

Q and A Brief

Q1. Why are UFO reports referred to the Ministry of Defence?

A1. The Government is not interested in the scientific significance of these phenomena as such. The Ministry of Defence examines UFO reports to determine whether they could be aircraft illegally in UK airspace.

Q2. Why does not the Government set up a proper inter-departmental study of UFOs?

A2. The Government does not consider that there is any justification for the expenditure of public money on such a study.

Q3. Is it not time that MOD recognised that many people have a genuine scientific interest in these phenomena?

A3. The Ministry of Defence does not doubt the genuineness of many people's interest in UFOs. Its own interest, however, is limited to the defence aspect. It is not concerned with the scientific significance, if any, of UFO sightings and could not justify spending money voted by Parliament for defence on matters which fall outside the defence field.

Q4. Why cannot the British Government admit the existence of UFOs like the French Minister of Defence did in 1974?

A4. The French Minister of Defence did not say that UFOs were real. He said that the phenomena were genuine and reported by sensible people. At no time did he say that they were real in the sense of being alien space craft.

Q5. Have any of these sightings ever been identified as a hostile aircraft?

A5. No

Q6. If UFOs do not represent a threat, are not the MOD's investigations simply a waste of time and money?

A6. No. The maintenance of the integrity of UK air space requires that the Ministry of Defence should be satisfied that any unidentified flying object is not an intruding aircraft. This is an elementary precaution and one which takes up very little staff time. No staff are employed solely to examine UFO reports.

Q7. How many UFO reports remain unexplained?

A7. The Ministry of Defence does not investigate reports to a point at which a positive identification can be made.