

**From:** XXXXXXXXX

**Sent:** 30 July 2008 13:43

**To:** XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

**Subject:** Release-authorised: EMPLOYMENT WITH UFO BRANCH - TO03474

Dear XXXXXXXX,

Thank you for your e-mail to Secretary of State for Defence, Des Browne, asking for details of how to apply for positions in the MoD's *UFO department*. It has been passed to this office to deal with as we have responsibility for answering questions relating to UFOs.

Firstly, I think it would be helpful if I gave you some background about the MoD role in UFO matters. Despite what many people think, the Ministry of Defence (MoD) does not have any expertise or role in respect of 'UFO/flying saucer' matters or the question of the existence or otherwise of extraterrestrial lifeforms, about which it remains totally open-minded. I should add that to date the MoD knows of no evidence which substantiates the existence of these alleged phenomena. 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.

The term UFO "department" is actually rather misleading. I suspect it gives the impression of a large organisation within the MoD dedicated to research into UFO matters and extra-terrestrials. In fact, there are two posts within the MoD that are dedicated to UFO matters. One (DAS-FOI) is at D Grade, which is the most junior management level within the Ministry and the second (DAS-FOI1) is at E1 grade which is at non managerial level. Both these posts are part of a branch based in London called the Directorate of Air Staff. This branch deals with a wide range of air defence related matters of which UFOs is a minor part. 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 experts (such as 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. I think I should make it clear that we do not do field investigations.

The two posts require general office skills, with a preference for strong drafting abilities. When either of them becomes vacant, they are filled by internal competition. If you wanted to take up one of these posts, you would therefore first need to join the MoD, and then once you had established yourself, apply for the posts as and when they become vacant.

If you were interested in pursuing a career within the MoD, please let me know and I will put you in contact with the relevant recruitment branch or section.

I hope this is helpful.

Yours sincerely,

XXXXXX  
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