Defense (sic) in the United States there is just too much mis-information to find any real conclusion. Most importantly however, the 'Roswell incident' happened in New Mexico and not in Suffolk a few miles from where I live.

And this is what worries me. It appears that the Government are either covering up their findings and not disclosing anything to the general public so as not to cause any panic. Or in the second case, are simply not interested and have opted to wash their hands of the whole occurrence. What I would like to know is if there is an official governmental conclusion to the Rendlesham forest incident and if not, why not?

At the time of the occurrence the RAF Woodbridge & Bentwaters were apparently the largest USAF operating installations in the European theatre. Major nuclear weapons were housed in massive bunkers - common local knowledge, and also Stealth aircraft technology was being flown in covertly late at night.

Surely the Government must be concerned that something allegedly happened on British soil just outside those then major operational installations.
As a loyal British citizen I am very concerned that our Ministry Of Defence deems 'UFO's as not to be any form of threat to our nation and that this incident is closed.

Basically, I have two questions on this subject that I would be grateful if you could assist me with:

- Could you provide me with any conclusion to the whole 'Rendlesham forest' affair or provide a copy of any inquiry findings?

- Could you advise me of the Government's official statement on the subject of 'unidentified flying objects'?

I realise that you must be a very busy man and but I would be most grateful if you could assist my research in this matter.

Your sincerely,

Section 40 [redacted]

From: Section 40 Secretariat(Air Staff)2a, Room 8245
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Main Building, Whitehall, London, SW1A 2HB

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

DISCLOSURE
7

Section 40

Felixstowe,
Suffolk.
Section 40

Your Reference

Our Reference
D/Sec(AS)/64/3
Date
23 September 1999

Dear Section 40

Thank you for your letter of 4 September regarding access to reports of 'unidentified flying objects'.

The Government is committed to the introduction of a Freedom of Information Act as part of its programme of constitutional reform but, as yet, the Act has yet to be initiated. Currently the Ministry of Defence operates in accordance with the Code of Practice on Access to Government Information.

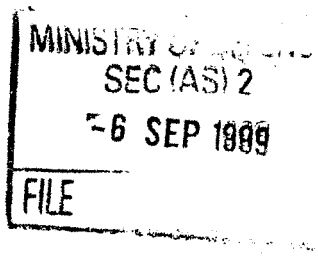
If you wish to have access to MOD files containing 'UFO' reports, you may wish to visit the Public Record Office in Surrey to view closed files. As is the case with other government files, MOD files are subject to the provisions of the Public Records Act of 1958 and 1967. This Act of Parliament states that official files generally remain closed from public viewing for 30 years after the last action has been taken. It was generally the case that before 1967 all 'UFO' files were destroyed after five years, as there was insufficient public interest in the subject to merit their permanent retention. However since 1967, following an increase in public interest in this subject 'UFO' report files are now routinely preserved. Any files from the 1950s and early 1960s which did survive are already available for examination by members of the public at the Public Record Office, Ruskin Avenue, Kew, Richmond, Surrey, TW9 4DU. Files from 1967 onwards will be routinely released to the Public Record Office at the 30 year point.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

Section 40

Secretariat (Air Staff)
2a, Room 8245
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Main Building
Whitehall, London
SW1A 2HB



Section 40

Felixstowe
Suffolk
Section 40

4th September '99

Dear Section 40

I am sure you are very busy dealing with more pressing issues and I do not mean to cause you any offence. I very much hope that this is not an example of the M.o.D.'s policy of silence on the subject of 'unidentified flying objects'.

As per my letter dated 13th August:

Could you please advise me who I need to go to so that I may obtain copies of any other alleged 'UFO' incidents that have now been released for public viewing under the freedom of information act?

I would be most grateful if you pass on any further decommissioned reports to me to aid my investigation.

Please accept my apology if my request is at present being dealt with. Once again, thanks for your assistance in this matter.

Yours Sincerely,

Section 40

Section 40
Secretariat (Air Staff)
2a, Room 8245
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Main Building
Whitehall, London
SW1A 2HB

Section 40
Felixstowe
Suffolk
Section 40

13th August 1999

Dear Section 40

Thank you very much for the prompt reply to my letter of May 11th regarding 'unidentified flying objects' and copy of the memo written by Lt Col Halt concerning the alleged Rendlesham Forest incident of December 1980.

I realise you must be very busy dealing with more important issues so I will be brief.

Could you please advise me who I need to go to so that I may obtain copies of any other alleged 'UFO' incidents that have now been released for public viewing under the freedom of information act?

I would be most grateful if you pass on any further decommissioned reports to me to aid my investigation. Once again, thanks for your assistance in this matter.

Yours Sincerely,

Section 40

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
SEC (AS) 2
16 AUG 1999
FILE

From: Section 40 Secretariat(Air Staff)2a, Room 8245
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Main Building, Whitehall, London, SW1A 2HB

Telephone (Direct dial) 0171 218 2140
(Switchboard) 0171 218 9000
(Fax) Section 40

DISCLOSURE NUMBER 32

Section 40

Felixstowe,
Suffolk.
Section 40

Your Reference

Our Reference
D/Sec(AS)/64/3
Date
27 May 1999

Dear Section 40

Thank you for your letter of 11 May regarding 'unidentified flying objects'. Your letter has been passed to this office for reply as this is the focal point within the Ministry of Defence for correspondence relating to 'UFOs'.

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

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

You asked about the alleged incident at Rendlesham Forest. When the Ministry of Defence was informed of the events which are alleged to have occurred at Rendlesham Forest/RAF Woodbridge in December 1980, all available substantiated evidence was looked at in the usual manner by those within the MOD/RAF with responsibility for air defence matters. The judgement was that there was no indication that a breach of the United Kingdom's air defences had occurred on the nights in question. As there was no evidence to substantiate an event of defence concern no further investigation into the matter was necessary. Although a number of allegations have subsequently been made about these reported events, nothing has emerged over the last 19 years which has given us reason to believe that the original assessment made by this Department was incorrect.

As requested, I have enclosed a copy of the memo written by Lt Col Halt, Deputy Base Commander at the time of the alleged incident, for your interest. This document has been in the public domain for a number of years. I hope this is helpful.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

MINISTERIAL CORRESPONDENCE UNIT

To Sec(AS)2

Ref No 4715 /1999

Date 26/5/99

The Secretary of State,/_____ has received the attached letter from a member of the public. It has not been acknowledged by this office.

Please send a reply on behalf of the Minister concerned. All Ministers attach importance to such letters being answered promptly, your reply should therefore be sent **within 20 working days** of the date of this minute. If, exceptionally, this should prove impossible an interim reply should be sent within the same timescale.

A new Open Government Code of Practice on Access to Government Information came into force on in January 1997. All replies to members of the public must be in accordance with the procedures set out in the Code. A full explanation of the Code of Practice is contained in DCI(Gen) 54/98; further information is available from DOMD on extension Section 40

Under the Citizens' Charter, Departments are now required to keep records of their performance. All branches and Agencies are required to keep information on the number of **requests for information which refer to the Code of Practice** including details of the correspondent and the nature and date of the reply. In addition, the Department is required to provide a record of the total number of letters from members of the public and provide statistics (which may be used on a valid sample) of its performance in providing replies within their published targets.

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 [redacted]

[redacted]
FELIXSTOWE
SUFFOLK
[redacted]

(11TH MAY 99)

PARLIAMENTARY
BRANCH
24 MAY
ROOM 612 MAIN BLDG

Dear M.O.D.

I have a couple of questions for you regarding your position on the Subject of unidentified flying objects. I am very much a sceptic of the Subject but I do feel that there is no Smoke without an actual fire. Fed up of one sided television documentary broadcasts I figured you are the people to ask :-

I) WHAT IS THE M.O.D.'s ACTUAL STANCE ON U.F.O's ?

i.e. Is an investigation being made at present, or has the Subject been closed ?

II) WHAT IS THE M.O.D's ACTUAL STANCE ON THE WOODBRIDGE (SUFFOLK) R.A.F./U.S.A.F. AIRBASE SIGHTING(S) OF DECEMBER 28/29TH 1980 ?

a) COMMANDER HOLT's Statement claiming extra-terrestrial activity that night. Do you believe it ?

b) AIRFORCEMAN LARRY WARREN's extra-terrestrial activity claim of a Separate incident that night also. (A U.F.O. was filmed <Video + cinema> landing in a field.) Will that film be Shown to the public ?

I would very much appreciate any copies of declassified documents on the above questions, or at least an answer of Sorts.

Many Thanks

[redacted]

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS 81ST COMBAT SUPPORT GROUP (USAFE)
APO NEW YORK 09755

REPLY TO ATTN OF: CD

13 Jan 81

SUBJECT: Unexplained Lights

TO: RAF/CC

1. Early in the morning of 27 Dec 80 (approximately 0300L), two USAF security police patrolmen saw unusual lights outside the back gate at RAF Woodbridge. Thinking an aircraft might have crashed or been forced down, they called for permission to go outside the gate to investigate. The on-duty flight chief responded and allowed three patrolmen to proceed on foot. The individuals reported seeing a strange glowing object in the forest. The object was described as being metalic in appearance and triangular in shape, approximately two to three meters across the base and approximately two meters high. It illuminated the entire forest with a white light. The object itself had a pulsing red light on top and a bank(s) of blue lights underneath. The object was hovering or on legs. As the patrolmen approached the object, it maneuvered through the trees and disappeared. At this time the animals on a nearby farm went into a frenzy. The object was briefly sighted approximately an hour later near the back gate.

2. The next day, three depressions 1 1/2" deep and 7" in diameter were found where the object had been sighted on the ground. The following night (29 Dec 80) the area was checked for radiation. Beta/gamma readings of 0.1 milliroentgens were recorded with peak readings in the three depressions and near the center of the triangle formed by the depressions. A nearby tree had moderate (.05-.07) readings on the side of the tree toward the depressions.

3. Later in the night a red sun-like light was seen through the trees. It moved about and pulsed. At one point it appeared to throw off glowing particles and then broke into five separate white objects and then disappeared. Immediately thereafter, three star-like objects were noticed in the sky, two objects to the north and one to the south, all of which were about 10^{o} off the horizon. The objects moved rapidly in sharp angular movements and displayed red, green and blue lights. The objects to the north appeared to be elliptical through an 8-12 power lens. They then turned to full circles. The objects to the north remained in the sky for an hour or more. The object to the south was visible for two or three hours and beamed down a stream of light from time to time. Numerous individuals, including the undersigned, witnessed the activities in paragraphs 2 and 3.

CHARLES I. HALT, Lt Col, USAF
Deputy Base Commander

DAS4A1(SEC)

7

From: PARLIAMENTARY TYPIST2 on behalf of PARLIAMENTARY ENQUIRIES
To: DAS4A1(SEC)
Sent: 08 May 2001 12:18
Subject: Read: SS2257/2001

Your message

To: PARLIAMENTARY ENQUIRIES
Subject: SS2257/2001
Sent: 08/05/01 12:09

was read on 08/05/01 12:18.

LOOSE MINUTE

D/DAS(Sec)64/4

8 May 2001

PE Unit
(through DAS A Section 40 [redacted] 45

PARLIAMENTARY ENQUIRY – SS2257/2001- THE RT HON JOHN GUMMER MP

1. So far as we are aware, the constituent has contacted the MOD three times before regarding 'unidentified flying objects'. In May 1999 he asked about MOD's stance on the subject. He also asked several questions regarding the alleged sighting in Rendlesham Forest in December 1980. In August and September 1999 he asked how he could obtain copies of any 'UFO' incidents that had been released to the public. Copies of these letters and our replies are attached for information.

2. On this occasion, Section 40 is again enquiring about the documented incident at Rendlesham Forest, Suffolk. This is a well known 'UFO' incident which is said to have occurred over the Christmas period in 1980, in the vicinity of two RAF bases (RAF Bentwaters and RAF Woodbridge), which at the time had been made available to US Visiting Forces. Public interest in this incident was heightened in 1983 when a memorandum written by Lieutenant Colonel Halt, Deputy Base Commander at RAF Woodbridge at the time of the sighting, was released in the United States under the American Freedom of Information Act. I attach a copy of this memorandum for information.

3. The incident is alleged to have occurred over 20 years ago, but it is clear from the surviving Departmental records that when the MOD received Lieutenant Colonel Halt's memorandum, it was passed to the military authorities with responsibility for air defence matters. Their conclusion was that there was nothing in the report of any defence concern. As the MOD's only interest in these matters is the defence of UK airspace, no further investigation was made.

4. Many 'ufologists' have taken an interest in this event over the intervening years and several books have been written which have included varied accounts from those claiming to have witnessed everything from lights in the forest, to spaceships and alien beings. Some also tour the speech circuit talking about their alleged experiences. Nothing, however, has emerged which has given us reason to believe that the original assessment made by the MOD was incorrect.

4. I enclose a draft reply for Secretary of State to send to the Rt Hon John Gummer MP in response to his letter of 23 April, enclosing a letter from his constituent Section 40

Section 40

DAS 4a1
MB8245 Section 40

Drafted by: Section 40 DAS 4a1
Authorised by: DAS AD4

SS 2257/2001 May 2001

DRAFT REPLY TO THE RT HON JOHN GUMMER MP

Thank you for your letter of 23 April enclosing one from your constituent, Section 40 of Section 40 Felixstowe, who is enquiring about an alleged sighting of 'unidentified flying objects' in Rendlesham Forrest, Suffolk in December 1980.

As Section 40 will be aware from his previous correspondence with my officials, the Ministry of Defence has only a limited interest in 'UFO' sightings and any reports received are examined solely to establish whether what was seen might have some defence significance. My Department's only concern is to establish 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 military source, and to date no 'UFO' reported to us has revealed such a threat, 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 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.

With regard to the events which are alleged to have occurred at Rendlesham Forest/RAF Woodbridge in December 1980, it is clear from surviving Departmental records that when Lieutenant Colonel Halt's memorandum was received in my Department it was passed to the military authorities with responsibility for air defence

matters. Their conclusion was that there was nothing of defence interest in the report. Once this was established no further investigation was made. These events happened over 20 years ago and nothing has emerged in those intervening years which has given us reason to believe that the original assessment was incorrect.

Finally, I must say that my Department has no expertise or role in respect of the existence or otherwise of extraterrestrial lifeforms, about which it remains open-minded, but I should add that to date the MOD knows of no evidence to substantiate the existence of these alleged phenomena.

I hope this explains the situation.

THE RT HON GEOFFREY HOON MP

The Rt Hon John Gummer MP

TEMPLATE TO BE USED FOR REPLY

6

Ministry of Defence

FRIDAY 4 MAY 2001

Admiral of The Fleet The Lord Hill-Norton GCB

LORDS WRITTEN

To ask Her Majesty's Government whose decision it was to drop various features concerning Unidentified Flying Objects from the December edition of the Ministry of Defence's house journal Focus; why this decision was taken; and whether any Defence Ministers were briefed on this. (HL1812)

Minister replying Baroness Symons

The editorial team of the in-house journal Focus decides the content of each edition, selecting from a range of competing potential topics, and looking to achieve a balance of Departmental news and more general interest pieces. In common with the overwhelming majority of such decisions, Ministers were not briefed about the selection of articles for the December 2000 edition.

May 01 PQ Ref 1437L

BACKGROUND NOTE

The question refers to the decision taken by officials in the Directorate General of Corporate Communication (which includes the *Focus* production team) not to carry through to publication some linked articles on the theme of UFOs that might otherwise have appeared in the December 2000 issue. The articles – which did not go beyond draft stage - would have featured primarily an interview with Nick Pope (a serving MoD official who has published widely as a private individual on the subject of UFOs) and a review of a recently published book by the independent journalist/author Georgina Bruni.

Both individuals were involved in the launch of Ms Bruni's book "*You can't tell the people*" about an alleged UFO incident dating from 1980. An event to promote its publication took place in the Henry VIII Wine Cellar in Main Building in November 2000 and raised money for a Service charity. US of S's office was informed of the event in Main Building because of the possibility of external coverage. The event did attract some external media coverage at the time, not least because MoD made it clear that the views of the author did not represent those of the MoD. Ministers were not briefed on the decision not to carry the draft Focus articles through to publication.

The December edition had competing material that (without the UFO articles) filled the available space (even with the addition of 4 more pages than the previous month). In reaching their editorial decision, officials were influenced against pursuing the UFO articles because on the one hand it was felt they might give undue prominence to the claims of UFO enthusiasts while on the other hand a critical treatment of their views might appear as an over-reaction from the official journal of a Department of State against individuals.

Both Mr Pope and Ms Bruni will have been aware that Focus was at one stage considering featuring them in the December issue. It is not certain what has prompted Lord Hill-Norton to ask his question at this time.

REMEMBER you are accountable for the accuracy and timeliness of the advice you provide. Departmental Instructions on answering PQs can be viewed on the CHOTS public area and on DAWN.

DRAFTED BY	:	*	Section 40 [redacted]	TEL:	Section 40 [redacted]
AUTHORISED BY	:	*	[redacted]	TEL:	[redacted]
GRADE/RANK	:	*	SCS		
BRANCH	:		DCCS		

DECLARATION: I have satisfied myself that the above answer and background note are in accordance with the Government's policy on answering PQs, Departmental instructions (DCI GEN 150/97), and the Open Government Code (DCI GEN 54/98).

LORDS WRITTEN PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION - URGENT ACTION REQUIRED

5

DATE FOR RETURN	:	**12:00 ON 30 April 2001**
PQ REFERENCE	:	PQ 1437L
PQ TYPE	:	LORDS WRITTEN
MINISTER REPLYING	:	-NOTFOUND-
LEAD BRANCH:	:	SEC (AS)
COPY ADDRESSEE(S)	:	

MDP Sec
DI(Sec)
Defence Estates
D NEWS
D AIR RP
CAS
ACAS

Sell to DCC

- **The answer and background note must be authorised by a civil servant at Senior Civil Service level or a military officer at one-star level or above who is responsible for ensuring that the information and advice provided is accurate and reflects Departmental Instructions on answering PQs DCI GEN 150/97.**

- **Those contributing information for PQ answers and background notes are responsible for ensuring the information is accurate.**

- **The attached checklist should be used by those drafting PQ answers and background material, those contributing information and those responsible for authorising the answer and background note as an aid to ensuring that departmental policy is adhered to.**

- **If you or others concerned are uncertain about how PQs are answered seek advice from a senior civil servant in or closely associated with your area.**

Peer's DETAIL: **Admiral of The Fleet The Lord Hill-Norton GCB**

QUESTION

To ask Her Majesty's Government To ask Her Majesty's Government whose decision it was to drop various features concerning Unidentified Flying Objects from the December edition of the Ministry of Defence's house journal Focus; why this decision was taken; and whether any Defence Ministers were briefed on this. (HL1812)

See E8/1 for Hansard

See E8 for Hansard

RESTRICTED/UNCLASSIFIED

MOD Form 174D
(Revised 5/99)

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

TEMPORARY ENCLOSURE JACKET

4

REGISTERED FILE No. D / DAS (Sec) 64/4

Enclosure Jacket No 3

DATE OPENED (Date of First Enclosure)
25-4-2001

DIVISION / DIRECTORATE / BRANCH:

SUBJECT: PQ 1438L
LORD HILL-NORTON.

Referred to	Date	Referred to	Date

USER NOTES

1. A MOD Form 262A (File Record Sheet) must be raised for each new Temporary Enclosure Jacket (TEJ) created. The TEJ should also include a minute sheet.

2. When a TEJ is incorporated into the parent file it should be placed in the file in date order (according to the date of the last action on the TEJ) and allocated an enclosure number.

3. The file minute sheet should be annotated to record the enclosure number of the TEJ along with details of the number of enclosures contained within it. The TEJ record sheet (MOD Form 262A) should be annotated to record the date on which the TEJ was incorporated into the parent file (JSP 441, paragraph 4.13 refers).

DAS4A1(SEC)

From: PARLIAMENTARY TYPIST3 on behalf of PARLIAMENTARY QUESTIONS
To: DAS4A1(SEC)
Sent: 30 April 2001 13:08
Subject: Read: PQS 1438L and 1436L

Your message

To: PARLIAMENTARY QUESTIONS
Subject: PQS 1438L and 1436L
Sent: 30/04/01 12:57

was read on 30/04/01 13:08.

TEMPLATE TO BE USED FOR REPLY

Ministry of Defence

FRIDAY 4 MAY 2001

Admiral of The Fleet The Lord Hill-Norton GCB(X) (CB)

LORDS WRITTEN

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many Unidentified Flying Object sightings were reported to the Ministry of Defence in 1998, 1999 and 2000. (HL1813)

Minister replying Baroness Symons

The numbers of 'Unidentified Flying Object' sightings reported to the Ministry of Defence in 1998, 1999 and 2000 were as follows:

1998: 193
1999: 229
2000: 210

April 01 PQ Ref 1438L

BACKGROUND NOTE

Directorate of Air Staff (Secretariat) is the focal point within the Ministry of Defence for correspondence relating to 'Unidentified Flying Objects'. Members of the public report sightings to a variety of sources, including RAF Stations, Police and Air Traffic organisations, and these are passed to the MOD for reply. Many are the result of direct correspondence with the MOD, either in writing or by telephone.

Over the past 10 years, between 100 and 400 reports have been received each year. The only exception was in 1996 following the publication of a book about 'UFOs' written by a former member of Directorate of Air Staff (Secretariat). This raised public interest in the subject, and some 609 reports were received that year.

REMEMBER you are accountable for the accuracy and timeliness of the advice you provide. Departmental Instructions on answering PQs can be viewed on the CHOTS public area and on DAWN.

DRAFTED BY	:	Section 40 [redacted]	TEL: Section 40 [redacted]
AUTHORISED BY	:		TEL:
GRADE/RANK	:	B1	
BRANCH	:	DAS Deputy Director	*Original Signed*

DECLARATION: I have satisfied myself that the above answer and background note are in accordance with the Government's policy on answering PQs, Departmental instructions (DCI GEN 150/97), and the Open Government Code (DCI GEN 54/98).

TEMPLATE TO BE USED FOR REPLY

Ministry of Defence

FRIDAY 4 MAY 2001

Admiral of The Fleet The Lord Hill-Norton GCB(X) (CB)

LORDS WRITTEN

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many Unidentified Flying Object sightings were reported to the Ministry of Defence in 1998, 1999 and 2000. (HL1813)

Minister replying Baroness Symons

The numbers of 'Unidentified Flying Object' sightings reported to the Ministry of Defence in 1998, 1999 and 2000 were as follows:

1998: 193
1999: 229
2000: 210

April 01 PQ Ref 1438L

BACKGROUND NOTE

Directorate of Air Staff (Secretariat) is the focal point within the Ministry of Defence for correspondence relating to 'Unidentified Flying Objects'. Members of the public report sightings to a variety of sources, including RAF Stations, Police and Air Traffic organisations, and these are passed to the MOD for reply. Many are the result of direct correspondence with the MOD, either in writing or by telephone.

Over the past 10 years, between 100 and 400 reports have been received each year. The only exception was in 1997 following the publication of a book about 'UFOs' written by a former member of Directorate of Air Staff (Secretariat). This raised public interest in the subject, and some 609 reports were received that year.

REMEMBER you are accountable for the accuracy and timeliness of the advice you provide. Departmental Instructions on answering PQs can be viewed on the CHOTS public area and on DAWN.

DRAFTED BY : Section 40 TEL: Section 40

AUTHORISED BY : TEL:

GRADE/RANK : B1

BRANCH : DAS Deputy Director Section 40

DECLARATION: I have satisfied myself that [redacted] background note are in accordance with the Government's policy on answering PQs, Departmental instructions (DCI GEN 150/97), and the Open Government Code (DCI GEN 54/98).

LORDS WRITTEN PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION - URGENT ACTION REQUIRED

DATE FOR RETURN	:	**12:00 ON 30 April 2001**
PQ REFERENCE	:	PQ 1438L
PQ TYPE	:	LORDS WRITTEN
MINISTER REPLYING	:	-NOTFOUND-
LEAD BRANCH:	:	SEC (AS)
COPY ADDRESSEE(S)	:	

MDP Sec
DI(Sec)
Defence Estates
D NEWS
D AIR RP
CAS
ACAS

- **The answer and background note must be authorised by a civil servant at Senior Civil Service level or a military officer at one-star level or above who is responsible for ensuring that the information and advice provided is accurate and reflects Departmental Instructions on answering PQs DCI GEN 150/97.**

- **Those contributing information for PQ answers and background notes are responsible for ensuring the information is accurate.**

- **The attached checklist should be used by those drafting PQ answers and background material, those contributing information and those responsible for authorising the answer and background note as an aid to ensuring that departmental policy is adhered to.**

- **If you or others concerned are uncertain about how PQs are answered seek advice from a senior civil servant in or closely associated with your area.**

Peer's DETAIL: **Admiral of The Fleet The Lord Hill-Norton GCB**

QUESTION

To ask Her Majesty's Government To ask Her Majesty's Government how many Unidentified Flying Object sightings were reported to the Ministry of Defence in 1998, 1999 and 2000. (HL1813)

See E8 for Hansard

RESTRICTED/UNCLASSIFIED
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
TEMPORARY ENCLOSURE JACKET

MOD Form 174D
(Revised 5/99)

3

REGISTERED FILE No. D/DAS(Sec)64/4

Enclosure Jacket No 2

DATE OPENED (Date of First Enclosure)
25.4.2001

DIVISION / DIRECTORATE / BRANCH:

SUBJECT: PQ 1436L
Lord Hill-Norton

Referred to	Date	Referred to	Date

USER NOTES

1. A MOD Form 262A (File Record Sheet) must be raised for each new Temporary Enclosure Jacket (TEJ) created. The TEJ should also include a minute sheet.

2. When a TEJ is incorporated into the parent file it should be placed in the file in date order (according to the date of the last action on the TEJ) and allocated an enclosure number.

3. The file minute sheet should be annotated to record the enclosure number of the TEJ along with details of the number of enclosures contained within it. The TEJ record sheet (MOD Form 262A) should be annotated to record the date on which the TEJ was incorporated into the parent file (JSP 441, paragraph 4.13 refers).

DAS4A1(SEC)

From: PARLIAMENTARY TYPIST3 on behalf of PARLIAMENTARY QUESTIONS
To: DAS4A1(SEC)
Sent: 30 April 2001 13:08
Subject: Read: PQS 1438L and 1436L

Your message

To: PARLIAMENTARY QUESTIONS
Subject: PQS 1438L and 1436L
Sent: 30/04/01 12:57

was read on 30/04/01 13:08.

TEMPLATE TO BE USED FOR REPLY

Ministry of Defence

FRIDAY 4 MAY 2001

Admiral of The Fleet The Lord Hill-Norton GCB(X) (CB)

LORDS WRITTEN

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether, in line with previous ministerial commitments, they will give an undertaking not to destroy any files containing information on Unidentified Flying Objects. (HL1811)

Minister replying Baroness Symons

The Public Records Acts of 1958 and 1967 place a responsibility on all government departments to review the records which are generated within the department, to select those which are worthy of permanent preservation and transfer them to the Public Record Office.

It was generally the case that before 1967 all 'UFO' files were destroyed after five years, as there was insufficient public interest in the subject to merit their permanent retention. However, since 1967, given the general levels of public and occasional academic interest, it has been MOD policy to preserve 'UFO' report files. There are no plans to change this policy.

April 01 PQ Ref 1436L

BACKGROUND NOTE

Lord Hill-Norton, Chief of the Defence Staff from 1971 to 1973, has a long standing interest in 'UFOs'.

On this occasion Lord Hill-Norton has asked for confirmation of previous ministerial commitments that files containing information on 'Unidentified Flying Objects' will not be destroyed.

Since 1997 Lord Hill-Norton has asked a number of PQs concerning 'UFO' documentation and copies of those questions and the replies are attached. This does appear, however, to be the first time that he has sought the specific assurance that files containing information on 'UFOs' are being preserved.

The Public Records Acts of 1958 and 1967 legislate that all government departments shall review records they have generated in order to select those that are worthy of permanent preservation and transfer them to the Public Record Office. This work is undertaken in order to ensure that material that is of historic value is preserved for the nation. Within MOD that work is taken forward by the Directorate from which the record originates and also by the Departmental Records Officer.

Before 1967 it was generally the case that all 'UFO' files were destroyed after five years, as there was insufficient public interest in the subject to merit their permanent retention. However, since then, and following an increase in public interest in the subject, personnel within Directorate of Air Staff (Secretariat), as the lead Directorate for the subject, have been instructed to preserve 'UFO' report files. This information has been communicated to members of the public who have raised the question.

All correspondence, PQs, PEs and any policy material on the subject, is maintained on files with 'UFO' in the title. This acts to limit the possibility that papers will be mislaid or destroyed.

The Minister may be interested to note that the British Flying Saucer Bureau, which was founded in 1952 and is reportedly the oldest 'UFO' group in the UK, has recently suspended its activities because of the decline in the number of new sightings reported to them.

REMEMBER you are accountable for the accuracy and timeliness of the advice you provide. Departmental Instructions on answering PQs can be viewed on the CHOTS public area and on DAWN.

DRAFTED BY : [redacted] TEL: [redacted]

AUTHORISED BY : [redacted] TEL:

GRADE/RANK : B1

BRANCH : DAS Deputy Director

DECLARATION: I have satisfied myself that [redacted] background note are in accordance with the Government's policy o[redacted]rtmental instructions (DCI GEN 150/97), and the Open Go[redacted]EN 54/98).

End of an era for little green men

BY DAVID FICKLING

THE world's oldest UFO-spotting group has closed – because of an apparent decline in the number of alien visitors to Earth.

The British Flying Saucers Bureau, which once had a membership of 1,500, used to receive up to 30 UFO reports a week but sightings have dried up.

Denis Plunkett, 70, founded the bureau in 1953 with his father. Reports of UFOs became so widespread that a US firm started selling insurance against alien abduction.

Mr Plunkett dates the decline in ufology – the study of UFOs – to the end of the Cold War. He said: 'The number of sightings always rises at times of international tension and declines in times of peace.

'There was also a lot more secrecy about new weapons, like the Stealth bombers, which accounted for a lot of the sightings.'

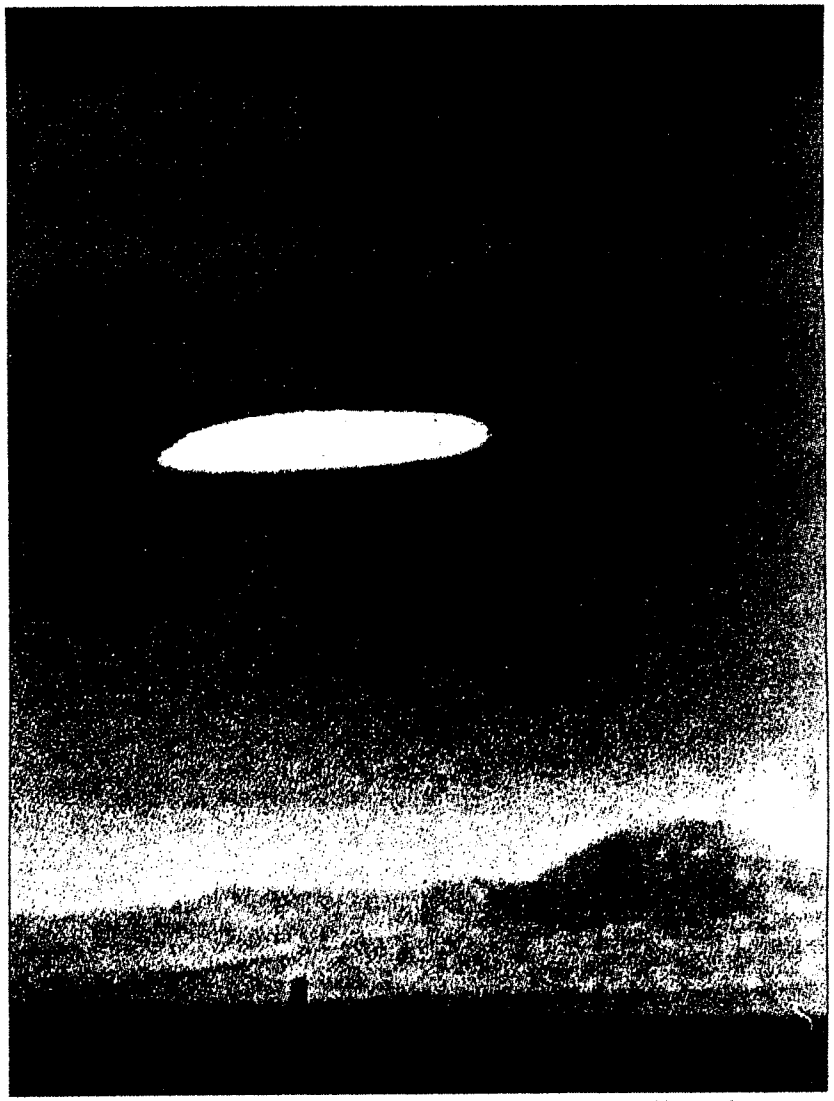
However, the greatest threat to amateur alien-watchers, who would meet in pubs to pore over grainy photographs of flying saucers, comes from the rise in UFO interest groups on the Internet.

Mr Plunkett, a retired Rolls-Royce worker from Bristol, said: 'Rather than trekking out to some draughty hall to see my old slides, it is a lot easier to sit in front of a computer.'

Mr Plunkett became interested in extra-terrestrial activity after his cousin was lost in an aircraft which vanished over Bolivia in 1947 – at the same time as a number of UFO sightings. The disappearance was explained last year when the wreckage was found in the Andes.

But Mr Plunkett remains convinced there is something out there.

Explaining the dearth of sightings, he said aliens have found out all they need to know about Earth, for now. But, he says, they will be back.



Sightings, such as this UFO over New Mexico in 1957, are becoming rarer

Written Answers

Wednesday, 14th October 1998.

Unidentified Flying Objects

Lord Hill-Norton asked Her Majesty's Government:

Whether they will list the document references and titles of all open files at the Public Record Office that contain information about unidentified flying objects. [HL3314]

The Lord Chancellor (Lord Irvine of Lairg): I list below the document references and titles of all open files at the Public Record Office known to staff to contain information about unidentified flying objects. There may be information in other open files but this could be discovered only at disproportionate cost.

AIR 2 Air Ministry Registered Files

AIR 2/16918 1961–1963, alleged sightings of UFO's. Letters from members of the public on alleged sightings. Magazine entitled *Cosmic Voice "Mars and Venus Speak to Earth"*, dated November–December 1961/Article entitled *Men from Outer Space: Are they visiting Britain?*

AIR 2/17318 1963 UFO reports
AIR 2/17526 1964 UFO reports
AIR 2/17527 1964–1965 UFO reports
AIR 2/17982 1965–1966 UFO reports
AIR 2/17983 1966 UFO reports (with photographs)
AIR 2/17984 1966–67 UFO reports (with photographs)

AIR 14 Bomber Command

AIR 14/2800 1943 December No. 115 Squadron: News Sheet *Bang On* No. 1. Aerial phenomena—reports of UFOs on RAF bombing raids.

AIR 16 Fighter Command

AIR 16/1199 1952 September Flying saucers: occurrence reports by service personnel at Topcliffe station, Thirsk, and local public.

AIR 20 Unregistered Papers

AIR 20/7390 1952 Reported sightings of UFOs: memorandum prepared for the War Office.

AIR 20/9320 1957 Parliamentary Question from 17 April 1957 by Mr. Stan Awbery MP: To ask the Secretary of State for Air, what recent investigations have been made into unidentified flying objects; what photographs have been taken; and what reports have been made on this subject. Reply by the Secretary of State (Mr. Ward). Notes on UFOs provided for the Minister's use. Also: UFO incident at West Freugh in Wigtownshire in 1957; incidents and signals at RAF Church Lawford, RAF Bempton and RAF Lakenheath; newspaper clippings 6 April 1957 from the *News Chronicle* and the *Evening Standard*;, photographs of object over the Channel Islands from the *Daily Sketch* of 6 April 1957.

AIR 20/9321 1957 Parliamentary Question 15 May 1957 from Major Patrick Wall MP: To ask the Secretary of State for Air, how many unidentified flying objects have been detected over Great Britain this year as compared with previous years; and whether the object picked up on radar over the Dover Straits on 29 April has yet been identified. Further questions to the Minister from Mr. Frank Beswick MP. Notes for Minister on reported sightings. Replies by Mr. Ward. Newspaper clippings April–May 1957: *The Times, News Chronicle, Daily Worker, Daily Mirror, Daily Sketch, Daily Telegraph, Daily Express* and the *Evening News*.

AIR 20/9322 1957 Parliamentary Question 15 May 1957 from Mr. Frank Beswick MP: To ask the Secretary of State for Air, what was the nature of the aircraft or other aircraft sighted on the radar defence screens on Monday night and which occasioned the despatch of Fighter Command. Reply by Mr. Ward. Notes for Ministers.

AIR 20/9994 Headquarters Southern Section Intelligence. Reports on Aerial Phenomena, including "observation of unusual aerial phenomena at Royal Air Force Ventor on 29 July 1957". Two Copies of "Track Tracing" Sheets.

Description of UFOs, for example, RAF Lyneham 9 December 1957: "December 1957: Description large bright crescent shaped object or could be a sphere with trails from edges. Travelling on a course of 290 degrees at a moderate speed. Seemed to be descending and not at a very great height".

AIR 20/11887 1967 August (with maps)

AIR 20/11888 1967 September

AIR 20/11889 1967 October (with photographs)

AIR 20/11890 1967 October (with maps)

AIR 20/11891 1967 November (with maps)

AIR 20/11892 1967 November

AIR 20/11893 1967 December

AIR 22 Periodical Returns, Summaries and Bulletins

AIR 22/93 1955 Air Ministry Secret Intelligence Summary March 1955. Volume 10, Article No. 3 on Flying Saucers "An object was reported . . .".

PREM 11 Prime Minister's Office: Correspondence and Papers, 1951–1964.

PREM 11/855 1952 Personal Minute from the Prime Minister, Mr. Winston Churchill to the Secretary of State for Air, Lord Cheswell, dated 28 July 1952. "What does all this stuff about flying saucers amount to? What can it mean? What is the truth? Let me have a report at your convenience." Minute from the Secretary of State, dated 9 August 1952, dismissing stories about flying saucers.

Lord Hill-Norton asked Her Majesty's Government:

Whether they will list the document references and titles of all closed files at the Public Record Office that contain information about unidentified flying objects. [HL3315]

The Lord Chancellor: I list below the document references and titles of all closed files in the Public Record Office known to its staff to contain information about unidentified flying objects. There may be information in other closed files but this could be discovered only at disproportionate cost.

Air Ministry: Registered Files

AIR 2/18183 1968–1969 Unidentified Flying Objects*

AIR 20 Unregistered Papers

AIR 20/11612 1967–1968 Unidentified Flying Objects (UFOs)*

AIR 20/11895 1968 April UFOs*

AIR 20/11896 1968 May UFOs*

AIR 20/11897 1968 June UFOs*

AIR 20/11898 1968 July UFOs*

AIR 20/11899 1968 August UFOs*

AIR 20/11900 1968 September UFOs*

AIR 20/11901 1968 October UFOs*

AIR 20/11902 1968 November UFOs*

AIR 20/12055 1969 January UFOs*

AIR 20/12056 1969 February UFOs*

AIR 20/12057 1969 March UFOs*

AIR 20/12058 1969 April UFOs*

AIR 20/12059 1969 May UFOs*

AIR 20/12060 1969 June UFOs*

AIR 20/12061 1969 July UFOs*

AIR 20/12062 1969 August UFOs*

AIR 20/12063 1969 September UFOs*

AIR 20/12064 1969 October UFOs*

AIR 20/12065 1969 November UFOs*

AIR 20/12066 1969 December UFOs*

AIR 20/12067 1970 January UFOs*

AIR 20/12297 1970 February UFOs*

AIR 20/12298 1970 March UFOs*

AIR 20/12299 1970 April UFOs*

AIR 20/12300 1970 May UFOs*

AIR 20/12301 1970 June UFOs*

AIR 20/12302 1970 July UFOs*

AIR 20/12303 1970 August UFOs*

AIR 20/12304 1970 September UFOs*

AIR 20/12305 1970 October UFOs*

AIR 20/12306 1970 November UFOs*

* = Thirty year closure rule applies.

Surrogacy: Review Report

Baroness Gould of Potternewton asked Her Majesty's Government:

Whether they will publish the report of the review of aspects of surrogacy arrangements announced in June 1997. [HL3414]

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department of Health (Baroness Hayman): The Government have received the report of the review team, chaired by Professor Margaret Brazier, OBE, and this is being published today as Cm 4068. Copies will be placed in the Library. We intend to consult formally on the recommendations in the report and an announcement about that will be made in due course. We are very grateful to Professor Brazier and her colleagues, Professors Alastair Campbell and Susan Golombok, for their work.

National Blood Authority

Lord Clement-Jones asked Her Majesty's Government:

Whether a new management plan has been received from the new Chairman of the National Blood Authority and when it will be published. [HL3390]

Baroness Hayman: We have received the operational plan for 1998–99. Copies are available from the National Blood Authority and copies will be placed in the Library.

Nursing, Midwifery and Health Visiting Strategy

Lord Clement-Jones asked Her Majesty's Government:

Following the recent consultation, when it is anticipated that the Department of Health will publish its Nursing, Midwifery and Health Visiting Strategy. [HL3391]

Baroness Hayman: The Department of Health plans to publish a new Nursing, Midwifery and Health Visiting Strategy in the new year.

CIREA: Asylum Information Exchange

Lord Lester of Herne Hill asked Her Majesty's Government:

Further to the Written Answer by the Lord Williams of Mostyn on 3 September (*WA 12*), whether they will publish the proceedings of the Centre for Information, Discussion and Exchange on Asylum (CIREA). [HL3303]

The Minister of State, Home Office (Lord Williams of Mostyn): The outcome of proceedings of the CIREA group are contained in Council documents which can be applied for under the Council's Decision 93/731 on Access to Documents. Applications should be made in writing to the Secretary-General of the Council of the European Union, 175 Rue de la Loi, 1048 Brussels. The Council Secretariat will decide whether the documents may be disclosed, in accordance with the criteria laid down in the Decision. In the event of a refusal, applicants may make a confirmatory application for the document to the Council. The official journal of the European Union published a report of CIREA activities on 23 June 1997 C.191 concerning the period 1994 to 1996. The Government favour disclosure of as great a number of documents as possible.

25—1996–5 rking Accounts

£000s

Expenditure	*Net Income*	*Comments*
1,714	69	Surplus put towards off-setting deficit on off-street car parking account and design and implementation and extension of CPZs
4,544	201	Surplus used for CPZs (25) and carry forward to 1997–98 (176)
18,645	33,598	Surplus used as contribution to capital expenditure: on-street parking (715), off-street parking (468), highways and traffic improvement schemes (9,534), Departmental systems improvement (21), street trees and parks (119) and as a contribution to revenue expenditure: off-street parking (9,684), car parks business unit (517), highways and traffic improvement schemes (3,552), street lighting (1,299), gully cleansing (88), street trees (635), transport planning (90) concessionary fares and taxicard scheme (5,046), home to school transport (635). Remainder of surplus carried forward to 1997–98
91,651	71,786	

In the six weeks that the Veterans' Advice Unit has been operational, the unit has taken nearly 1,100 calls. Most calls can be dealt with immediately, but some require investigative work and a subsequent return call to the enquirer.

The range of problems dealt with has been quite diverse, including homecare and housing, Falklands and Gulf war issues, finance, the tracing of relatives, War Graves and historical records, among others. However, the largest number of calls have concerned pensions, employment, the provision of medals and information about the unit itself.

Unidentified Flying Objects

Lord Hill-Norton asked Her Majesty's Government:

Whether they will list the references and titles of all open and closed files currently held by the Ministry of Defence which contain information about unidentified flying objects. [HL3910]

Lord Gilbert: Within the Air Staff Secretariat, the Ministry of Defence focal point for all matters relating to "UFOs", a total of 76 files dating from 1985 are held. These files contain public correspondence, sighting reports and associated papers and are referenced as follows:

Reference:

D/Sec(AS)/12/1) 5 parts dealing with policy
D/Sec(AS)/64/1) issues.

NUMBER

D/Sec(AS)/12/2)

D/Sec(AS)/12/2/1)

D/Sec(AS)/12/5) 27 parts dealing with alleged
D/Sec(AS)/12/6) sightings.

D/Sec(AS)/12/7)

D/Sec(AS)/64/2)

D/Sec(AS)/12/3) 34 parts dealing with public
D/Sec(AS)/64/3) correspondence.

D/Sec(AS)/12/4) 8 parts dealing with
D/Sec(AS)/64/4) Parliamentary business

D/Sec(AS)/64/5 1 part for media issues.

D/Sec(AS)/64/6 1 part listing answerphone messages.

It is possible that some files held in other MoD headquarters divisions or establishments may contain papers relating to this topic, but these could only be identified and provided at disproportionate cost.

Lord Hill-Norton asked Her Majesty's Government:

Further to the Written Answer by the Lord Chancellor on 14 October *(WA 100)*, whether they will authorise the opening of the thirty-three closed files at the Public Record Office which contain information about unidentified flying objects. [HL3909]

Lord Gilbert: The 33 files identified contain correspondence between members of the public and officials. They will be released at the 30 year point in the normal way.

Operation Granby: Use of Depleted Uranium Ammunition

The Countess of Mar asked Her Majesty's Government:

How many rounds of depleted uranium ammunition were fired by British forces, including tomahawk missiles, tank rounds, and cannon shells fired from aircraft, during Operation Granby; and whether they agree with United States figures that 1,200,000 rounds were fired in total by coalition force. [HL3862]

Lord Gilbert: During the 1990–91 Gulf conflict, UK armoured forces used a new 120mm armour-piercing tank round which contained a solid depleted uranium, DU, penetrator core with a protective, non-DU, coating in its Challenger 1 tanks. The Government's current assessment is that UK tanks fired fewer than 100 of these rounds against Iraqi military forces, which equates to less than 1 metric tonne of DU, although additional rounds were fired during earlier work-up training to establish the round's mean point of impact.

13/1 BOMBER

18 October concerning General Pinochet were an expression of personal view and not government policy; and whether they will say (a) how viewers were expected to know that this was so, (b) whether any other of his remarks expressed only personal opinion, (c) whether it is their policy that Ministers being interviewed in their official capacity should mix personal and official views without distinction. [HL39]

Lord Sainsbury of Turville: The views expressed by my right honourable friend were personal, as was made clear by my noble friend Lady Symons of Vernham Dean (H.L. Deb., col. 370).

Agriculture Council, 14–15 December

Baroness Pitkeathley asked Her Majesty's Government:

What was the outcome of the Agriculture Council held in Brussels on 14 and 15 December. [HL354]

Lord Carter: My right honourable friend the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food represented the United Kingdom at a meeting of the European Union Agriculture Council in Brussels on 14 and 15 December.

The Council agreed by qualified majority (Belgium, Spain and Portugal abstaining) a Commission proposal to ban the use of four antibiotics in animal feed as from 30 June 1999. My right honourable friend welcomed the proposal as an appropriate response to advice, including from our own specialist scientific committees, that the use of antimicrobial growth promoters which may impair the efficacy of antibiotics used in human medicines should be phased out. He also welcomed the Council's statement stressing the need for an overall science-based approach to the issue of antibiotic resistance and calling for the Commission to submit a further report on the question of third country compliance with equivalent rules.

The Council also agreed by qualified majority (Italy and the Netherlands opposing, Portugal abstaining) two regulations establishing new agrimonetary arrangements to apply following introduction of the Single Currency on 1 January 1999. My right honourable friend supported these measures which will greatly simplify the agrimonetary system while reducing its costs and making it easier to operate. He was particularly pleased to secure provision that the impact of the ending of the freeze on green rates on 1 January, which benefited our farmers more than any other member state's, will be subject to a gradual transition over three years.

The Council reached unanimous political agreement on a proposal to send food aid to Russia, targeted towards regions most in need. My right honourable friend particularly welcomed this important gesture of EU solidarity with the Russian people.

A discussion of the Commission's proposal for reform of the wine regime concluded with agreement that final decisions should be taken in the context of the Agenda 2000 CAP reforms in the early part of next year. The Commission debated a proposal to establish EU-wide rules governing organic livestock standards, agreeing guidelines for further negotiations.

A package of proposals concerning the marketing of seeds was adopted by qualified majority (Denmark voting against). Council resolution on an EU forestry strategy was agreed unanimously, as was a decision approving a national aid to certain Greek co-operatives. The Commission also adopted unanimously a further postponement of the implementation of the 1997 Decision on Specified Risk Materials and a short deferral of implementation of new intra-Community health rules on trade in cattle and pigs.

Dr. Bishop

Lord Evans of Parkside asked Her Majesty's Government:

When they intend to reply to the letter sent on 5 October by the Lord Evans of Parkside to the Secretary of State for Health concerning Dr. Bishop of Warrington which was acknowledged on 7 October; and when they intend to reply to a further letter on the same subject which has not so far been acknowledged but which was sent on 26 November. [HL350]

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department of Health (Baroness Hayman): A reply was sent to my noble friend on 16 December including an apology for the delay and the lack of communication with him while detailed inquiries were made into the specific case he raised.

Brazil

Lord Rea asked Her Majesty's Government:

What the United Kingdom is doing to assist Brazil in the light of its current economic difficulties. [HL337]

Lord McIntosh of Haringey: We welcome and support the agreements between the Brazilian Government and the international community to restore confidence in the Brazilian economy. The UK's role in furthering this objective is explained in the written statement laid before both Houses today, pursuant to the International Monetary Arrangements Act 1983.

Unidentified Flying Objects

Lord Hill-Norton asked Her Majesty's Government:

Further to the Written Answers by the Lord Chancellor on 14 October (*WA 99–100*) and by the Lord Gilbert on 19 November (*WA 190*), what is the location of the Ministry of Defence files covering the period 1970–1985 which contain information about UFOs; and what are the references and the titles of these files? [HL310]

15-NOV-1999 11:41 FROM MOD WHITEHALL LIBRARY TO Section 40 P.03/04

...e Minister of State, Ministry of Defence (Lord Gilbert): Thirty-eight files are held at the Public Record Office for release under the terms of the Public Records Acts 1958 and 1967, the 30-year rule applying:

AIR 2/18564 & 18565 UFO Reports—due for release 2002.

AIR 20/12067, 12297 to 12306 Unidentified flying objects—due for release 2001.

AIR 20/12399 to 12411 UFO reports—due for release 2003.

AIR 20/12544 to 12555 UFO reports—due for release 2004.

BJ 5/311 UFO: Met aspects—due for release 2001

Four files are held by the MoD records management branch pending acceptance and transfer to the PRO, PRO references and transfer arrangements awaiting confirmation:

AF/7463/72 UFO reports—provisionally assigned to PRO reference AIR 2/18831 for release in 2003.

AF/7464/72 UFO reports—provisionally assigned to PRO reference AIR 2/18872 for release in 2004.

AF/7464/72 Pt. II UFO reports—provisionally assigned to PRO reference AIR 2/18873 for release in 2005.

AF/7464/72 Pt. III UFO reports—provisionally assigned to PRO reference AIR 2/18874 for release in 2006.

In the absence of a thematic index of files stored in MoD's archives the identification of files has, of necessity, been limited to those created by the Air Staff Secretariat and predecessor branches. The following files have been identified and are earmarked for review by MoD at future dates, at which point they will be assessed for their suitability for preservation at the PRO. It is possible that some files created by other Headquarters divisions or establishments may contain papers on this topic. These could only be identified at disproportionate cost:

AF/S4f(A)/422—one file—UFOs, BBC Radio Oxford Programme.

AF/S4f(Air) U/506—one file—Statistical Analyses of UFOs.

AF/3459/75—one file—UFOs: Policy and Policy statements—1970.

AF/584 to 595—12 files—UFO reports.

AF/596 to 602—seven files—UFO reports.

AF/447—one file—UFO reports.

AF/607 & 608—two files—UFO reports.

AF/610 to 613—four files—UFO reports.

AF/616 to 619—four files—UFO reports.

AF/419—one file—BBC 2, Man Alive Programme: UFOs.

D/DS8/75/2/1—six parts—UFO reports, correspondence.

D/DS9/75/2/2—12 parts—UFO correspondence.

D/DS8/75/2/3—six parts—UFO reports, edited copies.

D/DS8/75/2/4—three parts—UFO reports.

D/DS8/75/2/5—two parts—UFO reports.

D/DS8/75/3—one part—UFO, Parliamentary Correspondence.

D/DS8/75/6—one part—UFO, TV discussion.

D/DS8/75/7—one part—UFO, satellite debris.

D/DS8/10/209—seven parts—UFO briefs, reports and correspondence.

D/DS8/10/209/1—three parts—general briefs, reports, UFO correspondence.

UN Charter: Article 53

Lord Judd asked Her Majesty's Government:

What is their current interpretation of Article 53 of the Charter of the United Nations on the relationship between regional security measures and the Security Council; and what is their current assessment of the effectiveness of its application. [HL238]

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office (Baroness Symons of Vernham Dean): Under Article 53 of the United Nations (UN) Charter, enforcement action under regional arrangements described in Article 52 requires Security Council authorisation. As I said in my Written Answer to the noble Lord, Lord Kennet, on 16 November (*WA 140*) the prohibitions on the use of force contained in the UN Charter do not preclude the use of force by a state or group of states in accordance with Article 51 or under the authority of the Security Council acting under Chapter VII of the Charter. Cases have also arisen when, in the light of all the circumstances, a limited use of force was justifiable in support of the purposes laid down by the Security Council but without the Council's express authorisation when that was the only means to avert an immediate and overwhelming humanitarian catastrophe. Such cases would in the nature of things be exceptional and would depend on an objective assessment of the factual circumstances at the time and on the terms of relevant decisions of the Security Council bearing on the situation in question.

We are working to ensure the closest possible co-operation between the Security Council and regional arrangements. I draw the noble Lord's attention to the 30 November statement by the President of the Security Council "Enhancing Monitoring of Activities authorised by the Council but carried out by member states or Coalitions of States", which has been placed in the Library of the House.

15-NOV-1999 11:41 FROM MOD WHITEHALL LIBRARY Section 40 P.04/04

TO BE KEPT INSIDE COVER

PQ FILE

Between Aug. '97 and Dec '98 (16 months)

LORD HILL-NORTON PQ'S & PEs

TOTAL NUMBER PQs SINCE 1997 – 26 (6 concerning Rendlesham Forest)

TOTAL NUMBER PEs SINCE 1997 – 4 (3 concerning Rendlesham Forest)

FILE D/SEC(AS)64/4 Part D

13 August 1997 (E8-E11)
3 PQs –(2 Rendlesham Forest)

To ask HMG how the radiation readings reported to the MOD by Lt Col Charles Halt in his memorandum dated 13th January 1981 compare to the normal levels of background radiation in Rendlesham Forest.

To ask HMG whether the MOD replied to the 1981 memorandum from Lt Col Charles Halt, which reported the presence of an unidentified craft that had landed in close proximity to RAF Bentwaters and RAF Woodbridge, witnessed by USAF personnel; and if not, why not.

To ask HMG what was the military involvement in the search for the unidentified object that witnesses believe exploded in mid air, before crashing into the sea off the Isle of Lewis on 26th October 1996, and what liaison took place with the US authorities with regard to this incident.

9 October 1997 (E21)

1-PE (Rendlesham Forest)

Not satisfied with replied to PQ asking whether the MOD replied to Lt Col Halt Memorandum, asked for yes or no answer.

23 October 1997 (E26)

4 PQs- (All Rendlesham Forest)

To ask HMG whether they are aware of reports from the USAF personnel that nuclear weapons stored in the Weapons Storage Area at RAF Woodbridge were struck by light beams fired from an unidentified craft seen over the base in the period 25th-30th December 1980, and if so, what action was subsequently taken.

To ask HMG whether the allegations contained in the recently published book Left at East Gate, to the effect that nuclear weapons were stored at RAF Bentwaters and RAF Woodbridge in violation of UK/US treaty obligations are true.

To ask HMG what information they have on the medical problems experienced by various USAF personnel based at RAF Bentwaters and RAF Woodbridge, which stemmed from their involvement in the so-called Rendlesham Forest incident, in December 1980.

To ask HMG what information they have on the suicide of the US security policeman from the 81st Security Police Squadron who took his life at RAF Bentwaters in January 1981, and whether they will detail the involvement of the British Police, Coroner's Office, and any other authorities concerned.

FILE D/SEC(AS)64/4 (PART E)

11 November 1997 (E6)

1 PE (Rendlesham Forest)

Halt Memorandum. Lord Hill-Norton says the memorandum makes it clear that either there was an intrusion into UK airspace or the Deputy Commander of an operational, nuclear armed US Air Force Base and a large number of his enlisted men, were either hallucinating or lying.

10 July 1998 (E21)

1 PQ (Cancelled- second PQ (3335) answered instead)

To ask HMG what follow-up action is taken by the MOD when they receive a report of an unidentified flying object; and whether checks are routinely made to see whether such reports can be corroborated by radar.

10 July 1998 (E24)

6 PQs (two linked)

To ask HMG when arrangements for disseminating reports of unidentied flying objects within the MOD were put in place, and last reviewed; and whether they will ensure that all airports, observatories, RAF bases and police stations have accurate and up to date instructions about how to record details of unidentified aerial phenomena reported to them, together with instructions to pass them to the appropriate authorities within the MOD.

To ask HMG how many reports of unidentified flying objects were notified to the MOD in 1996, 1997 and the first six months of 1998; and how many of these sightings remain unexplained.

To ask HMG why the MOD has installed an answering machine on the line used by members of the public to report unidentified flying objects; and whether those people who leave contact details on the machine receive a formal reply.

To ask HMG how many military personnel witnessed the unidentified craft that overflew RAF Cosford and RAF Shawbury on 31st March 1993; and whether, when the craft has not been identified, such an event ought to be classified as being of no defence significance.

To ask HMG whether, in evaluating reports of unidentified flying objects, the MOD will routinely consult staff at the Royal Greenwich Observatory, the Ballistic Missile Early Warning Centre at RAF Fylingdales and the Deep Space Tracing Facility at RF Feltwell.

11 August 1998 (E36-E44)

3 PQs

To ask HMG, further to the Written Answer by the Lord Gilbert on 15th July (WA25), what changes in procedures were implemented following the April 1997 review of the system to disseminate reports of unidentified flying objects; and whether airports, observatories, RAF bases and police stations receiving reports of UFOs are required to send them to the MOD.

To ask HMG whether they will list those units based at RAF Feltwell, and what functions each of these units carries out.

To ask HMG what is the role of RAF Feltwell in relation to the tracking of unidentified objects in space; how many objects detected by the Deep Space Tracking System at RAF Feltwell remain unidentified; and how many of these were transmitting a signal.

21 August 1998 (E45)

1 PE

Not satisfied with answer to PQ concerning whether airports, observatories etc are required to send reports of UFOs to MOD.

9 October 1998 (E46)

4 PQs

To ask HMG whether they will list the document references and titles of all open files at the Public Record Office that contain information about unidentified flying objects.

To ask HMG whether they will list the document references and titles of all closed files at the Public Record Office that contain information about unidentified flying objects.

To ask HMG, further to the Written Answer by the Lord Gilbert on 3rd September (WA 60), whether airports, observatories, RAF bases and police stations are still required to forward details of any report they receive of an unidentified flying obeject to theMOD, or whether such action is now only discretionary, following the April 1997 review of procedures.

To ask HMG whether the Deep Space Tracking Facility at RAF Feltwell has a role in tracking or searching for satellites, space debris, ballistic missiles and space probes.

19 October 1998 (E48)

1 PQ &
1 PE (Rendlesham Forest)

To ask HMG whether they will ensure that the answering machine which the MOD uses both to explain its policy on unidentified flying objects and to provide a facility for the public to report sightings is turned on at all times, and not switched off outside working hours.

In the PE, Lord Hill-Norton says he is dissatisfied with responses he has received to his PEs and PQs on this subject. He also says he believes the introduction of the answerphone was a deliberate ploy to reduce the number of reports received.

FILE D/Sec(AS)64/4 (Part F)

18 November 1998 (E4)

1 PQ

To ask HMG whether they will list the references and titles of all open and closed files currently held by the MOD which contain information about unidentified flying objects.

19 November 1998 (E5)

1 PQ

To ask HMG, further to the Written Answer by the Lord Chancellor on 14th October (WA 100), whether they will authorise the opening of the thirty-three closed files at the Public Record Office which contain information about unidentified flying objects.

18 November 1998 (E6)

1 PQ

To ask HMG , further to the Written Answer by the Lord Gilbert on 20th October (WA 143), whether the United States Air Force 5th Space Surveillance Squadron based at RAF Feltwell searches for or tracks any objects othern than satellites, space debris and space probes; and, if so, what these objects are.

24 December 1998 (E12)

1 PQ

To ask HMG, further to the Written Answers by the Lord Chancellor on 14th October (WA 99-100) and by the Lord Gilbert on 19th November (WA190), what is the location of the MOD files covering the period 1970-1985 which contain information about UFOs; and what are the references and the titles of these files.

JSP 441 **Defence Records Management Manual Chapter 1**

This Page Last Updated: Thursday, 01 February 2001 13:41

Queries, Suggestions, etc.

The Public Records Acts of 1958 and 1967

1.1 Background
1.2 The Law
1.3 The Responsibility for Public Records Within MOD
1.4 What Are Public Records?

1.1 Background

1.1.1 The public records of the United Kingdom date back to the 11th century and form a rich archive which is a part of our national heritage. The great wealth of documents and other records stored in the Public Record Office (PRO) have led to its recognition as one of the most significant archives in the world.

1.2 The Law

1.2.1 The law on public records is set out in the Public Records Acts of 1958 and 1967. Public records are defined in the Acts as "administrative and departmental records belonging to Her Majesty's Government, whether in the United Kingdom or elsewhere". These include paper records, machine readable records, photographic material, film, video, and samples and models which have been made for the purpose of conveying and recording information.

1.2.2 The Public Records Act of 1958 places a responsibility on all government departments to review the records which are generated within the department, to select those which are worthy of permanent preservation and transfer them to the Public Record Office, and to destroy all records which are not selected. The 1958 Act stipulated that all surviving public records should normally be released to the public 50 years after their creation; the Public Records Act 1967 reduced that period to 30 years.

1.2.3 There are exceptions to the 30 year release rule, usually on the grounds of an ongoing administrative requirement or continued sensitivity. However, all such exceptions need to be approved by the Lord Chancellor who is the Minister responsible for public records. It is also permissible for records to be held in places other than the PRO (known as "approved places of deposit") but, again, the Lord Chancellor's approval must be obtained.

1.3 The Responsibility for Public Records Within MOD

1.3.1 Under the terms of the 1958 Act each government department is required to appoint a Departmental Records Officer who is responsible for ensuring that the records generated within their department are properly reviewed and that the appropriate records are selected for permanent preservation and transferred to the PRO. Head of Info(Exp)Records is the MOD Departmental Records Officer and is also the Chief Registrar.

1.3.2 The Departmental Records Officer is responsible for ensuring the cost effective organisation and control of MOD records throughout their life.

1.4 What Are Public Records?

1.4.1 It is important to understand that all records generated by government departments are public records covered by the terms of the Public Records Acts, This does not mean that all such records will be worthy of permanent preservation. There would be no logic in simply keeping everything. The task of each department is to select those of its records which have historical value and ensure that they are preserved. This means that each department must put in place a mechanism which allows such a selection process to take place. The Departmental Records Officer is responsible for ensuring that this is done.

Homepage Back TOP OF PAGE Chapter 2

DCI GEN 61/01 Records Management - Retention of Records beyond the statutory 30 year period (U)

[D INFO(EXP)R/1/9/1:Section 40

Purpose

1. This DCI reminds Branches, Units and Establishments that the retention of records beyond the 30 year period, i.e those dated 1969 and earlier, is contrary to the terms of Sections 3(4) and 3(6) ofthe Public Records Act, 1958, unless retention has been approved by the Lord Chancellor.

Background

2. The Public Records Act, 1958 and 1967, requires all government departments anci agencies under their control to review their records before they are 30 years old. This action is required to ensure that material of historic value is preserved for the nation while material, which is not worthy of preservation, is destroyed when it ceases to have administrative value. The Defence Records Management Manual, JSP 441, sets out the procedures to be used within MOD to ensure timely review of records. The underpinning requirement is that Directorate of Information (Exploitation) Records 1 must be formally advised of any

instances in which branches wish to retain records which are over 30 years old. Failure to do so constitutes a breach of the Public Records Act, 1958 and 1967.

3. As a result of inspections by the Records Management Advisory Service it is apparent that procedures are not always being followed and that records are retained beyond the statutory 30-year period without proper approval.

4. The retention of such material demonstrates non-compliance with UK legislation and is

consequentially a potential source of embarrassment to the Department.

Branch Action

5. Branch Record Officers are to ensure that no papers over 30 years old are held in their sections. Where such records are held, and the volume is small i.e less than three linear metres, they should be sent direct to one of the two main Ministry of Defence archives (following the guidance set out in JSP 441):

a. TOP SECRET records and material requiring special handling. Directorate of Information

(Exploitation) Records 1c, Room 012, Old War Office. Tel: Section 40

b. Records with a protective marking no higher than SECRET. Directorate of Information

(Exploitation) Records 2, Ministry of Defence, Bourne Avenue, Hayes, Middx UB3 1RF. Tel:Section 40

6. If papers over 30 years old are held in greater quantities or are still required for current work the matter must be reported to Directorate of Information (Exploitation) Records 1Section 40 Room 1.01 3-5 Great Scotland Yard, London SW1 A 2HW. Tel: Section 40 FaxSection 40 Requests for the continued retention of records should include a justification to enable a suitably worded submission to be made to the Lord Chancellor.

Home Page TOP OF PAGE Back to DCI list

LORDS WRITTEN PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION - URGENT ACTION REQUIRED

DATE FOR RETURN	:	**12:00 ON 30 April 2001**
PQ REFERENCE	:	PQ 1436L
PQ TYPE	:	LORDS WRITTEN
MINISTER REPLYING	:	-NOTFOUND-
LEAD BRANCH:	:	SEC (AS)
COPY ADDRESSEE(S)	:	

MDP Sec
DI(Sec)
Defence Estates
D NEWS
D AIR RP
CAS
ACAS

- **The answer and background note must be authorised by a civil servant at Senior Civil Service level or a military officer at one-star level or above who is responsible for ensuring that the information and advice provided is accurate and reflects Departmental Instructions on answering PQs DCI GEN 150/97.**

- **Those contributing information for PQ answers and background notes are responsible for ensuring the information is accurate.**

- **The attached checklist should be used by those drafting PQ answers and background material, those contributing information and those responsible for authorising the answer and background note as an aid to ensuring that departmental policy is adhered to.**

- **If you or others concerned are uncertain about how PQs are answered seek advice from a senior civil servant in or closely associated with your area.**

Peer's DETAIL: **Admiral of The Fleet The Lord Hill-Norton GCB**

QUESTION

To ask Her Majesty's Government To ask Her Majesty's Government whether, in line with previous ministerial commitments, they will give an undertaking not to destroy any files containing information on Unidentified Flying Objects. (HL1811)

See E8 for Hansard

RESTRICTED/UNCLASSIFIED
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

MOD Form 174D
(Revised 5/99)

2

TEMPORARY ENCLOSURE JACKET

REGISTERED FILE No. D/DAS(Sec)64/4

Enclosure Jacket No ...1.....

DATE OPENED (Date of First Enclosure)
25.4.2001

DIVISION / DIRECTORATE / BRANCH:

SUBJECT:

PQ 1432L

LORD HILL-NORTON

Referred to	Date	Referred to	Date

USER NOTES

1. A MOD Form 262A (File Record Sheet) must be raised for each new Temporary Enclosure Jacket (TEJ) created. The TEJ should also include a minute sheet.

2. When a TEJ is incorporated into the parent file it should be placed in the file in date order (according to the date of the last action on the TEJ) and allocated an enclosure number.

3. The file minute sheet should be annotated to record the enclosure number of the TEJ along with details of the number of enclosures contained within it. The TEJ record sheet (MOD Form 262A) should be annotated to record the date on which the TEJ was incorporated into the parent file (JSP 441, paragraph 4.13 refers).

DAS4A1(SEC)

From: PARLIAMENTARY TYPIST3 on behalf of PARLIAMENTARY QUESTIONS
To: DAS4A1(SEC)
Sent: 30 April 2001 16:15
Subject: Read: PQ 1432L

Your message

To: PARLIAMENTARY QUESTIONS
Subject: PQ 1432L
Sent: 30/04/01 16:12

was read on 30/04/01 16:15.

TEMPLATE TO BE USED FOR REPLY

Ministry of Defence

FRIDAY 4 MAY 2001

Admiral of The Fleet The Lord Hill-Norton GCB(X) (CB)

LORDS WRITTEN

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by the Baroness Symons of Vernham Dean on 25th January (WA 22), why the Unidentified Flying Objects documents referred to were classified secret; whether these documents had any caveats attached to them; and what was the reason for any such caveats. (HL1808)

Minister replying Baroness Symons

One document was classified 'Secret' with a 'UK Eyes Only' caveat because it contained information about the UK air defence ground environment that could be of significant value to hostile or potentially hostile states. Associated correspondence was given the same classification. Generally, however, notifications of and correspondence on the subject of 'UFO' sightings are unclassified.

April 01 PQ Ref 1432L

BACKGROUND NOTE

PQ 0351L, tabled by Lord Hill-Norton in January, asked for the highest classification applied to any MOD document concerning 'UFOs' and the answer given explained that was Secret. The Background Note indicated that a small number of documents had been traced by the Directorate of Air Staff (Secretariat) with a classification of Secret, including one which referred to a report by the DIS on 'Unidentified Aerial Phenomena'. The Background Note also contained comment on the document, its classification and the classification of associated correspondence, and that information is now used in answer to this latest question.

REMEMBER you are accountable for the accuracy and timeliness of the advice you provide. Departmental Instructions on answering PQs can be viewed on the CHOTS public area and on DAWN.

DRAFTED BY : Section 40 (cleared by DI Sec) TEL: Section 40

AUTHORISED BY : Section 40 TEL:
GRADE/RANK : B1
BRANCH : DAS Deputy Director

Section 40

for Section 40 absent on Ministerial business.

DECLARATION: I have satisfied myself that the above answer and background note are in accordance with the Government's policy on answering PQs, Departmental instructions (DCI GEN 150/97), and the Open Government Code (DCI GEN 54/98).

PQ 1432L -

To ask HMG, further to the Written Answer by the Baroness Symons . . . on 25 January (WA 22), why the Unidentified Flying Objects documents referred to were classified secret; whether these documents had any caveats attached to them; and what was the reason for any such caveats.

Draft Answer -

Notifications of and correspondence on the subject of 'UFO' sightings are generally unclassified. However, one particular report ~~document was found to be~~ classified 'Secret', with a 'UK Eyes Only' caveat because it contained information about the UK air defence ground environment that could have been of significant value to hostile or potentially hostile states. Associated correspondence was ~~has been~~ given the same classification.

Draft Background Note:

PQ 0351L, tabled by Lord Hill-Norton in January, asked for the highest classification applied to any MOD document concerning 'UFOs' and the answer given explained that was Secret. The Background Note indicated that a small number of documents had been traced by the Directorate Air Staff (Secretariat) with a classification of Secret, including one which referred to a report by the DIS on 'Unidentified Aerial Phenomena'. The Background Note also contained comment on the document, its classification and the classification of associated correspondence and that information is now used in answer to this latest question.

PQ 1432L -

To ask HMG, further to the Written Answer by the Baroness Symons . . . on 25 January (WA 22), why the Unidentified Flying Objects documents referred to were classified secret; whether these documents had any caveats attached to them; and what was the reason for any such caveats.

Draft Answer -

Notifications of and correspondence on the subject of 'UFO' sightings are generally unclassified. However, one particular document was found to be classified 'Secret', with a 'UK Eyes Only' caveat because it contained information about the UK air defence ground environment that could have been of significant value to hostile or potentially hostile states. Associated correspondence has been given the same classification.

Draft Background Note:

PQ 0351L, tabled by Lord Hill-Norton in January, asked for the highest classification applied to any MOD document concerning 'UFOs' and the answer given explained that was Secret. The Background Note indicated that a small number of documents had been traced by the Directorate Air Staff (Secretariat) with a classification of Secret, including one which referred to a report by the DIS on 'Unidentified Aerial Phenomena'. The Background Note also contained comment on the document, its classification and the classification of associated correspondence and that information is now used in answer to this latest question.

PQ 1432L -

To ask HMG, further to the Written Answer by the Baroness Symons . . . on 25 January (WA 22), why the Unidentified Flying Objects documents referred to were classified secret; whether these documents had any caveats attached to them; and what was the reason for any such caveats.

Draft Answer -

Notifications of and correspondence on the subject of 'UFO' sightings are unclassified. One particular document was classified 'Secret', with a 'UK Eyes Only' caveat because it contained information about the UK air defence ground environment that could have been of significant value to hostile or potentially hostile states. Associated correspondence has been given the same classification.

Draft Background Note:

PQ 0351L, tabled by Lord Hill-Norton in January, asked for the highest classification applied to any MOD document concerning 'UFOs' and the answer given explained that was Secret. The Background Note indicated that a small number of documents had been traced by the Directorate Air Staff (Secretariat) with a classification of Secret, including one which referred to a report by the DIS on Unidentified Aerial Phenomena. The Background Note also contained comment on the document, its classification and the classification of associated correspondence and that information is now used in answer to this latest question.

A.

Notifications of and correspondence on the subject of 'UFO' sightings are unclassified. ~~A~~ One particular document ~~has been~~ was classified Secret, with a UK Eyes Only caveat. ~~The reason for this was that~~ because it contained information about the UK air defence ground environment that could have been of significant value to hostile or potentially hostile states. Associated correspondence has been given the same classification, ~~and caveat, or the caveat UK Eyes A or UK Eyes B.~~

Background Note:

Lord Hill-Norton's PQ 0351L tabled in January, asked for the highest classification applied to any MOD document concerning 'UFOs' and the answer explained that was Secret. The Background Note indicated that a small number of documents had been traced by the Directorate Air Staff (Secretariat) with a classification of Secret ~~and that they related to discussions concerning the handling of correspondence and administrative arrangements rather than 'UFO' reports. Reference was also made~~ including one which referred to a report by the DIS on Unidentified Aerial Phenomena, ~~and which discussed~~ Comment on that document, its classification and the classification of associated correspondence, originally contained in the background note is now used in answer to this latest question.

Written Answers

Thursday, 25th January 2001.

Chinook Helicopter Mk II: Conversion Training

Lord Chalfont asked Her Majesty's Government:

When the Chinook helicopter simulator training facility and its related training programme were upgraded to cater for the Mk. II version of the helicopter; and when Flight Lieutenants Tapper and Cook completed their upgraded training programme. [HL324]

The Minister of State, Ministry of Defence (Baroness Symons of Vernham Dean): The reconfiguration of the Chinook simulator to Mk2 standard was completed in the last quarter of 1993. The instructing training staff of the Operational Conversion Flight had completed conversion to the Mk2 version in August 1993.

Flt Lt Tapper and Flt Lt Cook completed their conversion training programmes on 28 February 1994 and 17 March 1994 respectively.

European Security and Defence Policy: Intelligence Management

Lord Shore of Stepney asked Her Majesty's Government:

What are the commitments which the United Kingdom has entered into, under the European Security and Defence Policy, for the gathering, analysis and distribution of intelligence material for European Union purposes. [HL405]

Baroness Symons of Vernham Dean: At the European Council at Nice, EU member states agreed the terms of reference of the EU Military Staff, which would perform "early warning, situation assessment and strategic planning for Petersberg tasks".

To carry out this task the staff will rely on appropriate national and multinational intelligence capabilities. The detailed arrangements for handling intelligence material will be subject to stringent safeguards and will take full account of existing national and multinational agreements.

Rendlesham Forest Incident

Lord Hill-Norton asked Her Majesty's Government:

Whether they are aware of any involvement by Special Branch personnel in the investigation of the 1980 Rendlesham Forest incident. [HL303]

Baroness Symons of Vernham Dean: Special Branch officers may have been aware of the incident but would not have shown an interest unless there was evidence of a potential threat to national security. No such interest appears to have been shown.

Lord Hill-Norton asked Her Majesty's Government:

Whether personnel from Porton Down visited Rendlesham Forest or the area surrounding RAF Walton in December 1980 or January 1981; and whether they are aware of any tests carried out in either of those two areas aimed at assessing any nuclear, biological or chemical hazard. [HL301]

Baroness Symons of Vernham Dean: The staff at the Defence Evaluation and Research Agency (DERA) Chemical and Biological Defence (CBD) laboratories at Porton Down have made a thorough search of their archives and have found no record of any such visits.

Lord Hill-Norton asked Her Majesty's Government:

Whether they are aware of any uncorrelated targets tracked on radar in November or December 1980; and whether they will give details of any such incidents. [HL302]

Baroness Symons of Vernham Dean: Records dating from 1980 no longer exist. Paper records are retained for a period of three years before being destroyed. Recordings of radar data are retained for a period of thirty days prior to re-use of the recording medium.

Unidentified Flying Objects

Lord Hill-Norton asked Her Majesty's Government:

What is the highest classification that has been applied to any Ministry of Defence document concerning Unidentified Flying Objects. [HL304]

Baroness Symons of Vernham Dean: A limited search through available files has identified a number of documents graded Secret. The overall classification of the documents was not dictated by details of specific sightings of "UFOs".

Arms Brokering and Trafficking: Licensing

Lord Hylton asked Her Majesty's Government:

When they expect to implement licensing for arms brokering and trafficking, which they announced at last year's Labour Party Conference. [HL343]

The Minister for Science, Department of Trade and Industry (Lord Sainsbury of Turville): The new licensing controls on arms brokering and trafficking announced last September will be introduced under new powers on trafficking and brokering to be contained in an Export Control Bill; The Queen's Speech announced that the Government will publish this Bill in draft during this session of Parliament. Full details of the new controls proposed on arms

DAS4A(SEC)

From: DI ISEC SEC3
Sent: 27 April 2001 11:25
To: DAS4A(SEC)
Cc: DSy(Pol)2b
Subject: PQ 1432L

Importance: High

Section 40

1. Apologies for the delay in getting back to you. Section 40 in DSy Pol has approved the contribution to the answer to PQ 1432L that I sent to you yesterday.

2. As far as the background note is concerned, there is nothing more to add to the contribution we sent to you to you for the earlier PQ (25 Jan WA 22). Note, however, that the DIS report used the term Unidentified Aerial Phenomena - not UFOs.

3. Regards

Section 40

DAS4A(SEC)

From: DI ISEC SEC3
Sent: 26 April 2001 12:36
To: DAS4A1(SEC)
Cc: DI54COORD1; DAS4A(SEC)
Subject: PQ1432L AND 1436L

Importance: High

UK Eyes A

Section 40

1. My suggested answer to PQ 1436L is as follows:

" One report was classified Secret, with a UK Eyes Only caveat. The reason for this was that it contained information about the UK air defence ground environment that could have been of significant value to hostile or potentially hostile states. Associated correspondence was accordingly given the same classification and caveat".

2. The above is based on the assumption that your only Secret UFO documents were indeed correspondance relating to the DIS report. You also need to check whether your documents also had a UKEO caveat.

3. Grateful for sight of your final draft.

Section 40 [redacted]

PS as agreed, we will wait out for your draft response to 1432L. You may want to consider the implications if any of the Freedom Of Information Act.

" Reports of 'UFO' sightings and correspondence have not been classified SECRET. ...

[The classification of the documents refused to in the answer of 25 Jan. was not dictated by details of specific sightings of UFOs.]

The reason for the classification of one Secret report/document with a UK Eyes only caveat was that it...."

LORDS WRITTEN PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION - URGENT ACTION REQUIRED

DATE FOR RETURN	:	**12:00 ON 30 April 2001**
PQ REFERENCE	:	PQ 1432L
PQ TYPE	:	LORDS WRITTEN
MINISTER REPLYING	:	-NOTFOUND-
LEAD BRANCH:	:	SEC (AS)
COPY ADDRESSEE(S)	:	

MDP Sec
DI(Sec) ←
Defence Estates
D NEWS
D AIR RP
CAS
ACAS

Sell to DI&c.

- **The answer and background note must be authorised by a civil servant at Senior Civil Service level or a military officer at one-star level or above who is responsible for ensuring that the information and advice provided is accurate and reflects Departmental Instructions on answering PQs DCI GEN 150/97.**

- **Those contributing information for PQ answers and background notes are responsible for ensuring the information is accurate.**

- **The attached checklist should be used by those drafting PQ answers and background material, those contributing information and those responsible for authorising the answer and background note as an aid to ensuring that departmental policy is adhered to.**

- **If you or others concerned are uncertain about how PQs are answered seek advice from a senior civil servant in or closely associated with your area.**

Peer's DETAIL: Admiral of The Fleet The Lord Hill-Norton GCB

QUESTION

To ask Her Majesty's Government To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by the Baroness Symons of Vernham Dean on 25th January (WA 22), why the Unidentified Flying Objects documents referred to were classified secret; whether these documents had any caveats attached to them; and what was the reason for any such caveats. (HL1808)

Section 40 [redacted]

Well, that's it then!

Section 40 [redacted]

24/4.

End of an era for little green men

BY DAVID FICKLING

THE world's oldest UFO-spotting group has closed – because of an apparent decline in the number of alien visitors to Earth.

The British Flying Saucers Bureau, which once had a membership of 1,500, used to receive up to 30 UFO reports a week but sightings have dried up.

Denis Plunkett, 70, founded the bureau in 1953 with his father. Reports of UFOs became so widespread that a US firm started selling insurance against alien abduction.

Mr Plunkett dates the decline in ufology – the study of UFOs – to the end of the Cold War. He said: 'The number of sightings always rises at times of international tension and declines in times of peace.

'There was also a lot more secrecy about new weapons, like the Stealth bombers, which accounted for a lot of the sightings.'

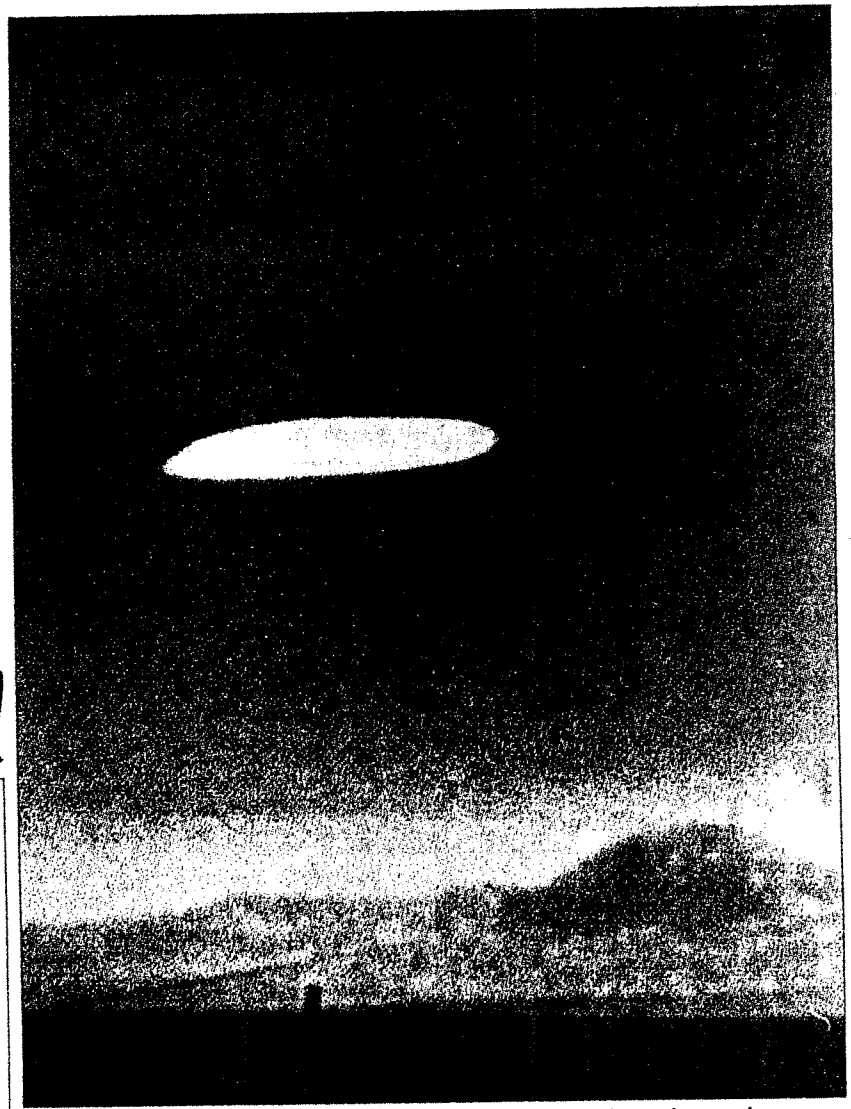
However, the greatest threat to amateur alien-watchers, who would meet in pubs to pore over grainy photographs of flying saucers, comes from the rise in UFO interest groups on the Internet.

Mr Plunkett, a retired Rolls-Royce worker from Bristol, said: 'Rather than trekking out to some draughty hall to see my old slides, it is a lot easier to sit in front of a computer.'

Mr Plunkett became interested in extra-terrestrial activity after his cousin was lost in an aircraft which vanished over Bolivia in 1947 – at the same time as a number of UFO sightings. The disappearance was explained last year when the wreckage was found in the Andes.

But Mr Plunkett remains convinced there is something out there.

Explaining the dearth of sightings, he said aliens have found out all they need to know about Earth, for now. But, he says, they will be back.



Sightings, such as this UFO over New Mexico in 1957, are becoming rarer

Mass bomb scare ploy planned for M

By Daniel McGrory

ANARCHIST groups plan to disrupt emergency services in their campaign of chaos on May 1 by encouraging their followers to make hundreds of bogus alarm calls. They want protesters to create bomb scares at London's main rail and Underground stations, which would swiftly paralyse the capital.

The leaders are also suggesting raising fire alarms in streets choked with protesters. Police are worried about the dangers to genuine emergency calls if the groups carry out their threat, which one senior officer described as "mindless and irresponsible".

The anarchists also plan to set up fake roadblocks and immobilise vehicles to increase the chaos.

The promise by Tony Blair, Scotland Yard and Ken Livingstone, the Mayor of London, of a "zero tolerance" policy to ensure that the city stays open is regarded as a challenge by the protest organisers.

One leading figure said yesterday: "They boast that it will be business as usual on May 1, and we will show them otherwise to make our point."

Public buildings will again be a target, with a plan to barricade No 10 by padlocking the gates of Downing Street. The climax of the protest will be in Oxford Street, where protesters are being urged to pour into shops and department stores to block the doors so that customers cannot come or go. As soon as police arrive, the protesters will be told to disperse and move to a different target.

Specialist police teams are intensifying their electronic warfare against the organisers to unmask the ringleaders and discover their targets. Detectives know that they are being bombarded with misinformation in this high-tech battle and are trying to crack encrypted e-mails that the leaders are using to discuss tactics.

Police have the power to shut down Internet sites, but they say that they prefer to leave them running and to monitor them. It was through electronic mail that police first found details of the Mayday Monopoly, where demonstrators pick addresses from the board game to match targets for the protest.

Homeless groups will descend on Park Lane, protesters against Third World debt will gather in the Strand, and groups trying to drive cars off London's streets will begin the day with a slow cycle ride at King's Cross station.

The latest threat on the Internet is a campaign of looting designated businesses called "Sale of the Century", taken from the Seventies television game show of that name. Some student groups have threatened to boycott the May 1 protests if the looting is not dropped.

Police are investigating links between British groups and a band of international anarchists called Black Bloc, which was heavily involved in the weekend's riots at the Summit of the Americas in Quebec. Three of its leaders were among the masked figures arrested during the trade summit siege.

Black Bloc was at the centre of attempts to disrupt George W. Bush's presidential inauguration in January and the violent protests at the World

Trade
in Sea
posed
onstra
on ho
Its p
ed int
tribute
make
from
test.
moven
is exp
been li
a train
test gr
studie
contac

UFO bureau shuts as aliens shun Earth

By Simon de Bruxelles

AFTER chronicling extraterrestrial activity for nearly half a century, the British Flying Saucer Bureau has suspended its activities because of an apparent sharp decline in the number of alien visitors to Earth.

The bureau, which once had 1,500 members worldwide, used to receive at least 30 reports of UFO sightings every week, but they have now all but dried up. Its monthly meetings have been cancelled after a fall in attendance.

Denis Plunkett, 70, a retired civil servant from Bristol who founded the bureau in 1953 with his late father, Edgar, said: "I am just as enthusiastic about flying saucers as I always was but the problem is that we are in the middle of a long, long trough.

"There's only so many times you can pick over old bones. There just aren't enough new sightings. It is not like being a philatelist — there is always something new to say about stamps."

Mr Plunkett believes that there may be a rational explanation for the decline in sightings. He said that perhaps alien visitors had completed the survey of the Earth that he believes they undertook shortly after the detonation of the atomic bombs that ended the Second World War.

"The first atomic explosions all took place on the right side of the Earth to be visible from Mars," he said.

Mr Plunkett dates the start of the decline to the end of the Cold War. "The number of sightings always rises at times of international tension and declines in times of peace," he said. "There was also a lot more secrecy about new weapons like the Stealth bombers which accounted for a lot of the sightings."

The reality is, however, that the greatest threat to the amateur alien-watchers, who once congregated in pubs to discuss grainy black and white photographs of spinning saucers, comes from cyberspace.

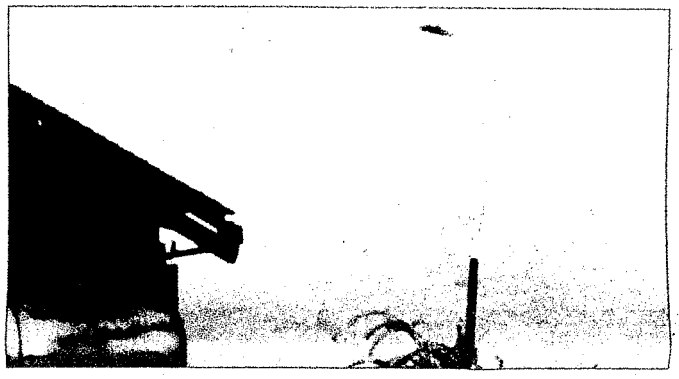
Mr Plunkett said: "Rather than trekking out to some draughty hall to see my old slides, it is a lot easier for people to plonk themselves down in front of a computer screen in the comfort of their own home."

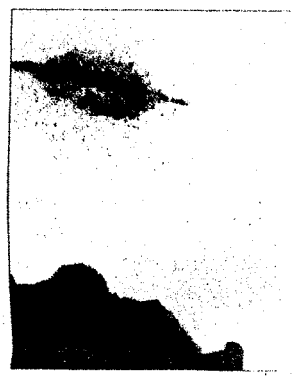
The bureau is the oldest organisation for the study of UFOs. Mr Plunkett became interested in extraterrestrial activity after one of his cousins was lost in an aircraft that vanished shortly before it was due to land at La Paz in Bolivia. The disappearance was explained earlier this year when the aircraft wreckage and human remains were found in the Andes. Despite the dearth of UFO sightings, Mr Plunkett is convinced that there is something out there.

Leading article, page 17



Denis Plunkett set up the British Flying Saucer Bureau in 1953 when sightings such as the two below, in Oregon, left, and Tex





Breath-tests plan on waterways

By Valerie Elliott
Countryside Editor

POLICE are to get new powers to conduct random breath tests on helmsmen and crew on Britain's waterways.

They will have the right to board all boats, including private cabin cruisers and narrow boats, after strict new alcohol limits were introduced. The limit is the equivalent of two pints of beer (80 milligrams of alcohol to 100 millilitres of blood), the same as for motorists. The move is part of a new Safety Bill drawn up by the Government after the 1989 *Marchioness* disasterwhen 51 people died. Penalties are expected to be fines, as no driving licence is required at present to own or hire a boat on rivers or canals.

Full details have not been published by the Government but already private boat owners and operators are planning to challenge the proposals, considered "draconian and over the top". They want exemption for private boat owners on canals where the maximum speed is 4 mph and water is very shallow. Leading organisations consider the plans to be unworkable. Some in the boating industry believe the plans could include a hidden agenda to create a licensing system to raise cash for the Treasury.

There are also fears that drink-drive laws for waterways could trigger antagonism between owners, and that many tourists will be deterred from choosing a boating holiday.

The Open University
+
The College of Law
of England and Wales

2 Me and Tracey Emin by Miranda Sawyer
Arts
Pages 24 & 25



Nice car,
Privilege Insurance is a trademark of Privilege Insurance Company Limited, 3 Edridge Road, Croydon CR9 1AG. Privilege Insurance is a member of the General

NO INTERNET CALL CHARGES
99 hc
fre

and slaughter of affected animals, and stubborn refusal to discuss adding vaccination to anti-FMD measures. MAFF denies reports that its pyres of burning carcasses have heavily polluted the air around Britain, adding a public health threat to concerns about mishandling of the disease. But the denial fuelled suspicions that the ministry had not even considered all the possible health consequences of its slaughter-and burn policy.

All this has compounded public discontent with an organisation that, over the last decade, had already dealt incompetently with problems such as BSE and salmonella-tainted eggs. The ministry is considered a graveyard for civil servants whose promotion prospects elsewhere are dim. Attempts to change the MAFF culture of defensive resistance to change have led nowhere. The fact that four Whitehall departments need to be involved in working on foot-and-mouth (MAFF, the

it up between several Departments, and others beefing up MAFF by adding more departments to it — are only starting-points for a large-scale process of consultation over how to shape the rural future.

What the Government appears to be offering instead, however, is a pre-election promise of a slapdash quick fix. The scenario for reform that it is sketching out would, after June, simply add on to MAFF the Environment Department's rural responsibilities and shared control of tourism strategy with the Department for Culture, Media and Sport. The explanation given is that the Prime Minister was so impressed by the efficient way Scotland's rural affairs ministry handled foot-and-mouth that he wanted to replicate its success. But it will take more than expanding and renaming MAFF, which is part of the problem rather than the answer, to ensure that success. This change must be thought out carefully; to rush into the wrong reform would be a mistake.

SILENCE IN SPACE

End of an era of little green men?

UFOs, the saucer-shaped craft bringing visitors from distant planets, have been with us since shortly after the Bomb was tested in 1945. The sense that the world had lost its cosmic innocence found bizarre expression when mysterious craft appeared in the skies. As extraterrestrial sightings gathered pace (earning the name "flying saucers" in 1947) the craft seemed to carry a religious cargo, offering either guidance, or retribution for human folly.

George Adamski, a hamburger chef, was invited by the Space Brothers, from Venus, to jaunt round the solar system in the 1940s. They wanted to warn humanity of the dangers of its behaviour. Later aliens, sighted when Cold War fears were most acute, were less friendly. The UFOs sighted on the other side of the Iron Curtain also reflected fears about earthly society. They reached a peak in 1989, as the collapse of the centralised Soviet Union became likely, when luminous spherical craft were spotted from Vologda in the north to Ukraine in the south, disgorging giant aliens with tiny pinheads travelling as though by motorbike, their shape reflecting the state's metaphorical headlessness.

Modern aliens, more often reported in America than in cautious, rationalist Europe, have in the past decade been portrayed as Satanists rather than red invaders. American ufology is preoccupied with abductions. Its alleged victims — who tend also to believe that secretive Washington officials are conspiring against American citizenry — sometimes think they have been impregnated by their alien kidnappers. Extraterrestrials have been taken so seriously that one Gallup poll showed that 27 per cent of Americans believed that aliens had visited. So widespread did the American belief in abduction by aliens become that a Florida firm started selling insurance against it at the end of the 1980s.

Traditionally, Western civilisation has been watched over by the angels and devils of Christianity. But modern citizens seldom experience demons or spirits, perhaps because our technology-obsessed culture, from *Star Trek* and *Star Wars* to *ET* and the *X-Files*, has itself been captured by aliens. Our notion of the Other, the unknowable, was, by the late 20th century, most easily pictured as a small green man with an unusually large head and high-tech travel arrangements beyond our ken.

Now, after half a century of upheaval, belief in UFOs is declining. As *The Times* reports today, the British Flying Saucer Bureau is suspending its activities. This may be a welcome sign that today's society is at ease with itself. But the explanation offered by the Flying Saucer Bureau's founder, Denis Plunkett, will please ufologists more: the aliens have found out all they needed to know about Earth, for now. But they will be back.

JORAL ELMVANG,
6 Hillers, Allum Grove,
Tadworth,
Surrey KT20 5HX.
April 21.

Advice for Tories

From Mr Brian West

Sir, How refreshing it was to read the commonsense advice (report, April 17) that Mr Archie Norman is dispensing to his Conservative colleagues in Parliament. It should be taken to heart by all politicians, not just those at the top in his own party.

Governments and Oppositions have for decades now conducted a tit-for-tat dialogue that has never fooled the man in the street. Most of us who have had moderately successful careers in commerce, which have taught us the value of being open, honest and not always right, have become very cynical about politics and politicians and are simply making the best of a bad job when exercising our votes.

Michael Gove (Comment, same edition) pointed out something I have long believed but not seen any other commentator seize on: that William Hague took on the leadership of his party at a most difficult time and has not done at all badly. If he can achieve the "measured and competent tone" that Mr Norman rightly sees as essential for successful leaders he may yet get to No 10.

Yours faithfully,
BRIAN WEST,
Greenbank, Glyndwr Road,
Gwernymynydd, Mold CH7 5LP.
brigilw@cs.com
April 18.

No speeches necessary

From Mr Michael Ridley

Sir, The BBC *Today* programme this morning contained not only what Robin Cook would be saying in his speech later in the day, but also the Conservatives' reaction to it. The next item told us what Alan Milburn was going to say in a speech this evening and in tonight's news bulletins, sure enough, we heard both items again.

Why do politicians bother to give the speeches at all when they could stay at home and hear it for themselves on the radio before even getting up in the morning?

Yours sincerely,
MICHAEL RIDLEY,
3 Smithfield End,
Swanbourne, Milton Keynes,
Buckinghamshire MK17 0SP.
michael@ridley.com
April 19.

ly insulated buildings. Doubtless the same planners who have hindered wind turbine development will view with distaste the inevitably (and imminently) necessary external thermal cladding of millions of buildings.

Yours faithfully,
PETER CUMING,
56 Talacre Road, NW5 4LX.
April 17.

From Eur Ing Francis O. J. Otway

Sir, Professor Fells is correct in stating that the wind is unreliable. It cannot be relied upon to supply electricity on days of maximum demand, normally calm days in January and February. So wind energy is primarily a means of saving other fuels and hence CO_2 discharge. It therefore has value where the annual mean wind speed is high enough for generation to be at competitive rates.

Offshore wind turbines have been

ly in England and Wales.

Wave power has been under examination for 25 years but has produced very few successful machines. To be successful they will need to be put where waves are large; when this is done, there is no certainty they will survive winter storms.

Although climate is certain to change over the years, there is much uncertainty as to how it will change; there seems some doubt now that it will necessarily lead to global warming. So we should not put too much effort into trying to avoid this.

I agree with Professor Fells's last paragraph. If we are to have plenty of energy in 50 years' time when fossil fuels may be in short supply, we will have to have more nuclear energy — like it or not.

Yours faithfully,
FRANCIS O. J. OTWAY,
Corvara, Cotswold Mead, Painswick,
Stroud, Gloucestershire GL6 6XB.
April 17.

The weakest export?

From the Reverend Paul Frostick

Sir, A headline in today's *Times* tells us that America says "Robinson is weakest link". Perhaps there is hope after all.

What does it say about our society that we have to export a programme that celebrates much of what is wrong in our country at the present time, namely aggression, rudeness, the weakest going to the wall, materialism? As a retired teacher and a priest I sometimes despair at what is called "entertainment". It is amazing that five million people watch the unbelievable rudeness of Anne Robinson. Perhaps it is because they cannot believe what will come next.

Those who run in marathons for charity are much more deserving of headlines. Those who work tirelessly for the benefit of others do still exist, but then those stories do not sell newspapers. Why is it that we cannot find a programme to export that celebrates these qualities, rather than the extreme negative qualities of *The Weakest Link*?

Yours faithfully,
PAUL FROSTICK,
18 The Ridings, Bexhill on Sea,
East Sussex TN39 5HU.
paul@frostickrev.freeserve.co.uk
April 17.

Sport letters, page S14

Letters for publication may be posted, faxed or e-mailed, and should carry a daytime telephone number. Unfortunately we cannot accept letters by telephone.

Children's nutrition

From Dr M. J. Goswell

Sir, Dr Jane Collins (Times 2, Health, April 17) suggests that dairy and meat products are an important source of vitamins and minerals in a child's diet. There are many lively, intelligent children who are rosy-cheeked and bouncing with health, conceived and born to vegan parents who eat no animal products of any kind.

My three grandchildren, aged 11, six and 15 months, are a case in point. None has consumed any animal product with the exception of mother's milk. They were born at term at around 8½lb and have thrived.

Many people considering becoming vegans, especially after the recent tragedies with BSE and foot-and-mouth, may have been put off because of a fear that it may be insufficient for meeting the needs of pregnancy and child-raising. It is therefore important that the good news that this is not so should be made more widely known.

Yours sincerely,
M. J. GOSWELL,
83 Sea Mills Lane, Bristol BS9 1DX.
April 18.

Wisdom of youth

From Mrs Isabelle Laurent

Sir, Walking with my daughters to school, we passed the third roadworks to spring up at the end of our road in as many months, prompting my five-year-old to say: "Oh look, they're building a new traffic jam!"

Yours faithfully,
ISABELLE LAURENT,
5 Lyndhurst Road, NW3 5PX.
April 19.

the war and in the civil war that followed it, have been accused of perpetrating terrible atrocities.

Naturally, those on the Left deny it as vehemently as the rest of Greece affirms it, and I have had my own moments of doubt.

Yours,
LOUIS de BERNIERES,
c/o Lavinia Trevor Agency,
The Glasshouse,
49a Goldhawk Road, W12 8QP.
April 14.

Royal ambassador

From Mr Graham Hay

Sir, Mrs Yvonne Kedge (letter, April 18) says that using the Duke of York as a trade ambassador will reinforce the idea that Britain is amateur.

We have an ex-lawyer running the country and we have an ex-steward (ship's and shop) running Environment, Transport and the Regions. Compared to that I see nothing wrong with an ex-helicopter pilot running trade delegations.

But if we want a "professional", I am sure that Rover, Cammell Laird or Marks & Spencer should have some available.

Yours faithfully,
R. E. G. HAY,
46 Rue des Plantes,
91230 Montgeron, France.
April 20.

A life cancelled

From Mr Gerald Solomon

Sir, I had to write to Saga in connection with their telephone service. My wife received the reply with their condolences on her sad loss, and a request for a copy of my death certificate.

Yours sincerely,
GERALD SOLOMON,
10 Burford Road,
Chipping Norton,
Oxfordshire OX7 5DZ.
April 18.

Fishy measurements

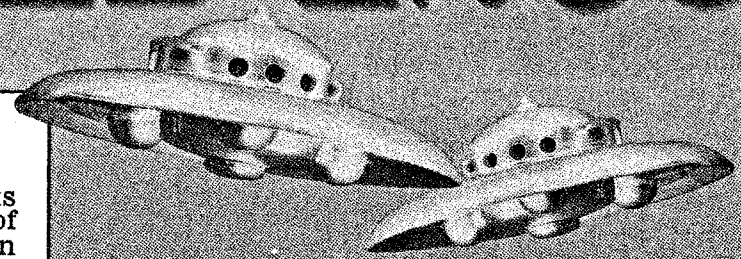
From Mr David Binns

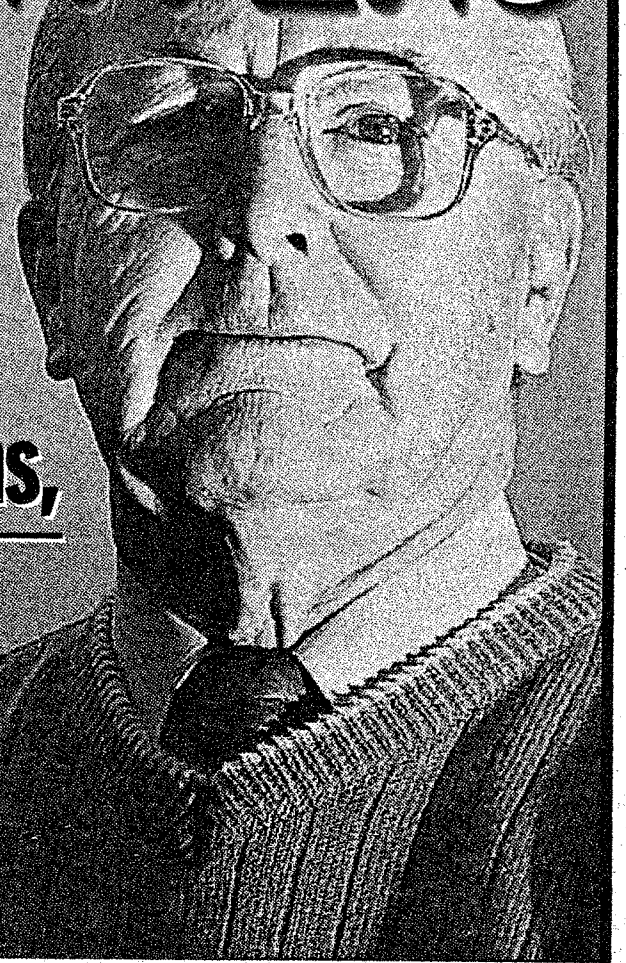
Sir, I am pleased to note that *The Times* caters for all ages. The report on the gigantic halibut (April 20) contains the following measurements: tonnes, three times; kilograms, once; stones, eight times; pounds, four times; metres, three times; feet, four times.

Keep up the good work!

Yours sincerely,
DAVID BINNS,
Woodcroft, 36a The Avenue,
Roundhay, Leeds LS8 1JG.
April 20.

CLOSED ENCOUNTERS





Or why, after 49 years of dedicating his life to aliens, Denis Plunkett has now shut down the British Bureau for UFOs

SUSPICIOUSLY, it all looks terribly normal — an estate of Sixties houses and bungalows in a Bristol suburb, mostly with new plastic windows and porches. In his home, Denis Plunkett, 70, looks like an average pensioner. Neat grey hair, grey sweater, neutral trousers and brown lace-ups.

'Looking normal is all part of a facade,' he says laughing, but it's partly true.

Denis, who once taught computer skills to the unemployed, has dedicated his life to tracking unidentified flying objects — UFOs. Outer space, to him, is as well charted as his own back garden. He is certain that aliens exist and pay us visits. In fact, he is desperate for them to visit more often.

In 1952, aged 21, he founded in Britain what is now the world's oldest UFO society. However, yesterday he announced that it is closing due to lack of members prepared to turn out to meetings. They'd rather join UFO clubs on the internet than sit in draughty halls watching slides and, worse still, there's a lack of flying saucers to spot.

'We are in a trough,' he says. 'Sightings are half what they were in the Sixties. They just aren't coming here any more.' He means club members *and* aliens.

He takes me to his 'den', a narrow section of room next to the kitchen, where he records sightings and organised meetings. Book shelves are lined with titles such as: Flying Saucers Top Secret, We Are Not Alone, and 1956 UFO Arrival. This has chapters with headings such as White Discs At Windsor, Crab-like Machine Over Long Island, Fish-shaped Object Over England, and Flying Bottle Over Kabul.



Bravely, Denis's branch of the Flying Saucer Bureau carried on meeting, at first in pubs, then in a hall at Bishopstone, near Bristol, every Thursday night, £2 at the door. Sometimes 30 people would turn up, sometimes only two. Denis would give a talk, show slides, and then they would all go to the pub.

Denis's wife Jean would sit at the back, knitting and smiling. She was a saint. Denis was away a lot, and when he was home he was writing to more than 30 letters a week from all over the world, bashing out lengthy replies on his old typewriter. He helped to run the group for 40 years until his death in 1992.

'I've spent years wishing away and now that I announce I am closing down I get more world-wide attention than ever before.

'Perhaps we should start up

the aliens gone? After a lifetime tracking them, Britain's chief

FACSIMILE COVER SHEET

Section 40
DAS 3b1a (Secretariat)
Ministry of Defence
Room 7247(b) Main Building
Whitehall
London SW1A 2HB

Tel Section 40
Fax

To: Section 40 RAF Mildenhall

Fax: Pages: 2

Date: 28th March 2001

CC:

Please reply

SUBJECT; Stealth aircraft

Further to our conversation, attached is an aircraft description DAS 4 have received, obviously as the shape is a little "stealthy" I would firstly check to see if any "stealth" aircraft were in the UK at the time, please could you possibly advise, many thanks.

Section 40

No unusual US A/C activity over UK in this period

Section 40

David Drew M.P.
House of Commons
Westminster. SW1

Section 40

(1)

Stroud
Gloucestershire Section 40

RECEIVED
21 FEB 2001

13 February, 2001

Dear Mr. Drew,

This is a somewhat unusual question that I would like to ask of you ~ it concerns an aircraft (a very unusual aircraft!), which I saw on the evening of Sunday, September 3rd, 2000. At 9.30pm, when I was out for my usual walk. The place were I saw it was just before passing by the 'Ram' Public House, along 'the Ridge' between Eastcombe and Chalford. — SO 8402

SO 8402

As you can imagine, not expecting something like this - it was quite a surprise when I realised what was looming up over the skyline! This was no ordinary aircraft as it was black all over with no tail section that I could determine, and it had three *very* powerful beams of light, lighting up ahead of the aircraft - all three lights emanated from underneath the aircraft from dome-like globes and were set in a triangular shape. The only other lights were extremely small red lights on the extreme tips of each wing, the wing's of which were *extremely* long and much larger than any plane that I had seen before.

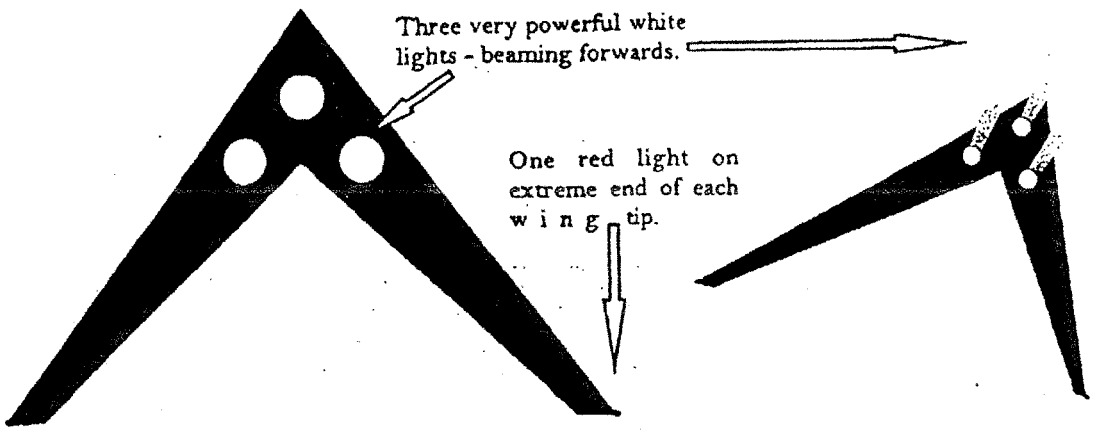
The engines were very quite - something like R. Royce turbines of which I believe there were three. The plane passed over me and to my right side heading in the direction of Bisley, but coming from the direction of Stroud/Gloucester approx.

Not alone in my sighting I know of at least one other person who was in Bisley at around the same time, he describes exactly the same sighting as myself.

Given that this may not be one of ours I wondered if you could look into it on my behalf as this is certainly out of the ordinary! I had at that time sent in an initial report about what I had seen to Section 40, of Stroud, who records all local UFO sighting's etc. If you have the means to shed some light on this very unusual sighting I would be most grateful for anything that you can find out about it.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40



20 MAR 2001

** TO BE GIVEN PRIORITY AT ALL TIMES **

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
DAS 4 (SEC)
2 6 MAR 2001
FILE

PARLIAMENTARY ENQUIRY

FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION

IMPORTANT - YOU MUST READ THIS GUIDANCE

TO: DAS4 (SEC) PE REF NUMBER: US 1663/2001

Copy to:

MINISTER REPLYING: OSOFS DRAFT REQUIRED BY: 30/3/2001

DATE: 20/3/2001 FROM: Section 40 PE Unit TEL: Section 40

FAX: Section 40

YOU WILL BE HELD ACCOUNTABLE FOR THE DRAFT ANSWER AND ADVICE, WHICH MUST BE ACCURATE AND NOT MISLEADING IN ANY WAY.

ENSURE THE DEADLINE IS MET: FROM 2001/02 ONWARDS, THE DEPARTMENT IS COMMITTED TO ANSWERING 90% OF ENQUIRIES WITHIN 15 WORKING DAYS; OUR PERFORMANCE IN 2000 WAS SIGNIFICANTLY LOWER THAN THIS.

A NAMED OFFICIAL AT B2 (GRADE 7) LEVEL OR ABOVE MUST CLEAR ALL DRAFTS. OTHER GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS OR MOD DIVISIONS SHOULD BE CONSULTED AS NECESSARY.

IF YOU ARE AN AGENCY, THE MINISTER'S OFFICE HAS DIRECTED THAT THIS ENQUIRY SHOULD RECEIVE A MINISTERIAL – NOT CHIEF EXECUTIVE – REPLY.

E-MAIL DRAFTS TO *'PARLIAMENTARY ENQUIRIES'*, NOT TO PE CLERKS OR PRIVATE OFFICES.
(Please ensure sensitivity of your email message is 'Normal'.)

IF THIS CORRESPONDENCE SHOULD BE DEALT WITH BY ANOTHER BRANCH, PLEASE PASS IT ON AND INFORM US IMMEDIATELY.

Number of pages sent by fax: 4

** TO BE GIVEN PRIORITY AT ALL TIMES **

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
DAS 3 (SEC)
20 MAR 2001
FILE

INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

** TO BE GIVEN PRIORITY AT ALL TIMES **

** TO BE GIVEN PRIORITY AT ALL TIMES **

** TO BE GIVEN PRIORITY AT ALL TIMES **

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

- DEADLINES: It is important that your draft is with us by the date shown at the top of this notice, as Ministers must send a written reply within 15 WORKING DAYS OF RECEIPT OF THIS ENQUIRY. The Department's performance is reported each year to Parliament. If you cannot meet the deadline, you should therefore provide an interim reply that apologises for the delay, sets out the action being taken to answer the enquiry, and advises when a substantive reply can be expected. You should aim to provide a substantive draft reply within a further 8 working days.
  Interim replies should be used infrequently, as every effort must be made to reply to correspondence from MPs (and others) promptly.

- **Action at official level on the same case should be held until the Minister has sent a full reply. Please discuss any questions about the substance of the drafts, or other policy aspects, direct with the relevant Private Office.**

- LAYOUT: Draft replies should be double-spaced. Always include the full PE reference number at the top left of the draft. Put the MP's full title at the bottom left of the first page. Only add the address if the letter is from the Minister direct to a constituent.

- OPENING AND CLOSING: All Ministers prefer to start: *"Thank you for your letter of ...(MP's ref if given) on behalf of/enclosing one from your constituent, Mr ... of ... about ..."*
  If a Minister is replying on behalf of another, start: *"Thank you for your letter of ... to Geoff Hoon/Liz Symons/John Spellar/Lewis Moonie on behalf etc"*
  For Mr Spellar, add: *"I am replying in view of my responsibility for ..."*
  For Baroness Symons, add: *"I am responding because of my responsibility for this issue." (or, in the case of letters from fellow Peers: "I have been asked to respond.")*
  For Dr Moonie, add: *"I am replying as this matter falls within my area of responsibility."*
  Choose an appropriate ending (except for Dr Moonie, who will add his own) - such as: *"I hope this is helpful"; "I hope this explains the position/situation"; "I am sorry I cannot be more helpful"*; or *"I am sorry to send what I know will be a disappointing reply"*.

- OPEN GOVERNMENT: Replies MUST be drafted in accordance with the Code of Practice on Access to Government Information. It is set out in DCI 223/99. If you are recommending to a Minister that some or all information is withheld, the answer must specify the law or exemption in the Code under which it is being withheld - eg "I am withholding the information requested under exemption 1 of Part II of the *Code of Practice on Access to Government Information.*" It is NOT acceptable to rely on past practice.

INTERIM REPLIES: If it is obvious on receipt of a PE that you cannot reply in full, an interim MUST be provided by the deadline stated. REMEMBER: an interim reply covering the majority of the issues raised could help our performance statistics.

** TO BE GIVEN PRIORITY AT ALL TIMES **

** TO BE GIVEN PRIORITY AT ALL TIMES **

** TO BE GIVEN PRIORITY AT ALL TIMES **

INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

RECEIVED BY
PARLIAMENTARY BRANCH
ON: 19/3/01
MP: DUS
KEY: Low flying/UFOs
LEAD BRANCH: DAS 4 (Sec)
COPIED TO:
RELATED CASE:
CLERK: Section 40

Rt Hon Geoff Hoon MP
Ministry of Defence
Main Building
Whitehall
London
SW1A 2HB

14 March 2001

Dear Geoff

Please find enclosed a letter I have received from Section 40 one of my constituents. I would be very grateful for your comments on his letter and any suggestions about what it was he might have seen.

Thank you for your help with this matter.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

David Drew MP

Email: daviddrew@mpstroud.freeserve.co.uk
Web site: www.daviddrew.ik.org

(5)

David Drew M.P.
House of Commons
Westminster. SW1

[redacted]
Stroud
Gloucestershire. [redacted]

RECEIVED
21 FEB 2001

13 February, 2001

Dear Mr. Drew,

This is a somewhat unusual question that I would like to ask of you ~ it concerns an aircraft (a very unusual aircraft!), which I saw on the evening of Sunday, September 3rd, 2000. At 9.30pm, when I was out for my usual walk. The place were I saw it was just before passing by the 'Ram' Public House, along 'the Ridge' between Eastcombe and Chalford. — SO 8902

SO 8904

As you can imagine, not expecting something like this - it was quite a surprise when I realised what was looming up over the skyline! This was no ordinary aircraft as it was black all over with no tail section that I could determine, and it had three *very* powerful beams of light, lighting up ahead of the aircraft - all three lights emanated from underneath the aircraft from dome-like globes and were set in a triangular shape. The only other lights were extremely small red lights on the extreme tips of each wing, the wing's of which were *extremely* long and much larger than any plane that I had seen before.

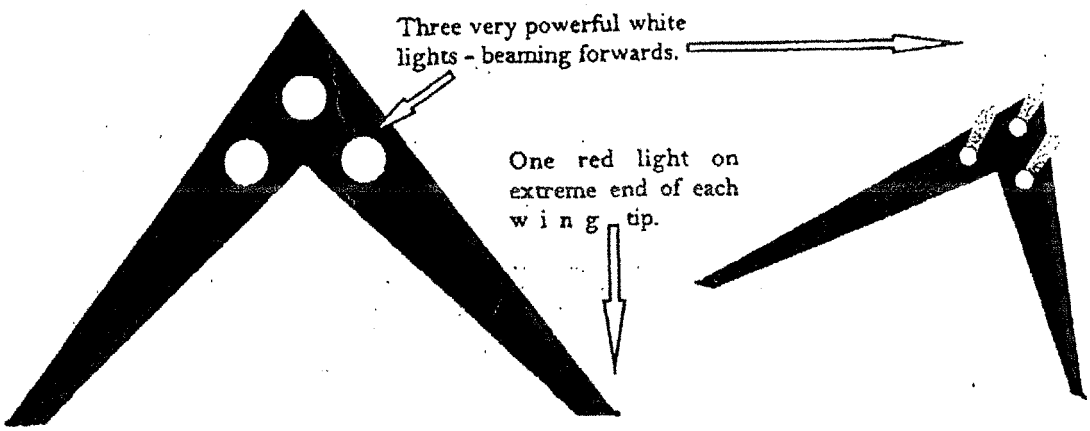
The engines were very quite - something like R. Royce turbines of which I believe there were three. The plane passed over me and to my right side heading in the direction of Bisley, but coming from the direction of Stroud/Gloucester approx.

Not alone in my sighting I know of at least one other person who was in Bisley at around the same time, he describes exactly the same sighting as myself.

Given that this may not be one of ours I wondered if you could look into it on my behalf as this is certainly out of the ordinary! I had at that time sent in an initial report about what I had seen to [redacted], of Stroud, who records all local UFO sighting's etc. If you have the means to shed some light on this very unusual sighting I would be most grateful for anything that you can find out about it.

Yours sincerely,

[redacted]



1/1

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
MAIN BUILDING WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2HB
Telephone Section 40 (Direct Dialling)
[redacted] (Fax)
(020) 7218 9000 (Switchboard)

PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE
FOR DEFENCE

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
DAS 4 (SEC)
- 6 APR 2001
FILE

D/US of S/LM 1663/01/Y

4th April 2001

Dear David,

Thank you for your letter of 14 March to Geoff Hoon enclosing one from your constituent, Section 40 [redacted] of Section 40 Section 40 [redacted] Stroud, who is enquiring about a sighting of an 'unidentified flying object' over Eastcombe and Chalford on the evening of 3 September 2000. I am replying as this matter falls within my area of responsibility.

Firstly, it may be helpful if I explain that the Ministry of Defence examines any reports passed on from members of the public of sightings that they cannot themselves identify, solely to establish whether what was seen might have some defence significance. My Department's only concern is to establish whether there is any evidence from what has been seen that the United Kingdom's airspace might have been compromised by hostile or unauthorised air activity. I should add that the integrity of the UK's airspace in peacetime is maintained through continuous surveillance of the UK Air Defence Region by the Royal Air Force and the MOD remains vigilant for any potential threat. Unless there is evidence of a potential threat to the United Kingdom from an external military source, and to date no UFO reported to us has revealed such a threat, 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.

I should wish to assure Section 40 [redacted] that my Department received no other reports of 'unidentified flying objects' for 3 September 2000 in Gloucestershire and my officials are satisfied that there is no corroborating evidence to suggest that UK airspace was breached by unauthorised activity on that date.

David Drew Esq MP

Private Office

INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Finally, I should say that my Department has no expertise or role in respect of the existence or otherwise of extraterrestrial lifeforms, about which it remains open-minded, but I would add that to date the MOD knows of no evidence to substantiate the existence of these alleged phenomena.

Best wishes

Section 40 [redacted]

DR LEWIS MOONIE MP

Recycled Paper

DAS4A1(SEC)

From: PARLIAMENTARY TYPIST1 on behalf of PARLIAMENTARY ENQUIRIES
To: DAS4A1(SEC)
Sent: 02 April 2001 08:49
Subject: Read: PE US 1663/2001

Your message

To: PARLIAMENTARY ENQUIRIES
Subject: PE US 1663/2001
Sent: 30/03/01 16:53

was read on 02/04/01 08:49.

LOOSE MINUTE

1+2

D/DAS(Sec)64/4

30 March 2001

PE Unit Section 40
(through DAS A [redacted]ec)) (*Signed on CHOTS*)
[redacted] 30/3

PARLIAMENTARY ENQUIRY – US1663/2001- MR DAVID DREW MP

1. So far as we are aware, this constituent has not contacted the MOD before about 'UFOs' and he will not therefore be aware that the MOD's only interest in reported 'UFO' sightings is whether there is any evidence of a breach of UK airspace by hostile or unauthorised air activity. Unless there is such evidence, we do not attempt to identify exactly what was seen; we believe that rational explanations could be found, but it is not within the MOD's remit to provide an aerial identification service.

2. On this occasion, however, given the resemblance of the diagram provided by Section 40 Section 40 to the US 'Stealth' aircraft, we checked the position with the authorities at RAF Mildenhall who confirmed that there were no such aircraft over the UK in this period. We are, therefore unable to help Section 40 to identify what he might have seen on this occasion.

3. We received no other reports of UFO sightings in Gloucestershire on 3 September 2000 and we are satisfied that there is no evidence of a breach of UK airspace on that date.

4. I enclose a draft reply for US of S to send to David Drew MP in response to his letter of 14 March, enclosing a letter from his constituent, Section 40

Section 40 *(Signed on CHOTS)*

Section 40
DAS 4a1(Sec)
MB8245 Section 40

Drafted by: L C Unwin DAS 4a1(Sec)
Authorised by: C R Wright DAS AD4(Sec)

US 1663/2001 March 2001

DRAFT REPLY TO MR DAVID DREW MP

Thank you for your letter of 14 March to Geoff Hoon enclosing one from your constituent Section 40 [redacted] of Section 40 [redacted] Stroud, who is enquiring about a sighting of an 'unidentified flying object' over Eastcombe and Chalford on the evening of 3 September 2000. I am replying as this matter falls within my area of responsibility.

Firstly, it may be helpful if I explain that the Ministry of Defence examines any reports passed on from members of the public of sightings that they cannot themselves identify solely to establish whether what was seen might have some defence significance. My Department's only concern is to establish whether there is any evidence from what has been seen that the United Kingdom's airspace might have been compromised by hostile or unauthorised air activity. I should add that the integrity of the UK's airspace in peacetime is maintained through continuous surveillance of the UK Air Defence Region by the Royal Air Force and the MOD remains vigilant for any potential threat. Unless there is evidence of a potential threat to the United Kingdom from an external military source, and to date no UFO reported to us has revealed such a threat, 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.

I should wish to assure Section 40 that my Department received no other reports of 'unidentified flying objects' for 3 September 2000 in Gloucestershire and my officials are satisfied that there is no corroborating evidence to suggest that UK airspace was breached by unauthorised activity on that date.

Finally, I must say that my Department has no expertise or role in respect of the existence or otherwise of extraterrestrial lifeforms, about which it remains open-minded, but I should add that to date the MOD knows of no evidence to substantiate the existence of these alleged phenomena.

DR LEWIS MOONIE MP

David Drew MP