

**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 9 August 1985

Dear

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Your letter to RAF Boulmer of 16 March 1985 has been passed to me in view of your interest in Unidentified Flying Objects. 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 could not therefore undertake to provide you with information on sightings in the Boulmer area. Nevertheless, we are prepared to release reports of specific incidents on request and if there are any recent cases in which you have a particular interest, I would be happy to see if we have any information.

I attach copies of two recent Parliamentary Questions on the Ministry of Defence's interest in UFO reports, which you may be interested in.

Yours sincerely

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P.S. Thank you for your kind words about the RAF. In view of your interest in the Red Arrows, I enclose some information on the team.