

**MINISTRY OF DEFENCE**

Main Building Whitehall London SW1A 2HB

Telephone Section 40 (Direct Dialling)
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Section 40

Your reference

Our reference D/Sec(AS)/12/3 ✓

Date 14 May 1985

Dear Section 40

Thank you for your letter of 5 April 1985, addressed to the Secretary of State for Defence. 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.

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.

Turning specifically to the incident at RAF Woodbridge, the incident was reported to the MOD on 13 January 1981 in the report from Lt Col Halt which you mention in your letter. A copy of this report is attached for your interest. At that time we satisfied ourselves that the incident was of no defence significance and no further investigations were undertaken. There is no question of a cover up over this incident.

Yours sincerely

Section 40