

**MINISTRY OF DEFENCE**

Main Building Whitehall London SW1A 2HB

Telephones **Section 40** (Direct Dialling)
(Switchboard)**Section 40**

Your reference

Our reference D/Sec(AS)/12/1 ✓

Date 15 May 1985

Dear **Section 40**

Thank you for your letters of 24 February and 23 March 1985; I am sorry that I have been unable to reply before now. I regret that the Department could not justify the expenditure in terms of time and effort which would be required to collate information on reports of UFO's in the Dyfed area since 1977.

You may find it useful if I explain that the sole interest of the United Kingdom Ministry of Defence in reported sightings of Unidentified Flying Objects (UFOs) is to establish whether they have any bearing on the defence of the country.

There is no organisation in the Ministry of Defence appointed solely for the purpose of studying reports of such objects, and no staff are employed on the subject full time. The reports we receive are referred to the staff in the Department who are responsible for the air defence of the United Kingdom, and they examine the reports as part of their normal duties.

Since our interest in UFOs is limited to possible defence implications we have not carried out a study into the scientific significance of these phenomena. Unless there are defence implications we do not attempt to identify sightings and we cannot inform observers of the probable identity of the object seen. The Department could not justify the expenditure of public funds on investigations which go beyond the pure defence interests.

We have to recognise that there are many strange things to be seen in the sky, but we believe there are adequate explanations for them. They may be satellite debris re-entering the earth atmosphere, ball lightning, unusual cloud formations, meteorological balloons, aircraft lights, aircraft at unusual angles or many other things. There is certainly no evidence that "alien spacecraft" have landed on the planet. Although we have not carried out our own studies, we are aware of independent studies into the UFOs, notably by the University of Colorado published in 1969. This concluded that 90% of all UFOs reported could be plausibly related to ordinary phenomena.