



MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

Main Building Whitehall London SW1A 2HB

Telephone Section 40 (Direct Dialling)
(Switchboard)

Section 40

Your reference

Our reference

D/Sec(AS)/12/3

Date

15 August 1985

Dear

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Thank you for your letter of 20 April 1985 concerning UFO's, I am sorry that I have been unable to reply before now. 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.

I am afraid we do not keep the statistical information which you ask for. However, I attach copies of two recent Parliamentary Questions on the Ministry of Defence's interest in UFO reports, which you may be interested in. I also enclose a copy of the UFO article which appeared in the July 1957 issue of the RAF Flying Review which you asked for in your letter.

Yours sincerely

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