

**From:** XXXXXXXXXX

**Sent:** 03 June 2008 11:36

**To:** XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

**Subject:** Release-Authorised: FOI - 15-05-2008-071609-001

Dear XXXXXXXXX

I am writing concerning your Freedom of Information request asking for information on a UFO report from Brixham in Devon dated 28 April 1967. Your request has been passed to this Department as we are the focal point within the Ministry of Defence for correspondence relating to UFOs.

First, it may be helpful if I explain that the Ministry of Defence (MOD) examines any reports of 'unidentified flying objects' it receives solely to establish whether what 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 unauthorised air activity. Unless there evidence of a potential threat to the United Kingdom from an external 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.

With regards to the sighting report in Brixham, Devon on the 28 April 1967, you may wish to be aware that MOD files were routinely destroyed after five years until 1967, when they were generally preserved for The National Archives. A few have survived before 1967 and these together with records up to 1987 are now available for public viewing. The National Archives can be contacted at Ruskin Avenue, Richmond, Kew, Surrey TW9 4DU or telephone, 020 8876 3444. The National Archives also have a website giving information about the records they hold and how to access them. This can be found on the internet at: <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/>.

The MOD website also contains some released information on UFOs. This can be accessed via the internet at: <http://www.mod.uk/>, by searching under 'UFOs'.

I hope this is helpful. If you are unhappy with this response or you wish to complain about any aspect of the handling of this request, then you should contact me in the first instance. If informal resolution is not possible and you are still dissatisfied then you may apply for an independent internal review by contacting the Director of Information Exploitation, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall SW1A 2HB(e-mail <mailto:InfoXD@mod.uk/>). Please note that any request for an internal review must be made within 40 days of the date on which the attempt to reach informal resolution has come to an end.

If you remain unhappy following an internal review, you may take your complaint to the Information Commissioner under the provisions of Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act. Please note that the Information Commissioner will not investigate your case until the internal review process has been completed. Further details of the role and powers of the Information Commissioner can be found on the Commissioner's website, <http://www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk/>.

Yours sincerely

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