

Subject File 27 6.8.52

PRIME MINISTER'S PERSONAL MINUTE

SERIAL No. H. 412/52

SECRETARY OF STATE FOR AIR

LORD CHURCHILL

What does all this stuff about flying saucers amount to? What can it mean? What is the truth? Let me have a report at your convenience.

MOD Policy on Unidentified Flying Objects (UFO)

of Defence does not have any expertise or role in respect of "saucer" matters or to the question of the existence or terrestrial lifeforms, about which it remains totally ignorant. The MOD knows of no evidence which would support the existence of these alleged phenomena.

Copy No 7 of

Unidentified Air Defence Main Report

SCIENTIFIC & TECHNICAL

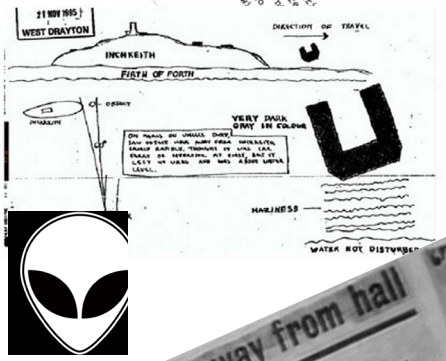
From Section 10
Directorate of Air Staff (Lower Airspace)
Operations & Policy 1a
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Room 6773, Metropole Building, Northumbria
WC2N 5BP

New Plymouth, New Zealand. Nov. 1957	Haywood Lancas
Pole Hill, Chingford, Essex. Aug. 1967	Bradford Lancas
Nab Wood, Shipley, Yorkshire. Dec. 1967	Burghfield Berkshire



My name is [redacted] and I am a member of the Ministry of Defence. I would have as a member of my department a UFO which was sent to Ministry of Defence for information on it.

On September 2009 15:30
[redacted] information on it



UFO LANDS IN SUFFOLK

And that's OFFICIAL

A UFO has landed in Britain—been officially confirmed. Despite a massive cover-up, the Ministry of Defence has admitted that the mysterious object was seen in Suffolk at 3 a.m. on December 15, 1978. In a press conference, the MOD said it had a "sight" of the object. The object was described as a "triangular shape" with "a bright light" in the center. It was seen for about 10 minutes and then disappeared. The MOD has now officially confirmed the sighting.

People turned away from hall as Warminster discusses —

THE THING



I WANT TO BELIEVE

THE NICK POPE PAPERS

The Nick Pope Papers

Acknowledgements

Introduction

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Chapter Eight – Why Does This Matter?

Acknowledgements

Firstly, I must thank Philip Mantle for his generosity of time and resources which made this endeavour a lot easier. Secondly, I would like to thank Dr. David Clarke for doing so much of the groundwork and for being generous with his research. I would also like to thank the numerous Twitter-based people who have been kind enough to re-tweet a lot of my posts to help get the word out there. Salut!

This is just the first in a series of documents that will be available, and I hope to have further updates available as more evidence comes to light. Please keep checking back to nickpopewatch.wordpress.com for the latest information.

Introduction

Nick Pope has become one of those ubiquitous presences within UFOlogy. Many episodes of the UFO entertainment series “Ancient Aliens” will feature Pope. A fair proportion of UFO documentaries will feature Pope. Most newspaper articles which focus on the Western Governments investigations of UFOs, will contain a quote from Pope. Pope likes to place himself in the narrative of many high-profile UFO cases, despite having nothing of value to add to the original case. In fact, if you listen to a lot of his input on the aforementioned platforms, he has very little of any substance to offer.

Pope’s carefully crafted media image, middle of the road proclamations (never really saying anything of substance) and his UK Ministry of Defence (MoD) background have enabled Pope to worm his way into the heart of UFOlogy and prove that a certain percentage of those interested in UFOlogy are an easy mark¹ for a well-crafted grift.

To his followers, he is the real-life Fox Mulder, he is the man who was at the heart of the MoD’s “UFO program” and knows a lot of information which he cannot tell due to his security oaths. To others, he is nothing more than a liar, capitalising on UFOlogy’s ongoing desire to entertain any charlatan with a good yarn to spin.

If UFOlogy is ever going to get close to the truth of what is happening in the skies, it has to work a little bit harder in exposing those who exist to make a profit through propagating lies and muddying the waters. Journalists, media companies, and a large swathe of those interested in UFOlogy have allowed Pope (and others) to create a platform where he continues to lie about who he is or was, and what he actually did when working for the MoD. Pope has benefitted from the fact that most people are happy to accept what is presented to them at face value, despite the reality being very different.

Pope himself has consistently refused to acknowledge any of the questions raised about his work for the MoD. Instead, preferring to stick his head in the sand and failing to present any evidence to prove his own claims. Unfortunately for Nick, there is a wide array of evidence, most of it on official MoD paperwork, that shows that Nick Pope is not who he claims to be.

Wherever possible, I have provided guidance as to how you can access the files within this book. Most of them are held at the National Archives, or a simple google of the reference numbers will often find that specific file. I have provided these so you can reference these documents for yourself as I don’t want you to simply take my word for it. The truth about Nick Pope is certainly out there for all to see.

¹ Mark is a slang term for the individual who was to be the target of a scam.

Chapter One – The Claims & The Job Role

According to Nick Pope, or at least the blurb on his website, [he] “...ran the British Government’s UFO project. From 1991 to 1994 he researched and investigated UFOs, alien abductions, crop circles and other strange phenomena, leading the media to call him the real Fox Mulder. His government background and his level-headed views have made him the media, film and TV industry’s go-to guy when it comes to UFOs, the unexplained and conspiracy theories.”²

Of course, so much of this statement just isn’t true. In fact, most of what Nick Pope claims, whether on his website or the popular press, isn’t true. This is especially the case when it comes to his work for the Ministry of Defence (MoD). Just what does Pope claim he did for the MoD? Nick claims that he was the head of the MoD’s “UFO Project” and that he investigated UFOs for the MoD. Both claims that are blatantly false.

The reality of Pope’s time in the MoD was a little more pedestrian. So let us look at what Pope really did for the MoD. One of the best places to look for an insight into Pope’s actual job, was the job description for his role once he had vacated it.

² <http://nickpope.net/wpte19/biography/>

Job Title: Secretariat & Private Office
Salary Administration Plan: Broad Banding D
Location: Main Building
Reference: 324863
Salary Grade: D

Eligibility:

Staff who hold the substantive grade of this post, or hold promotion passport/ticket to Band D may apply for this post. IMPORTANT NOTE: If you apply at a stage when you are ineligible your application will not be considered. Should the requisition proceed to a stage in which you become eligible and still wish to be considered you should submit an offline application to the PSC.

Post Security:

This post is Non Reserved Security Clearance: Security Check

Job Description:

The Directorate of Air Staff is responsible for providing support to the Chief and Assistant Chief of the Air Staff and Ministers in all central policy, political and parliamentary aspects of non-operational RAF activity both at home and overseas. As the Freedom of Information Focal Point you will be responsible for monitoring all FOI requests received by the Air Staff in London. You will provide guidance to staff on the release of information and the use of exemptions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and liaise as necessary with other FOI Focal Points and DG Information staff. You will also be the MOD Focal Point for correspondence with the general public and MPs about unidentified flying objects (UFOs), including researching and writing responses to FOI requests. You will have responsibility for one E1. It would be desirable for the successful applicant to have an FOI Practitioner qualification and an ECDL qualification.

Competences:

Working together, Communicating and Influencing, Analysing and Using Evidence, Improvement and Change, Leadership and Developing People.

Transfer Terms and Allowances:

Tour Length: Minimum 2 years This post is Full-Time but suitable for part-time/job-share Transfer Terms: Permanent

Interview Details:

Interviews for this job will take place Wednesday 14th December 06 in Main Building, London. For further information regarding this post please contact **Section 40** DAS ADSec **[REDACTED]**

Equality and Diversity:

The MoD is an Equal Opportunities employer and seeks to reflect the diverse community it serves. Applications are welcome from anyone who meets the stated requirements.
 Please apply before:04/12/2006

If we look at this job advert³, we can see the Nick Pope's job is in fact an administrative role. There is no mention of a "UFO Project" or investigating UFOs. In fact, the last person in Pope's role stated, "*The term investigation tends to suggest to the public that there are Top Secret teams of specialist scientists scurrying around the country in a real life version of the X-Files....[but] this is total fiction.*"

He went on to say that, "*The closest we have to the post of 'UFO Expert' is probably my own, but this has always been a generalist, non-technical post with the emphasis on correspondence with the public....whilst I have naturally built up some degree of knowledge of various UFO cases as part of my tenure in this post, I often find the best source of information is simply to Google the internet!*"

³ MoD file reference - DEFE 24/2073/1

How curious! The Person who was last doing Pope's role does not mention being the head of a "UFO Project" or "investigating UFOs for the MoD". Surely Pope's successor should be doing the same job as Pope claimed to have done?

Pope's job is advertised as a "D Grade" which was quoted as being the most junior of MoD managerial grades. It hardly sounds like the head of a "UFO Project".

Let us not forget that Pope had no technical background to speak of nor did he have a particularly stellar academic history, so for people to imagine that Pope would walk into such a role as head of a "UFO Project" is ludicrous.

We can see that via the MoDs own documentation, Pope's role was purely an administrative role. Reports came to his desk, the now infamous "UFO Desk", and he forwarded them on to the appropriate departments.

Below is a document created by the last incumbent of Pope's role, Paul Webb. In this document⁴ he explains the mechanics of his role.

⁴ MoD file reference DEFE 24/2087/1

Section 40

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From: Section 40
Sent: 02 December 2008 15:40
To: Section 40
Subject: TRANSFER TO AIR COMMAND - UFO DESK

Section 40

In the event that I win the lottery over Christmas or walk under a bus, I thought it would be helpful if I gave you some details about the role of the UFO desk beyond the daily mechanics of the job, which are really quite simple.

MoD Role and Position on UFOs and Extraterrestrials

The MoD position on UFOs, aliens and extra terrestrials is quite clear. We know of no evidence to confirm the existence of aliens, spaceships, extra terrestrials etc or if they have visited the earth. However, since the universe is a very large place and mankind has only explored a very small corner of it, we cannot rule out the existence of intelligent life on other planets. We therefore remain open minded on the topic. In the absence of proof either way, this position seems a perfectly sensible one. However, as you can probably guess, the above position does not make very interesting headlines nor, I suspect, would it sell many books.

UFO Reports

Sightings of UFO reports come via three sources. The first, and by far the most popular is via the UFO Hotline where people can leave details of what they have seen. These details are then recorded - currently on spreadsheet by my clerk, but when I move to Air Command, I will be using an Access database. If the person leaving the report gives a name and address, we will write back to them, thanking them for the information and explaining the limits of the MoD role in UFO matters. A copy of this letter with a table containing the relevant sighting details is then filed. The second is written reports from the public, sometimes via their nearest military establishment which are dealt with in the same manner. The third source is from other official bodies such as the CAA or the police.

People often see things in the sky that they cannot explain. Sometimes, as concerned citizens, they report them to us since they believe we will be able to identify what they have seen. Although the UFO desk is the focal point for UFO matters within the MoD (and by extension the whole government) it is not our role to attempt to explain every report we receive and nor are we resourced to do so.

That having been said, from time to time, we may receive a report from aircrew, air traffic control or the police that, in our judgement, may deserve a closer look since they are either trained observers or are sufficiently well versed in aviation matters for their reports to carry more weight and detail than usual. Additionally, a sighting by a great many people (particularly if they are in different locations) may also be worth a look. There are no set criteria or regulations stating under what circumstances we should take a closer look at a report. It is a matter of common sense and judgement. If it is not defence related, it is not our job to get involved.

At the end of the year, a spreadsheet containing details such as date, location and description of any sightings received is placed on the MoD website for the public to view.

UFO Investigations

On the very rare occasions we do take a closer look at a sighting report (less than half a dozen a year) our investigation is likely to entail asking whether anything was seen by either military radar or ATC. We usually do this through CT&UK Ops or, depending on circumstances, a colleague in DAS may suggest a suitable branch to contact. The term "investigation" tends to suggest to the public that there are Top Secret teams of specialist scientists scurrying around the country in a real life version of the X-Files. I am sure it will come as no surprise to you that this is total fiction. It is not unusual to get requests for our "file" on a specific incident. We do not keep separate files on each incident (with the exception of a handful from the early 1990s) and in any case, the documentation is likely to be limited to a few e-mails.

UFO Correspondence

The majority of correspondence on UFOs is composed of requests for information about various sightings or

For the MoD documents about a particular UFO incident (rumours abound of crashed UFOs, Top Secret bases or alien remains). Not surprisingly, the majority are now logged as FOI requests and dealt with accordingly. TOs and MCs are not very frequent but do turn up from time to time. A PQ is an extremely rare beast. I do not recall answering any in the past two years.

FOI Requests

I expect to receive at least 100 FOI requests a year on the subject of UFOs. By taking the decision to place details of sightings on the website and later by proactively placing the UFO files in The National Archives, we have been able to reduce the time spent answering requests since much of the information is already in the public domain and people can simply be directed there.

UFO Files

In late 2007 Ministerial approval was given for DAS and DIS to place their closed UFO files in The National Archives. The files are prepared for release in accordance with the principles of the FOI Act. The UFO Desk has transferred some 24 DAS files to date and on only one occasion (a misfiled document) has it been necessary to use a redaction other than s.40. The files are released in roughly chronological order, which is administratively easier and allows the "story" of the MoD's involvement with UFOs to be rolled out in a logical sequence. There are some 60 plus files due for transfer to The National Archives in 2009 and another 70 plus in 2010. As the files are rolled out, the public is getting a better feel for what our interest in UFOs actually is, rather relying on more lurid claims, but this does not, and probably never will, stop rumours of secret research, mysterious organisations or, I was delighted to see, that the files we are releasing are not the "real" files.

Redaction of these files is a very time consuming task, but it is made considerably simpler (and tidier) by the use of redaction software. It is my role to redact files myself, and also to act as quality control on for files redacted by my staff or indeed DIS. Once I am satisfied the files are in a fit state and have been reacted appropriately, I then pass them to Info CMem for double checking and for them to take on the task of formally transferring the files. As stated above, the transfer of the UFO files to The National Archives is already making the task of answering FOI requests much easier.

Ufology and Ufologists

Ufology is a widely accepted term to describe the study of the UFO phenomena. Those that study ufology are often known as ufologists. Ufology is a broad term that covers a spectrum of opinion that ranges from those that are convinced the earth has been visited by extra terrestrials and that the MoD is covering up the fact, through those that are simply interested in the subject but not certain what to believe, to total sceptics. The subject also attracts attention from individuals who are interested in it as a social phenomenon and carry out research from the perspective of urban myths and beliefs.

Ufology is therefore not uniform in its views and this can give rise to strong passions. The MoD tries to keep clear of any affiliation to any particular lobby or individual, since proactive engagement with UFO groups could simply serve to perpetuate the suspicion that the MoD has a deeper interest in the subject than it actually has. Whilst we are perfectly willing to provide factual information if requested, we try to steer clear of any statement that could be considered as either supporting or criticising any particular individual, theory, book or magazine article. There is a considerable industry surrounding UFOs and the MoD does not want to be drawn into allegations of favouritism or bias which might affect a particular individuals sales in either direction. In particular we do not wish to be drawn into arguments between individuals, which can be quite vitriolic and about which there is no defence interest.

UFO Research and UFO Experts

The MoD is not involved in scientific research into extraterrestrial life. We do not have any experts in UFOs (by which most people that contact us really mean alien spaceships). The closest we have to the post of "UFO Expert" is probably my own, but this has always been a generalist, non-technical, post with the emphasis on correspondence with the public. The MoD does, of course, have experts in a great many subjects from weather, to radar, to missiles and the UFO desk can, if it sees fit, ask their advice.

Press Interest

Press interest tends to be spasmodic, but is usually at its height in the quiet summer months or when The National Archives issue a press release about the latest UFO additions to their collection.

Finally, and somewhat ironically, given the assumed pervasive dark role of the MoD, whilst I have naturally

built up some degree of knowledge of various UFO cases as part of my tenure in this post, I often find the best source for information is simply to google the internet!

I hope the above helps put my job in perspective.

Section 40
DAS-FOI
Section 40

Again, without wanting to labour the point, we can see that Pope's role was purely administrative. No "UFO Project" and no UFO investigations.

What Project?

Pope has claimed that he ran or was the head of a "UFO Project" for the MoD. It is a claim he makes many times in all sorts of publications. Articles for The Guardian, BBC Online, Daily Mail, in fact any newspaper he appears in, all contained some variation of the idea that Pope was head of a "UFO Project". A title he willingly utilises to his own ends, even though the reality is very different. In a paper for the journal *World Affairs: The Journal of International Issues*, Pope claims that *"For three years in the British Ministry of Defence, the author [Nick Pope] ran the Unidentified Flying Objects (UFO) Project – investigating sightings reported to the Government, looking for evidence of potential threats or anything judged to be of "defence significance"⁵*. Of course, we can see now see that this is pure fantasy on Pope's part. His job role did not encompass UFO investigations for some "UFO Project."

In a file released by the MoD⁶, we learn that *"Mr Pope was a desk officer in the Secretariat (Air Staff) 2a section from 1991-1994 and at that time he was an executive officer. Sec (AS)2a is the focal point for handling queries directed at the MOD in connection with "UFO" sightings. At the time Mr. Pope worked in the section there were no staff working on this subject full time and this remains the case. The work represents a small part of the overall duties of the section."*

⁵ <https://www.jstor.org/stable/48505170>

⁶ MoD file reference - DEFE – 24-2019

PRESS LINES - "THE UNINVITED" - NICHOLAS POPE

X GENERAL LINES

The Ministry of Defence has no interest, expertise or role with respect to "UFO/flying saucer" matters, or the question of the existence or otherwise of extraterrestrial lifeforms about which it is open-minded. To date, however, the MOD remains unaware of any evidence which proves that these phenomena exist.

"ALIEN" ABDUCTION

Investigations into claims of any form of abduction are a matter for the civil police. The police, however, can only take the matter forward and investigate if there is evidence to support the allegation.

X MR NICHOLAS POPE

Mr Pope was a desk officer in the Secretariat(Air Staff)2a section from 1991-1994 and at that time he was an executive officer. Sec(AS)2a is the focal point for handling queries directed at the MOD in connection with "UFO" sightings. At the time Mr Pope worked in the section there were no staff working on this subject full-time and this remains the case. The work represents a small part of the overall duties of the section.

"THE UNINVITED"

The comments contained in the book "*The Uninvited*" are the personal views of Mr Pope and do not represent nor reflect the views of the Ministry of Defence. All Ministry of Defence personnel wishing to publish a book which draws on their official experience, uses information obtained in the course of their duties, or which expresses views on official matters, are required to seek departmental approval to do so. Clearance to publish does not imply MOD approval of, or agreement with, the contents.

So again, not only is this a purely administrative role but the UFO-related administration is part time. Pope was doing other things for the MoD other than answering queries about UFOs. Hardly a “UFO Project” and judging by the official MoD documents, Nick Pope most definitely did not investigate UFOs.

Chapter Two – Investigating UFOs/UAPs for the MoD

Nick Pope claims to have investigated UFOs for the MoD. In fact, in a profile for The Guardian, it is claimed he investigated UFOs for the MoD for “20 years”.⁷

Considering he worked for the MoD between 1991 and 1994, one wonders what investigations he actually completed. Pope has never fully explained what cases he investigated but as ever, the reality of the situation is very different from what Pope would like us to believe. Again, by utilising the UFO files released by the MoD, we see that Pope has lied consistently about his UFO investigations for the MoD.

In fact, the MoD does not hold back when it comes to discussing UFO investigations. As we can see from the following files, there is no ambiguity on the matter. Pope could not have investigated UFOs because Sec (AS) 2 has no role in investigating UFOs. In file DEFE-24-1956-1 (Page 18) the MoD states that “... we do not carry out studies into the UFO phenomenon, nor do we have the resources to undertake any in-depth investigations.” That is a pretty clear statement from the MoD. So how could Pope be investigating UFOs for the MoD?

In file DEFE-24-1956-1 (Page 53) we again see the MoD state that “...the MoD has no department which is appointed solely for the purpose of studying UFO reports, nor are there any staff employed on the subject full time.” Again, it’s pretty clear that Pope could not be investigating UFOs for the MoD.

In the file DEFE-24-2449-1 (Page 44), the MoD states that “We do not do field investigations. The notion that the MoD has ever maintained a dedicated team of UFO investigators along the lines of The X-Files is, I am afraid, a fiction”. This again highlights that Pope’s claims to have investigated UFOs for the MoD as bogus.

There are numerous releases from the MoD which all follow the same theme; the MoD does not investigate UFOs.

According to the blurb on Pope’s website, he claims to have investigated crop circles on the behalf of the MoD. But again, the MoD’s own files demonstrate that this was never the case. In file DEFE 24.1956/1 (Page 8), the MoD states that “As is the case with UFOs, there is no Ministry of Defence research or investigation into the crop circle phenomenon.” So, again, how was Pope actually investigating paranormal subjects for the MoD? The mountain of paperwork from the MoD itself proves Pope’s claim are in fact outright lies. Yet, when questioned Pope will avoid the question and provide zero evidence to the contrary. There are several instances which contradict Pope’s claims of the MoD investigating crop circles.

What is interesting, is the following documents ref: D/Sec(A3) 12/3 (Page 14, 15 and 17 of this document), were written by Pope himself. So, Pope is basically confirming that the “UFO Desk” is just a paperwork clearing house and is not involved in investigating UFOs or crop circles. Which is a massive contradiction to Pope’s claims, written by the man himself.

⁷ <https://www.theguardian.com/tv-and-radio/tvandradioblog/2016/feb/04/the-x-files-real-life-fox-mulder-opens-up-aliens-ufos-conspiracy-theories>

From: Section 40, Secretariat(Air Staff)2a, Room Section 40

E64



MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Main Building Whitehall London SW1A 2HB

Telephone (Direct Dialling) Section 40
(Switchboard)
(Fax)

Section 40

Your reference

Our reference

D/Sec(AS)12/3

Date

2 June 1992

Dear

Section 40

Thank you for your letter dated 15 May to the Prime Minister on the subject of UFOs. I have been asked to reply. You will also recall that when we spoke recently on this subject, I explained that I would be unable to accept your offer to appear in your documentary. I shall attempt to set out for you our position on UFO's, together with other information that you may find useful. In this way although I am unable to appear in your film, you will be able to draw upon the material in this letter in representing the position of the Ministry of Defence.

You may find it helpful if I begin by explaining that although the Ministry of Defence does receive and co-ordinate some reports of UFO sightings, our sole concern is to establish whether or not they pose a threat to the security of the United Kingdom. Unless we judge that they do, and this has not been the case so far, we do not attempt to investigate further, or to identify whatever might have been seen.

Since our interest in UFOs is limited to possible defence implications, we do not carry out studies into the UFO phenomenon, nor do we have the resources to undertake any in-depth investigations. I am sure that you will appreciate that defence funds are fully committed to maintaining the security of the UK and meeting our responsibilities to allies and dependents. This being so, we could not justify the use of defence funds on scientific investigations, unless a threat to the security of the UK had been identified.

It is clear from the reports we receive that there are many strange things to be seen in the sky. However, we believe that rational explanations could be found for most of them. Some of the possible explanations include aircraft lights or aircraft seen from unusual angles, satellites in orbit or satellite debris re-entering the atmosphere, high altitude kites, helium balloons, weather balloons, searchlights or lasers reflecting off clouds, ball lightning, fireballs and meteorites. As you are also doubtless aware, some reports turn out to be hoaxes. Having said this, we accept that there will always be some sightings that defy explanation, and we have an open mind on these.

You mentioned official knowledge of UFOs which is being kept secret; I would like to assure you that there is no question of attempting to cover up any incidents, nor are we trying in any way to obscure the truth about UFOs from the public. The Ministry of Defence does not possess any evidence which supports



Recycled Paper

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From: Section 40 Secretariat(Air Staff)2a, Room Section 40

E33



MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Main Building Whitehall London SW1A 2HB

Telephone (Direct Dialling) Section 40
(Switchboard)
(Fax)

Section 40

Your reference

Our reference

D/Sec(AS)12/3

Date

23 January 1992

Dear Section 40,

Thank you for your recent letter to the Secretary of State for Defence on the subject of UFOs. I have been asked to reply.

I should begin by explaining that while the Ministry of Defence does receive and co-ordinate some reports of UFO sightings, our sole concern is to establish whether or not they pose a threat to the security of the United Kingdom. Unless we judge that they do, and this has not been the case so far, we do not attempt to investigate further, or to identify whatever might have been seen.

Given this limited involvement with the subject, the Ministry of Defence has no department which is appointed solely for the purpose of studying UFO reports, nor are there any staff employed on the subject full time. With regard to the procedure for UFO sightings, any report submitted to the Ministry of Defence is automatically passed to this office. The reports we receive, which are usually limited to very brief details of what was witnessed, are passed to staff in departments concerned with air defence of the United Kingdom, who examine them as part of their normal duties. The Ministry of Defence does not carry out studies, investigations or surveys into the UFO phenomenon.

It is clear from the reports we receive that there are many strange things to be seen in the sky. However, we believe that rational explanations could be found for most of them. The possibilities that spring to mind include aircraft lights, aircraft seen from unusual angles, kites, helium balloons, weather balloons, unusual cloud formations, satellites in orbit or satellite debris re-entering the earth's atmosphere, ball lightning, fireballs and meteorites. As you may be aware from your reading, there is also a suspicion that some reports are hoaxes.

I would like to assure you that there is no question of attempting to cover up any incident, nor are we trying in any way to obscure the truth about UFOs from the public. The Ministry of Defence does not possess any positive evidence to support the existence of alien life, or to suggest that alien spacecraft have ever visited the Earth.

If you are interested in finding out more about UFOs, then you might like to contact one of the many civilian organisations currently engaged in study of the UFO phenomenon. These organisations, needless to say, would be very interested to hear about any UFO sightings. May I suggest the following societies:



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From: Section 40
Directorate of Air Staff - Freedom of Information
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
5th Floor, Zone H, Main Building, Whitehall, London SW1A 2HB



Telephone (Direct dial) 020 7218 2140
(Switchboard) 020 7218 9000
(Fax) Section 40
e-mail das-ufo-office@mod.uk

Section 40

Liverpool
Merseyside
Section 40

Our Reference
26-09-2008-131945-001

Date

26 September 2008

Dear Section 40

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request of 26 September 2008 asking for the title and details of the unit or team within the Ministry of Defence (MoD) that deals with UFO sightings. Additionally you wanted to know what they did.

The MoD examines any reports of 'unidentified flying objects' it receives solely to establish whether what was seen might have some defence significance; namely, whether there is any evidence that the United Kingdom's airspace might have been compromised by hostile or unauthorized foreign military activity.

Unless there is evidence of a potential threat to the United Kingdom from an external military source, and to date no 'UFO' report has revealed such evidence, we do not attempt to identify the precise nature of each sighting reported to us. We believe that rational explanations, such as aircraft lights or natural phenomena, could be found for them if resources were diverted for this purpose, but it is not the function of the MoD to provide this kind of aerial identification service. It would be an inappropriate use of defence resources if we were to do so.

Many members of the public believe the MoD has a whole department or branch that deals with UFOs, and, I suspect, have the impression of a large organisation within the MoD dedicated to research into UFO matters and extra-terrestrials. Actually, there are only two posts within the MoD (including mine) that are dedicated to UFO matters. Both posts (DAS-FOI and DAS-FOI1) are part of the Directorate of Air Staff (DAS), that deals with a wide range of air defence matters, of which UFOs is a minor part. DAS-FOI is at D Grade, which is the most junior management grade within the MoD, whilst DAS-FOI1 is at E1 Grade, which is at clerical level. Although the overwhelming majority of the UFO work in these two posts involves (and has for decades) answering correspondence from the public or recording sightings reported to the MoD, we do on occasion investigate reports. This usually involves liaising with air defence specialists (e.g. radar specialists) on perhaps half a dozen reports per year. These will generally be sightings made by aircrew, members of the armed forces or the police. We do not do field investigations. The notion that the MoD has ever maintained a dedicated team of UFO investigators along the lines of *The X-Files* is, I am afraid, a fiction. Both posts also have a responsibility for advising other DAS staff on Freedom of Information matters - hence the *FOI* in the post titles.

Catalogue Reference: defe/24/2449/1

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From: Section 40 Secretariat(Air Staff)2a

E28



MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Main Building Whitehall London SW1A 2HB

Telephone (Direct Dialling) Section 40
(Switchboard)
(Fax)

Section 40

Your reference

Our reference

D/Sec(AS)12/3

Date

8 January 1992

Dear Section 40,

Thank you for your letter of 3 January to the Secretary of State for Defence, about Unidentified Flying Objects and crop circles. I have been asked to reply.

Although the Ministry of Defence does receive some UFO reports, unless we judge that there is a threat to the security and defence of the United Kingdom - and no reports received to date fall into this category - no attempt is made to investigate or identify what was seen. We do not possess any positive evidence that extraterrestrial flying craft exist.

As is the case with UFOs, there is no Ministry of Defence research or investigation into the crop circle phenomenon.

I hope this is helpful.

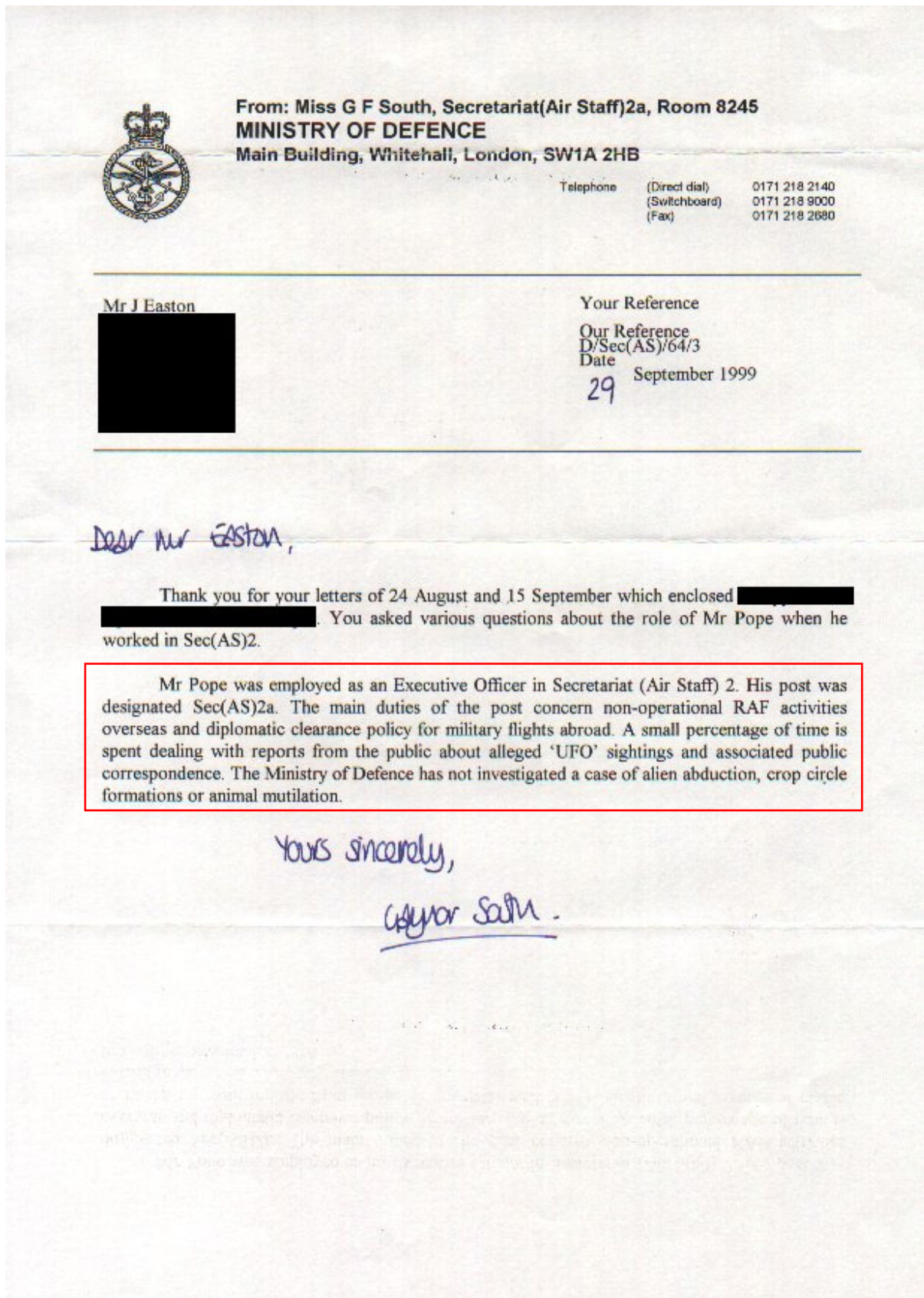
Yours sincerely

Section 40



Recycled Paper

Another letter from the MoD. Which again, explains succinctly that Nick Pope was not the head of a "UFO Project", he did not investigate UFOs or any other paranormal subjects for the MoD, and was in fact a junior desk officer.



What is always curious, is that Pope makes such wild claims in the media when he has signed-off letters from the MoD that directly contradict his media claims. For example, in the following letter, Pope explains that all reports are sent to the relevant department for their consideration and that Pope's "UFO Desk" is just a clearing house. Again, not exactly head of a UFO Project.

The National Archives' reference DEFE 24/1956/1

From: Section 40 Secretariat(Air Staff)2a, Room Section 40

L41



MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Main Building Whitehall London SW1A 2HB

Telephone (Direct Dialling) Section 40
(Switchboard)
(Fax)

Section 40

Your reference

Our reference

D/Sec(AS)12/3

Date

26 February 1992

Dear Section 40,

Thank you for your further letter about UFO reports, and the possibility of releasing some of them to you and your colleagues.

Whilst none of our UFO reports are classified, the release of any material on the subject "en bloc" is not possible as, like other government departments, all MoD files are subject to the public records act. As you may be aware, this act states that official files generally remain closed from public viewing for 30 years after the last action has been taken. However, if you are aware of any specific sightings that have occurred recently, we can search our files, and let you have a copy of any report that we have received - with details of the witness deleted, as you recognise.

You asked to be put in touch with any other personnel who look at UFO reports; although reports are forwarded to staff in departments concerned with the air defence of the United Kingdom, who examine them as part of their normal duties, we are the sole point of contact for any queries relating to the UFO phenomenon.

I hope this is helpful.

Yours Sincerely,

Section 40

Again, the following letter from Pope himself explains that there is no investigation into UFOs by the MoD. Again, how can Pope claim to be the head of a UFO Project and investigate UFOs for the MoD when the letters by his own hand claim otherwise.

The National Archives' reference DEFE 24/1956/1

From: Section 40 Secretariat(Air Staff)2a, Room Section 40

E33



MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Main Building Whitehall London SW1A 2HB

Telephone (Direct Dialling) Section 40
(Switchboard)
(Fax)

Section 40

Your reference

Our reference

D/Sec(AS)12/3

Date

23 January 1992

Dear Section 40,

Thank you for your recent letter to the Secretary of State for Defence on the subject of UFOs. I have been asked to reply.

I should begin by explaining that while the Ministry of Defence does receive and co-ordinate some reports of UFO sightings, our sole concern is to establish whether or not they pose a threat to the security of the United Kingdom. Unless we judge that they do, and this has not been the case so far, we do not attempt to investigate further, or to identify whatever might have been seen.

Given this limited involvement with the subject, the Ministry of Defence has no department which is appointed solely for the purpose of studying UFO reports, nor are there any staff employed on the subject full time. With regard to the procedure for UFO sightings, any report submitted to the Ministry of Defence is automatically passed to this office. The reports we receive, which are usually limited to very brief details of what was witnessed, are passed to staff in departments concerned with air defence of the United Kingdom, who examine them as part of their normal duties. The Ministry of Defence does not carry out studies, investigations or surveys into the UFO phenomenon.

It is clear from the reports we receive that there are many strange things to be seen in the sky. However, we believe that rational explanations could be found for most of them. The possibilities that spring to mind include aircraft lights, aircraft seen from unusual angles, kites, helium balloons, weather balloons, unusual cloud formations, satellites in orbit or satellite debris re-entering the earth's atmosphere, ball lightning, fireballs and meteorites. As you may be aware from your reading, there is also a suspicion that some reports are hoaxes.

I would like to assure you that there is no question of attempting to cover up any incident, nor are we trying in any way to obscure the truth about UFOs from the public. The Ministry of Defence does not possess any positive evidence to support the existence of alien life, or to suggest that alien spacecraft have ever visited the Earth.

If you are interested in finding out more about UFOs, then you might like to contact one of the many civilian organisations currently engaged in study of the UFO phenomenon. These organisations, needless to say, would be very interested to hear about any UFO sightings. May I suggest the following societies:



Recycled Paper

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This next letter from Pope trots out the usual line about no investigations or studies into UFOs.

The National Archives' reference DEFE 24/1956/1

From: Section 40, Secretariat(Air Staff)2a, Room Section 40

E64



MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Main Building Whitehall London SW1A 2HB

Telephone (Direct Dialling) Section 40
(Switchboard)
(Fax)

Section 40

Your reference

Our reference

D/Sec(AS)12/3

Date

2 June 1992

Dear

Section 40

Thank you for your letter dated 15 May to the Prime Minister on the subject of UFOs. I have been asked to reply. You will also recall that when we spoke recently on this subject, I explained that I would be unable to accept your offer to appear in your documentary. I shall attempt to set out for you our position on UFO's, together with other information that you may find useful. In this way although I am unable to appear in your film, you will be able to draw upon the material in this letter in representing the position of the Ministry of Defence.

You may find it helpful if I begin by explaining that although the Ministry of Defence does receive and co-ordinate some reports of UFO sightings, our sole concern is to establish whether or not they pose a threat to the security of the United Kingdom. Unless we judge that they do, and this has not been the case so far, we do not attempt to investigate further, or to identify whatever might have been seen.

Since our interest in UFOs is limited to possible defence implications, we do not carry out studies into the UFO phenomenon, nor do we have the resources to undertake any in-depth investigations. I am sure that you will appreciate that defence funds are fully committed to maintaining the security of the UK and meeting our responsibilities to allies and dependents. This being so, we could not justify the use of defence funds on scientific investigations, unless a threat to the security of the UK had been identified.

It is clear from the reports we receive that there are many strange things to be seen in the sky. However, we believe that rational explanations could be found for most of them. Some of the possible explanations include aircraft lights or aircraft seen from unusual angles, satellites in orbit or satellite debris re-entering the atmosphere, high altitude kites, helium balloons, weather balloons, searchlights or lasers reflecting off clouds, ball lightning, fireballs and meteorites. As you are also doubtless aware, some reports turn out to be hoaxes. Having said this, we accept that there will always be some sightings that defy explanation, and we have an open mind on these.

You mentioned official knowledge of UFOs which is being kept secret; I would like to assure you that there is no question of attempting to cover up any incidents, nor are we trying in any way to obscure the truth about UFOs from the public. The Ministry of Defence does not possess any evidence which supports



Recycled Paper

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the existence of alien life, or suggests that extraterrestrial spacecraft have ever visited the earth.

The Ministry of Defence does not release material on the subject "en bloc", because, as is the case with all government departments, all Ministry of Defence files are subject to the public records act, and generally remain closed from public viewing for 30 years after the last action has been taken. However, we are able to answer specific enquiries about particular sightings that have occurred recently, and can let you know if we have received reports on the incident, and if so, what they contain. You may be interested to know the numbers of UFO sightings reported to the Ministry of Defence in recent years; the figures are as follows:

1978 - 750
1979 - 550
1980 - 350
1981 - 600
1982 - 250
1983 - 390
1984 - 214
1985 - 177
1986 - 120
1987 - 150
1988 - 397
1989 - 258
1990 - 209
1991 - 117

So far this year we have received 55 sightings, although about a dozen of these were almost certainly sightings of an airship - illuminated from the inside - which was flying over London a lot during February and March. I saw this myself, and can understand how, from a distance, this generated reports of a bright cigar-shaped UFO travelling slowly over London. I mention this as a useful example of how an explanation can often be found for an apparently quite exotic UFO report.

You mentioned the sighting of a UFO in Rendlesham Forest; the only information that we have on this matter is the report that was made by Lt Col Charles Halt, and I have attached a copy of this for your information. We have no further documents on this sighting, and are certainly not aware of any papers relating to a close encounter with aliens. You may be aware, however, that there has been some recent press coverage of supposedly official UFO documents turning out to have been fakes.

You also mentioned that you were in touch with a number of civilian UFO organisations. We routinely refer people to various organisations, as we are aware that they will always be interested to hear from witnesses to sightings or members of the public who are interested in the subject. You are probably in touch with these organisations already, but in case you are not, the details are as follows:

British UFO Research Association

Section 40



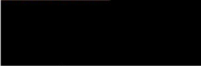
Quest International

Section 40



Contact International (UK)

Section 40



But it isn't just the letters from Pope that demonstrate the reality of his role within the MoD. In an interview with UFO Magazine dated 5th May, 1996, Pope is asked: *"One gets the impression that the MoD consider the UFO Phenomena totally irrelevant"*. To which Pope responds, *"That's correct"*. Pope, in the same article, goes on to say, *"There is not some great organisation which is actually getting on with the bread and butter of investigation, whilst I send out standard letters."*

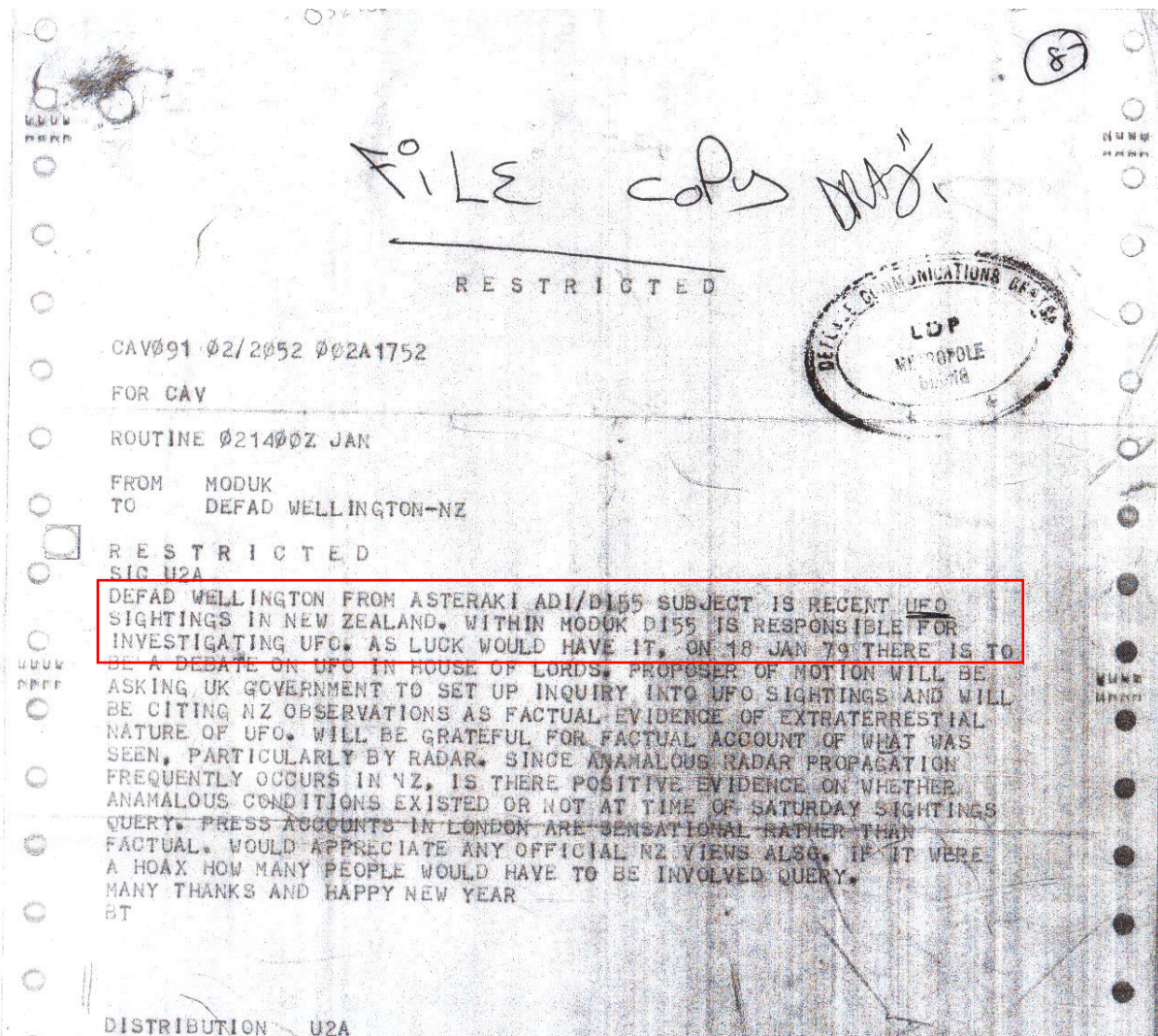
Again, whilst I feel I have really laboured the point here, I also feel that it is worth highlighting the many instances where Pope has confirmed that his role is to forward UFO reports to relevant departments and act as an interface with the public. There is certainly no investigation on his part nor does Pope's role look like a "UFO Project".

Chapter Three – The Wrong Department

DI55, or Defence Intelligence 55 to give it its full name, is a department that came into prominence during the 1990s. Its existence was hinted at and often speculated about in the press and UFOlogical circles and its existence was confirmed purely by accident, when a UFOlogist received a letter from the MoD regarding a query about UFOs and the letter indicated that DI55 were cc'd into the response.

The existence of DI55 is a bit problem for the Nick Pope story. DI55 is the department that has historically investigated UFOs. So now we are presented with a real dilemma. How could have Nick Pope investigated UFOs for the MoD when he wasn't even working in the correct department? Nick worked for Sec (AS) 2, whereas he should have been in DI55 if he was ever going to investigate UFOs. So, Nick could not have investigated UFOs for the MoD because he worked in the wrong department. In the following document, we have further confirmation of this.

This document is a copy of a telex sent by DI55 desk Officer John Asteraki to the MoD in New Zealand following a UFO sighting from the Argosy aircraft. In the telex, John states that "Within MOD UK DI55 is responsible for investigating UFO." This should close the debate on whether Pope was in any position to investigate UFOs for the MoD.



Within the files released from the National Archives, there were further statements around DI55 being the department that dealt with UFOs. In an article focussing on government transparency, printed in The Guardian, we read *"The internal memos and briefing notes are peppered with hints of the considerable scepticism the DI55 wing commander encountered from superiors. In the original August 1993 brief he writes: "I am well aware that anyone who talks about UFOs is treated with a certain degree of suspicion. I am briefing on the topic because DI55 have a UFO responsibility, not because I talk to little green men every night!"*⁸

Let's look at the really important point of that quote: **"DI55 have a UFO responsibility"**.

Again, it's a case of Nick being in the wrong department for any potential UFO investigations. The article continues, *"And in a later document he describes a briefing by DI55 on the subject. "The scientists and engineers present treated to [sic] topic seriously while non-scientists (or those without a physical science background) made the usual jokes about little green men and mass hallucination!"* So DI55 are briefing on the subject. Not Nick's department.

The Guardian continues, *"The documents show that the internal lobbying effort for a UFO study began in 1993. In a briefing note from the secret UFO investigation branch of Defence Intelligence - called DI55..."* Let's look at the wording here, **"the secret UFO investigation branch of Defence Intelligence - called DI55..."**

Nick was simply in the wrong department for investigating UFOs.

⁸ <https://www.theguardian.com/science/2007/feb/22/freedomofinformation.it>

Chapter Four – Abducted?

Nick's second book, *"The Uninvited"*, tackled the issue of alien abduction. This turned out to be a very interesting book, primarily because of the information it didn't contain. In a chapter entitled *"Terror on the Toll Road"*, we read about an unusual encounter experienced by *"Peter"*. In the book, there is a story where *"Peter"* and his girlfriend were driving on a toll road in Florida. After a short period of time, the couple (and their passenger who was in the back, asleep) arrived at their destination with no memory of leaving the toll road. They still had the ticket they would have had to have used to the exit the toll road. In reality, *"Peter"* was Nick Pope.

Nick, understandably, was troubled by this incident and sought some answers via hypnotic regression. Allegedly, Nick travelled to the United States where he uncovered a memory of him getting out of the car and encountering a large UFO, but he did not recount seeing any beings. Nick also confirmed this story to a group of researchers in 1995 after a screening of the infamous alien autopsy film, in London. It has since been confirmed through investigations by Philip Mantle that Nick was regressed by abduction researcher, Budd Hopkins.

Originally, this abduction tale was to be featured in Pope's first book *"Open Skies – Closed Minds"*, including the toll road story being published with Nick being the experiencer. UFOlogist Jenny Randles even saw this story when she read the first draft of Nick's book. However, it was subsequently removed from his first book and later resurfaced in Pope's next book, *"The Uninvited"*, with Nick now becoming *"Peter"*. Jenny and the various researchers who heard Pope's claim of abduction, have absolutely no reason to lie of these events. Despite this, Pope claims these researchers are simply lying. Why all of them would collude in this lie is never explained by Pope.

In an article produced by Philip Mantle, entitled *"The Missing Tollbooth Rides Again"*⁹, we have another person come forward who also corroborates the claim that Nick had a missing time experience. Cris Martin is featured along with his then girlfriend, in Nick's second book. In a statement to Philip, Cris states that: *"I first met Nick Pope on 1996 on the set of ITV studios morning daytime show "The Time, The Place". I was with my then partner Vaunda Hoscik. Nick was promoting his first book and was preparing for his next book and made it clear he was interested in interviewing us both for his next book "The Uninvited". We went to his flat in South London several times to be interviewed about our experiences and it was at one of these meetings he also chatted about his own abduction experience whilst driving in the USA with a female friend. He wrote about it under an assumed name in the very same book. He didn't want to come out as an abductee at the time as he felt it would undermine his reputation as an impartial researcher. We both respected his right for privacy and didn't speak of it again.*

"Moving forward 26 years and the contextual climate has shifted. Pope has set himself up as a leading UFO commentator and public speaker. He claims to be a trustworthy commentator but his stance on whether aliens are real remains ambiguous. This is in direct conflict with his own missing time encounter. My opinion is that he cannot lie to the public any longer and must come clean. Pope cannot be regarded as trustworthy when he continues to deny that this incident occurred. I would also like to say I have no axe to grind or any grudge against Mr Pope, I just want him to stop lying and tell the truth."

So, the list of people confirming the story that Nick was indeed *"Peter"* continues to grow. As Philip points out in the article, *"There are many reasons why Nick Pope now wants to deny this is him, one being that it would make a mockery of his comments that he knew nothing about UFOs and had never*

⁹ <https://nickpopewatch.wordpress.com/2022/01/11/nick-pope-the-missing-tollbooth-rides-again/>

had a UFO sighting prior to joining Air Staff 2A in July 1991. His story of being converted from skeptic to believer while working at the MoD would also go straight out of the window. As Cris Martin has made clear he has no axe to grind with Nick Pope and neither have I but the UFO community deserves the truth..."

Philip goes on to write "To clarify where I stand I am 100% convinced that Nick Pope is indeed 'Peter' and he and his girlfriend did have a missing time experience in Florida in 1991. When you also look at the MoD documents at The National Archives there is also no doubt in my mind that Nick Pope did not run the UK governments UFO project as there never was one. He did not investigate UFOs, crop circles, alien abductions etc on any official basis for the MoD and he was not the UK government's UFO expert. And last but not least he is not anything remotely like 'the real Fox Mulder' he was instead, as the MoD have informed us, a junior D-grade civil servant and nothing more."

Further Evidence of the Encounter

The following is a statement from Philip's Facebook page, and adds another piece of evidence towards the claim the Pope was indeed abducted.

"Over the last couple of years, I have written two articles on the missing time (missing tollbooth) encounter experienced by Nick Pope and his girlfriend in 1991 in Florida. It's a long story that first surfaced some years back when Pope's second book 'THE UNIVITED' was published. Pope denies that the encounter in question was indeed him and his girlfriend but unfortunately for him he told too many people about it back in the 1990's and in my opinion, I have proven beyond reasonable doubt that the encounter as featured in his book under the names of 'Peter' and 'Jenny' was indeed Pope and his then girlfriend.

The encounter also involved a regressive hypnosis session which is also featured in the book. This is said to have taken place in the USA but there is no mention of where and by whom. If we go back to the 1990's there were any number of alien abduction researchers who could have undertaken this regressive hypnosis with Pope but who? Dr John Mack is now deceased so we can't ask him, but I did check his archives and there was nothing. Could it have been Dr David Jacobs? Dr Jacobs is ill so it's unlikely any information would be forthcoming. The last and probably the main contender is Budd Hopkins. However, as we all know Budd is sadly no longer with us. So how would we be able to confirm who might have conducted this hypnosis?

Just this week I asked Budd Hopkins' wife Carol Rainey if she knew any details of Budd putting Nick Pope under regressive hypnosis. In all honesty I didn't think I would get a reply but much to my surprise I did. Carol replied to me on Sunday July 24th. I sent Carol both of the articles I had written about this and asked her the following: "Hi Carol, I know most of the story regarding Nick Pope's 'missing time' experience. The one thing I don't know is who regressed him. Was it Budd (Hopkins)? Carol replied: "Hi, Philip, I read both of the articles you sent links to and do recall Budd telling me a brief version of Nick Pope's Florida toll booth story. He was excited, saying that "the craziness of the report" was its own kind of confirmation. The reason being that no one ever got on or off a toll road without having to take a ticket. I understood that Budd had done a hypnosis session with Nick, but I had no direct knowledge of it and did not videotape it as I'd later do with many other people. In the Fall 1995, I'd only recently moved to NYC to be with Budd.

I don't know much more than this about the incident and wouldn't feel comfortable saying anything more.

Hope this was helpful!

Carol"

*So, there you have it, confirmation that Budd Hopkins did indeed put Nick Pope under regressive hypnosis, and it again shows beyond reasonable doubt that Peter and Jenny as described in Nick Pope's book *The Uninvited* was indeed Nick Pope and his then girlfriend. No doubt that Pope will deny this and call me all the obsessive nut jobs under the sun as he has done previously.*

You might say 'so what' Nick Pope didn't want to admit this had happened to him and it means nothing. The problem is that Pope has previously gone on the record saying that he had no knowledge or interest in the UFO subject prior to his work on the MoD 'UFO desk' and it was his work at the MoD that turned him from sceptic to believer. The missing time incident in Florida took place before his position at Secretariat (Air Staff) 2a. Think about it."

It's not a new claim

When Pope confessed his abduction story to a group of researchers in London, obviously news travelled fast. I remember the news doing the rounds within UFOlogical circles quite quickly and it was fairly common knowledge. You can understand why: the MoD guy claiming to investigate UFOs was an abductee. Inevitably, the story made its way into the press. On the 7th February, 1999, The Sunday Times ran an article entitled "*UFO Hunter at MoD 'kidnapped by aliens'*". The article claimed that Pope was indeed abducted, but Pope re-wrote the story, so it happened to "Peter and Jenny", to avoid anyone linking the story to Pope. In the article, Pope could not "*confirm or deny*" that the experience happened to him. Pope hid behind the fact that he had split from his then girlfriend and did not want to involve her.

On the balance of all the evidence available, Pope was indeed "*Peter*" within "*The Uninvited*".

Chapter Five – Rendlesham, Cosford & Calvine

Rendlesham

Nick Pope has some favourite UFO cases he likes to pontificate on. These cases are widely speculated about within the UFOlogical community and there is a lot of material in the public domain already. Do note, Nick has never brought any new information to these cases, he is simply re-cycling what is already available. One of his favourites is The Rendlesham Forest Incident. Rendlesham is one of those classic cases that lumber on for decades, never reaching a conclusion and frequently receiving an “update” to keep it relevant. Pope, along with co-authors John Burroughs and Jim Penniston penned “*Encounter in Rendlesham Forest: The Inside Story of the World’s Best-Documented UFO Incident*”. Pope claimed that before the book could be published it had to be approved by both the MoD and the US Department of Defence (DoD). Sadly, Pope was called out on this fabrication by one of his co-authors, as we can see from this Facebook post. Additionally, Burroughs calls out one or two of Pope’s other claims.



John F Burroughs

great so it’s OK to mislead and call yourself a expert. Pope has done a great job of misleading the public on his position within the MOD using a title that never existed knowing full well the MOD says very little on the subject. He hired a agent who uses his tile to gain access to the news outlets! Name me one thing he has put out that wasn’t already in the public domain! When pushed about anything of revelence he invokes his security oath. I can personally tell you he lied about our book. He claimed it required clearance by both governments it didn’t! He also lied about my settlement stating he played a large part in my receiving it he didn’t he had no role in it. Plus he contacted me after learning I held documents from MOD on a weapon being developed using UAP technology. He had no Idea what they were doing but wanted to exploit what I had!

Like · Reply · 43 w

Even in the book itself, Pope fails to provide any meaningful evidence, as the Washington Post noted in its review of the book, “Pope gives no citations, so there is no way to know the provenance of the reports and memos he discusses”¹⁰ This is why cases such as Rendlesham are fertile ground for Pope

¹⁰ https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/book-review-encounter-in-rendlesham-forest-a-look-at-a-ufo-by-nick-pope/2014/06/13/89118424-d49e-11e3-95d3-3bcd77cd4e11_story.html

because he can pontificate about what he thinks, with zero evidence required and never answering any questions raised.

Cosford

The Cosford Incident is another one of those pet cases Nick likes to discuss. Nick claims that the Cosford sighting was one of the sightings that changed him from UFO sceptic to UFO believer. However, in the relevant MoD file Spanish UFOlogist Vicente-Juan Ballester Olmos explains, in a very thorough fashion, just what was really going on that fateful night (31 March 1993).

The Spanish UFOlogist supplied copies of a NORAD statement and a computer simulation which shows that the UFO in question was in-fact the booster rocket that launched the Russian ELINT satellite, Cosmos 2238. In Pope's response to the Spanish UFOlogist (dated 6th April 1994), Nick concedes that "I think it is clear that most of the UFO sightings that occurred on the night in question can be attributed to this event".

RAF Fylindales, which is an early warning station in North Yorkshire which tracks satellites and ballistic missiles, explained to Pope that a Russian rocket had re-entered the atmosphere around the time of the UFO sightings.

In the loose minutes (defe 24-2086), we see some interesting information. Firstly, in the margins we see a scribbled note: "As you will see, we may have an explanation for some – but certainly not all – of the recent UFO sightings. DI55c will follow this up". This shows again that DI55 do the UFO investigating for the MoD, and not Nick Pope.

Head of Sec (AS) E 55
As you will see, we may have
an explanation for some - but certainly
not all - of the recent UFO sightings.
DI55c will follow this up.

Further in the file, we see the following memo sent to Pope's department.

MEMORANDUM

To Sec (AS) 2a

From WO Section 40
AIS(M)

Date 19 April 93

Tel Ext Section 40

Your ref D/Sec(AS)12/1

Our ref INC 055/93

Subject UFO Sightings - 31 March 1993.

1. As requested we have completed the radar replay for Wednesday the 31 March, transferring this information onto a video recording for further examination.

2. I have attached your map on which I have now placed the radar heads used together with numbers which now relate to individual timings. Unfortunately the Clee-Hill radar head was not working on primary radar during the recording period, therefore, only aircraft working Secondary Surveillance Radar can be seen.

3. Listed below is the breakdown for each incident time you gave us which we have now changed to zulu time.

1. 302310z Clee-Hill Squawk 1461/039 N/E to S/W
2. 302315z Clee-Hill Nothing seen.
3. 302355z Clee-Hill Traffic out of Bristol going north squawk 4652/086 vicinity Monmouth 2355z. Squawk 1461/040 vicinity Bristol Filton 2347z going S/W, changing to 7201. Squawk 6416/090 northbound.
4. 310009z Clee-Hill
- 5A. 310010z Burrington 0015z primary contacts slow vicinity of Launcester and Bodmin.
- 5B. 310010z Clee-Hill Northbound traffic on A25 squawk 2363/242.
- 5C. 310010z Clee-Hill Nothing seen.
- 6A. 310015z Clee-Hill Squawk 4651/110 from the north through Pease Pottage Salisbury Plain area towards Southampton.
- 6B. 310015z Clee-Hill Squawk 2363/239 north on A25 and squawk 6416/090 15nm east of Shawbury northbound.
7. 310020z Burrington Intermittent slow primary contacts close to the radar head moving N/E towards Chivenor, another to south manoeuvring. East of the radar head primary contact slow heading east.
8. N/K No times given.
9. 310140z Clee-Hill Squawk 2304/200 descending on A25. At 0146z overhead Shawbury squawk 5231/203 southbound.

5. Unfortunately I would say there was nothing unusual seen on the radar recordings, I will hold the master tapes and video recordings until we hear from you. Should you require any further assistance please call we are only to happy to help.

So, Pope's department is informed that nothing unusual on radar happened that night. Within the aforementioned file, there is much speculation that the other UFO sightings that could not be attributed to the re-entry of the Russian booster that night, could in fact be linked to sightings of Aurora, the secret US aircraft.

However, despite having very credible explanations for the events of the night of the Cosford Incident, Nick continues to talk as if there was an unexplained UFO/UAP incident that night. Nick utilises the testimony of Meteorological Officer, Wayne Elliott. Wayne's sighting was given a lot of credence by Pope as it was considered that Wayne was a credible witness, especially due to Wayne's experience of witnessing and recognising military aircraft.

In the file released by the MoD, it shows that Elliott's sighting took place at 2.40am, after he had left his office to take his standard weather observations. Pope claims/implies that the sighting took place shortly after the police patrol at RAF Cosford witnessed two bright lights. However, in the released file, Elliott's sighting actually took place 90 minutes after the police patrol witnessed the lights. Elliott left his office to make his standard weather observations and subsequent interpretations of Elliott's sighting claim that the object was triangular in nature, however, there is no mention of a triangular object in the files. In fact, the object was estimated to be the size of something between a C130 and a

747. Elliott witnessed the object as having three red lights, two of which were side by side, and one large light slightly behind the other two. Elliott, despite his knowledge of military aircraft, stated that this object was unlike anything he had seen before. Elliott claimed that the object hovered for several minutes before moving across the airfield. Elliott said that he heard a low humming noise from the object. The object then projected a beam of light toward the ground as if it was searching for something.

Pope has run with Elliott's sighting as evidence of a UFO sighting on that night. However, in 2005, a serving airman at RAF Shawbury stated that *"The UFO supposedly seen at RAF Shawbury was later identified as a Dyfed-Powys police helicopter following a stolen car down the A5 between the A49 junction...The observer was using his NiteSun to illuminate proceedings."*¹¹ Sadly, the flight logs for Dyfed-Powys police would have been routinely destroyed by the time this claim came to light.

Dr. David Clarke contacted Elliott, who is now a senior figure within the Met Office, where Elliott made the following statement: *"At the time it did not strike me as being something familiar. However, it's clear in hindsight that what I saw was not the same object seen at Cosford as it was much later. I never made anything of it, I just reported what I had seen. Nick Pope was very excited about it and made a great deal of the fact that I was an official observer which was true. He assured me that he had checked with all the military sources for aircraft and ruled them out...I believed what I was told at the time, but now I'm convinced that what I saw has been explained. I have to accept that the noise like a humming and the beam of light are very similar to what you would expect of a police helicopter."*¹²

Despite the whole Cosford Incident being explained away, Pope has popularised the incident as being of paranormal origin and it has become a staple of UFOlore, but we now know what actually happened that night. If you listen to Nick talk about the Cosford Incident, he does not really like to discuss any possibility that this incident was anything other than a genuine UFO event. In official files, as you can see, his opinion is very different. So yet again, Nick is twisting the truth to suit his media narrative.

Calvine

Another event which Nick likes to pontificate about is the Calvine UFO sighting. In Nick's first book, *"Open Skies, Closed Minds"*, Nick states that the Calvine UFO sighting is 'one of the most intriguing in the Ministry of Defence's files'. However, subsequent research by a variety of researchers and most notably Dr. David Clarke, have shown that this incident probably has an earthlier origin. Has that changed Pope's opinion? Of course not!

The incident begins when two walkers are out in the countryside near to Pitlochry, Scotland, and they become aware of a low humming noise. The walkers turn in the direction of the noise and witness a black, diamond shape object being pursued/escorted by what was later identified as a RAF Harrier. One of the witnesses takes a photo of the object, with plane also in shot. Depending on who you speak to, the story gets a little confused. Some say the negatives were sent to the MoD for analysis but are never returned to the photographer. Others say the negatives were returned to the photographer. There is also another version of events where the pictures went to the Daily Record. Irrespective of where the negatives went, Pope becomes aware of the image as it has been blown up poster size by one of his predecessors and was on the MoD office wall. Experts at the MoD identified the plane as a Harrier but the diamond shaped object was more of a mystery. There has been much speculation about the secret Aurora plane which some say was operating from RAF Mildenhall in Suffolk, until its

¹¹<https://drdavidclarke.co.uk/secret-files/the-cosford-incident/>

¹² <https://drdavidclarke.co.uk/secret-files/the-cosford-incident/>

departure in 1990. Many also claim that the Aurora was operating from RAF Machrihanish, in the Scottish Highlands. In fact, there have been a number of sightings of strange diamond or triangular craft in that area which makes it a more likely contender and bolsters the idea that what was seen by the photographer was probably Aurora.

However, as we did deeper into the Calvin mystery we can see that Pope has started to twist the truth. In the original MoD account of the incident, there is no reference to a “low humming sound”. In fact, there is no mention of any sound at all. The MoD notes simply state that a large diamond shaped object appeared in the sky, hovered for ten minutes before “ascending vertically upwards at high speed”. During the event, both witnesses saw what they believed to be a Harrier jump jet make several low-level passes of the area.

The MoD paperwork goes on to reveal that shortly after their sighting the photographer sent the negatives to the Scottish newspaper the Daily Record. The negatives were then sent to the Press Office at RAF Pitreavie. It is claimed that an officer from DI55 (the MoD department that deals with UFO-related investigations) visited the men to discuss their sighting. The witnesses have never come forward to this day, their identities remaining a mystery, until recently.

Talk of photographs and negatives are one thing, but all that has surfaced from the MoD is a poorly photocopied image. According to the MoD files (DEFE 31/180/1), a file opened by a DI55 officer, the negatives were analysed by a branch of the MoD who identified the plane as a Harrier, as well as a barely visible second plane which they suspect was also a Harrier. According to a variety of investigations the MoD concluded that the diamond shaped object was a US experimental aircraft flying from RAF Machrihanish.

In an article for The Sun¹³, Pope claims the Calvin photo shows ‘a structured craft of unknown origin, unlike any conventional aircraft’. Pope repeats the claim again in another article in May 2021. However, in the Pentagon’s intelligence report on Unexplained Aerial Phenomena (UAP) it speculates that some UFO sightings were actually classified technology developed by the US Government. The MoD also speculated in its intelligence report on UAPs that ‘*certain... friendly aircraft may be authorised for covert entry into UK controlled airspace*’. The MoD theorises that these aircraft are reported as UFOs due to having non-traditional aircraft shapes. The Calvin UFO is almost certainly a classified aircraft and not a UFO.

However, there are still enough unanswered questions which allow Pope enough wriggle room to claim there is a more exotic answer. The fact the photographer of the object has never come forward, the fact that the photos have never been published, and that the object looks like UFO, is enough for Pope to make baseless claims. Pope will say pretty much say anything if it ensures public visibility despite the evidence overwhelmingly pointing to the Calvin object being a secret aircraft.

For a deeper dive into the Calvin incident, Dr. David Clarke has penned an in-depth look into this incident <https://drdavidclarke.co.uk/secret-files/the-calvine-ufo-photographs/>

Why these events?

Pope is always keen to manage the narrative of these three events. These three incidents all have several things in common. Firstly, there appears to be enough unanswered questions to provide enough room to spin an alternative theory to the facts. Secondly, the military are involved in each of these incidents, giving Pope and his hyped-up MoD credentials a false authority to discuss these

¹³ <https://www.thesun.co.uk/news/12889091/ive-seen-the-top-secret-photos-showing-britains-most-significant-ufo-sighting-they-left-us-shell-shocked/>

events. Thirdly, there is enough cognitive-bias of many readers to agree with Pope's interpretation of events, despite there being enough evidence to point to more prosaic answers to these three sightings.

Chapter Six – A Lack of Transparency

Nick likes to talk the big talk about government disclosure, but sadly Nick is a little more reticent on government disclosure about his role at the MoD. This is a great article from Dr. David Clarke on the subject. I had emphasised some elements with italics.

Open Skies – Closed Files¹⁴

Within the next 18 months the Ministry of Defence will complete their disclosure programme of UFO-related documents. But some UFOlogists continue to demand they “come clean on all levels”. They believe there are more secret documents being held back that contain evidence of alien visitations.

I can reveal the only documents MoD intends to permanently conceal from the public concern their secret dealings not with aliens, but with a former member of their own staff – Nick Pope. Nick was responsible for UFO reports and associated public correspondence for three years (1991-94) during his career at the Ministry. According to the MoD this was actually a small part of his responsibilities.

Yet Nick describes himself as the man “who used to run the British Government’s UFO Project”, a claim that I will return to later. In 1996, after leaving Sec(AS)2, the branch responsible for UFOs, but whilst still employed by the MoD, he wrote a book that flatly rejected his department’s official line that UFOs were of “no defence significance”.

The cover blurb for *Open Skies Closed Minds* says he became “a firm believer in the reality of UFOs” during his posting and, based upon the cases he investigated, “warns that extraterrestrial spacecraft are visiting Earth and that something should be done about it urgently.” Pope resigned from the MoD in November 2006 to pursue a career as “author, journalist and TV personality.”

Early in 2007 I made a Freedom of Information Act request to see the internal paperwork covering the period when Nick first publicly emerged as “a UFO believer”.

The request asked for:

“copies of MoD papers, records or other information relating to internal discussion, policy and/or briefings in response to public statements made to the media and via the release of *Open Skies*, *Closed Minds* by Nick Pope during the period 1995-96.”

Taking the MoD’s new policy of openness at face value I argued that here was an opportunity to reveal how they handled Nick’s conversion to “UFO believer”. After all, they have stated that by opening their files “we may also help to counter the maze of rumour and frequently ill informed speculation that surrounds the role of the MoD in the UFO phenomena.”

But it seems openness only goes so far. It took two years to obtain a sensible answer from the MoD and even then they refused to release seven documents that contain information relevant to my FOIA request.

After two appeals and a further year waiting for a judgement from the Information Commissioner he has now ruled “the MoD was correct to refuse the information requested.”

¹⁴ <https://drdavidclarke.blogspot.com/2010/07/open-skies-closed-files.html?m=1>

In his judgement the Commissioner, Christopher Graham, admits “this is a finely balanced case and [Dr Clarke has] provided well reasoned arguments to support [his] case” for disclosure in the public interest.

But the fine balance appears to have been tipped by Nick Pope who, the notice reveals, ***personally intervened to block the release of these documents.***

Early in 2009 I asked Nick for his consent for the disclosure of these papers in the public interest. In an email dated 27 March 2009 I pointed out that “from your own point of view, surely the perception will be, if this paperwork is [removed] from the public record it will continue to imply that someone is trying to hide something.” I added that “if you don’t want this to emerge...this will imply you have something to hide.”

I pointed out my request was specifically for “internal comment on your Press interviews in 1996 and MoD’s discussion of what line to take” and not for access to his private correspondence with his employers over the clearance of his manuscript (with one exception that concerns a specific letter which he had quoted from in the public domain).

Some of the documents I requested form part of the Sec(AS) UFO files that are being prepared for release to The National Archives. So on 30 July I asked Nick, via email:

“Do you have any objections to the release of internal discussions within MoD surrounding the release of your book that are included in the UFO files that are part of the ongoing TNA releases?”

His response took me by surprise, given his public support for the Disclosure campaign. Nick is on record as saying:

“I believe that governments and the military, and indeed private researchers, politicians – whoever – should place everything in the public domain on this issue. Governments can’t, I think, have it both ways...I, in support of that aim, believe that there should be a full disclosure of all information on UFOs held by governments all around the world.”

Despite this very public commitment to openness, not only did he refuse to give consent for the release of these documents, he went on to recite a list of legislation that he claimed prevented their disclosure. He invoked a number of FOIA exemptions, the Data Protection Act, the MoD’s common law duty of confidentiality and for good measure Article 8 of the Human Rights Act – ‘the right to privacy’.

All of these exemptions could have been overturned if Nick had given consent for the release. How ironic that here was someone who has spent the last 15 years talking about his role as ‘head of the British Government’s UFO Project’ to any and every media organisation that would listen. Now suddenly he was desperate to protect his ‘privacy’.

And it is now apparent that my decision to approach Nick openly led him to contact his former employers to register his objection to the release of the documents.

In his judgement the Information Commissioner reveals that MoD informed him on 6 January 2010 that ***Nick Pope “has written to the MoD and asked for the information not to be released into the public domain.”***

Given the “fine balance” on disclosure, Nick’s direct intervention had provided “a contributing factor to support the withholding of the information.”

As Col Arnold Moulder has noted in SUNlite (September 2009), Article 8 of the HRA is a favourite resort of celebrities who delight in self-publicity, but then invoke 'the right to privacy' when the press start to probe too deeply into their 'private affairs.'

In this case, I asked the Commissioner to consider: "whether Mr Pope has any reasonable expectation of privacy in regard to his statements to the media, given his career as a media pundit and self-declared 'former head of the MoD's UFO Project.'"

For the record, the MoD have made it clear: "there is and never has been any such thing as a UFO Project". What's more, spokesperson Linda Unwin, in an article published by the MoD's own in-house magazine Focus (2006), said: 'There is no UFO project.' As Linda was the MoD's UFO desk officer from 2003-2007 she would have known if such a 'project' existed!

In his judgement the Commissioner says the more senior a civil servant is the more likely that information – even that covered by exemptions – will be released. I argued that Pope's claim that he was the man "who used to run the British Government's UFO Project" implied seniority, real or imagined.

Taking all this into account, the Commissioner concludes that Nick Pope "was not at any time a senior civil servant" and says his actual role [Executive Officer during 1991-94] and substantive junior management grade during his time at MoD was already public knowledge. Therefore there was nothing further that would be added to that knowledge by the release of the documents.

The Commissioner admits that "although interviews given and articles written by [Nick Pope] are very obviously in the public domain this does not itself mean that the individual will have an expectation that all correspondence and comments made about these statements will be made public...the information withheld appears to be of a private nature and this is not altered by the fact that its creation came about because of a number of public acts."

Under the heading "Consequences of Disclosure" he notes my suggestion that because Nick has courted media interest and has placed himself in the public eye his expectation of privacy should be reduced. I argued that the purpose of the Data Protection Act was to protect private lives of individuals and cited the Information Commissioner's own guidance that "where information requested is about people acting in a work or official capacity then it should be released." But he concludes:

"Although [Nick Pope] has spoken publicly about his time at the MoD [he] has not spoken publicly about the contents of the information the MoD is seeking to withhold. The Commissioner believes that if the information were to be released it has the potential to cause some element of harm or distress to the individual concerned."

This raises an obvious question: what information do these documents contain that Nick Pope is so keen to conceal?

An indication of their tone and content is given in section 17 of the disclosure notice which says "several of the documents...contain expressions of opinion about the individual". Expressions of opinion are exempt from disclosure under Section 40(2) of the FOIA as they constitute personal data as defined by the Data Protection Act.

If for example, Nick's boss – the head of the MoD's Air Staff Secretariat – had written that he believed Nick was exaggerating when he described his role in press interviews, as an expression of opinion about a named individual this would be exempt from release.

Later the Commissioner says the with-held information “relates to aspects of how [Nick Pope] was undertaking his public role”.

Responding to my suggestion that the documents could be edited to remove sensitive material, the Commissioner says if this was done “the documents would either make no sense to the reader or the subject matter and tone of the documents would be so obvious that the redactions would serve little purpose.”

Fortunately, we know a little about the contents of the seven documents with-held because in 2008 MoD helpfully supplied me an itemised list of the contents. This reveals:

Document 1 is a file copy of a letter sent to Nick Pope by the MoD after he submitted his manuscript for clearance. Although he now invokes his “right to privacy” to protect the contents, in 1996 he was happy to quote from this document in an interview for UFO Magazine (UK) and the International UFO Reporter (Vol 21/3). In this interview he claims there was a faction at MoD that “certainly didn’t want the book to appear” and he received a letter that said it was “completely unacceptable to MoD and quite beyond any suitable amendment”. We will never know how accurate this claim actually is, as we are only allowed to hear Nick’s version of the sequence of events leading to the clearance of his book.

Document 2 is a file note dated February 1995 which contains “staff management discussion in response to a letter received from Mr Pope notifying MoD of his private activities.”

Document 3 is a loose minute dated 10 February 1996 “addressed to Mr Pope following his notification of his private activities.”

Document 4 is “a record of the line management steps taken following Mr Pope’s notification of his private activities” that “contains personal information about Mr Pope’s staff management.”

Document 5 is an internal memo written on 2 July 1995 following publication of an interview with Nick Pope published by the Mail on Sunday (‘ET lives, says man from the Ministry’). This document “contains free and frank advice” about Mr Pope’s “private media activities” and the steps taken to ensure that MoD regulations were not breached – including direction to line managers.

Document 6 is a file note dated 21 August 1995 on a BBC Newsnight item that mentioned Nick Pope’s book. This covers “media handling following mention of Mr Pope by name as both an MoD employee and ‘a believer’ in UFOs.” This document contains “free and frank advice” by MoD managers which the public are not allowed to read.

Document 7 is a file note dated October 1995 “following a Yorkshire TV enquiry”. It records “how the enquiry was handled given that Mr Pope was acting in a private capacity when supportive of the Operation Right To Know campaign”, which ironically demanded the release of secret UFO documents held by the MoD! Again, this contains “free and frank advice” from his bosses that we – the taxpayer who foots the bill for all this – are not allowed to read.

An indication of the “subject matter and tone” of the documents being withheld can be judged from an example that slipped past the official censor and was sent to me in response to a separate FOIA request during 2007 (see copy inset right).

Written by a RAF officer working for the Defence Intelligence Staff, it is titled “[Nick Pope]: recent media appearances and interviews” and was sent to his successor as UFO desk officer, Kerry Philpott, on 24 April 1996, shortly before Nick’s book was published. In the minute the officer raises concerns

about the media's description of Nick as a "senior MoD official" and notes "he seems to have accepted the title willingly". He adds that MoD needs to "approach the matter VERY delicately" and says: "I am not attempting to ban a book I have not read [but] I believe it will be based on supposition and technical ignorance."

He adds: "The truth seldom sells books!"

Given Nick Pope's claim that he used "to run the British Government's UFO Project", a project the MoD claims did not exist, I continue to believe there is a clear public interest in the release of these documents.

The Press Complaints Commission Code of Practice for journalists defines the public interest as including "preventing the public from being misled by the action or statement of an individual or organisation."

This decision by the Information Commissioner effectively means the public will never get to read what Nick Pope's bosses at the MoD really thought about his effectiveness as 'head of' the MoD's [non-existent] 'UFO Project.'

As one commentator has noted, this leaves us with **"the rather delicious spectacle of a former MoD clerk, once well inside the military-UFO loop and with a habit of accusing the Ministry of neglecting the alien threat, assiduously orchestrating a cover-up of information."**

*

So as we can see in Dr. David Clarke's article, Nick certainly does not want anyone poking into the exact nature of his role at the MoD. I believe that this reticence is based on his knowledge that the documentation released would destroy his UFO career.

Chapter Seven – A Useful Idiot

The further you delve into the MoD/DI55/Nick Pope story, you soon realise that in reality, Pope was far removed from anything UFO related other than sending UFO reports submitted by the public through to the relevant departments. By the time the Condign Report was created, Pope was ancient and embarrassing history for the MoD, but in all probability, a convenient distraction.

The Condign Report was funded by DI55 and was an investigation to ascertain whether “*there was any evidence of a threat to UK air space from Unidentified Aerial Phenomena*”¹⁵. Whilst the report acknowledged the existence of UAPs/UFOs, it believed that the various reports were either misidentifications or rare cases of plasma phenomena akin to ball lightning. The name of the report’s author was redacted and despite several attempts to discover the identity of the report’s author via FOIA requests, the MoD would not reveal this secret. It is interesting to note that DI55 were funding this endeavour and not Pope’s old department. This further illustrates that DI55 were the department with oversight of any UFO related activities, with Pope’s old department purely a paperwork clearing house.

Through the efforts of various researchers, the UFO community discovered that the Condign Report was authored by Ron Haddow. Haddow was an expert in a variety of disciplines (electronic warfare, radar, air defence and guided weapons) and was more of a likely candidate to be the MoDs “UFO Expert” than Pope could ever be. Remember, Pope had an uninspiring academic background and very little technical knowledge so his position as the MoDs “UFO Expert” was always highly questionable.

Through the efforts of Dr. David Clarke, Nick Redfern and Irene Bott, a trail of clues had been followed and they led to Ron Haddow. Despite the cat being now out of the bag, Haddow wanted to remain in the shadows and despite several journalists also becoming aware of Haddow, he said very little. It was reported that Haddow was deeply unhappy at his cover being blown as well as DI55’s activities becoming known, fearing that this would confirm a UFO cover-up at the heart of the MoD.

Luckily for Haddow and DI55, the media were always more interested with the statements of the self-appointed “UFO Project” leader and alleged MoD UFO investigator Nick Pope, who had recently published “*The Uninvited*”.

Whilst the MoD may have felt some embarrassment toward the behaviour and proclamations from Pope, once can safely assume that they viewed him as a useful idiot who kept the media focused on his false claims about heading UFO projects and investigating UFOs.

¹⁵ D/DAS/63/3/11

Chapter Eight – Why Does This Matter?

If UFOlogy is ever going to truly discover what thousands of people witness in the skies every year, it needs to stop commentators such as Pope muddying the waters with their lies and manipulation of the truth. UFOlogy needs to be more strident in calling out liars such as Pope, whose role is purely self-serving.

We've seen through a variety of official MoD and UK Government documents that Nick Pope was not the head of a "UFO Project" and that he did not investigate UFOs or other paranormal subjects for the MoD. In reality, as the documents show us, he spent a small proportion of his time ensuring that UFO reports were sent to the appropriate department. It was a very junior administrative role.

In the run-up to the 2012 Olympics Pope was quoted in a Daily Mail article¹⁶, where he claimed that, *"The government must - and has planned - for the worst-case scenario: alien attack and alien invasion. Space shuttles, lasers and directed-energy weapons are all committed via the Alien Invasion War Plan to defend against any alien ships in orbit. If UFOs came into our atmosphere, RAF jets such as the Eurofighter Typhoons, and missiles such as the Rapiers guarding the Olympic Games would be well equipped to enter the fray. And if the aliens landed, in an unprecedented move, I am in doubt that the entire Army would be join the fight. The TA and the Reserves would be called out and conscription potentially introduced."*

Alien Invasion War Plan? Direct energy weapons? Conscription? Space shuttles? (The last space shuttle flight took place a year earlier in 2011, but whatever). What on earth was Pope talking about? However, a few days after publication Nick revealed these ludicrous claims was all just to sell a videogame he had been paid to promote. So, Pope will say pretty much anything for money, no matter how ludicrous that makes UFOlogy and himself look.

Nick Pope's bread and butter is appearing in the media, be it print or TV, and saying whatever it takes to stay relevant and keep the cash rolling in. He contributes no meaningful research to UFOlogy. He trots out the same old stories despite being well aware of the breadth and depth of contradictory evidence available. He displays a scant regard for the evidence that contradicts his beliefs, and he has consistently lied about his role within the MoD. When challenged on his lies he fails to provide any evidence to back up his claim and cheerfully tries to deflect any scrutiny by claims that the evidence presented is doctored or forged and calls people who dare challenge his story as "nutjobs".¹⁷

Yet, despite all this evidence that counters Nick Pope's claims, many people believe his carefully constructed story. If you repeat a lie often enough, it becomes accepted as truth.

However, the truth is and will remain, thus: Nick Pope was not the head of a UFO Project and did not investigate UFOs for the MoD.

¹⁶ <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/sciencetech/article-2155885/Keep-eye-skies-saucers-Olympics-Games-warns-MoD-UFO-expert.html?ito=feeds-newsxml>

¹⁷ <https://nickpopewatch.wordpress.com/2022/05/18/infamy-infamy-theyve-all-got-it-in-for-me/>