

Request 3

Findings of an MOD investigation into an alleged UFO sighting above Craigluscar reservoir near Dunfermline, Fife.

Photograph of a UFO near Pitlochry, Perthshire in 1990

All correspondence, (letters, memos, etc) between ministers and civil servants relating to the incident at Rendlesham Forest, Suffolk in December 1980.

Response

I am writing concerning your message dated 6 January in which you made a request under the Freedom of Information Act for information about Unidentified Flying Object (UFO) sightings. Your request has been passed to this department as we are the focal point within the Ministry of Defence for correspondence about UFOs.

First you requested the findings of an MOD investigation into an alleged UFO sighting above Craigluscar Reservoir near Dunfermline, Fife. Our records show that The Scottish Daily Record contacted the MOD in February 1994 concerning a UFO sighting report and some photographs that they had been sent by a member of the public. The individual reported travelled to Craigluscar Reservoir on the afternoon of 19th February 1994 to take some photographs of the Reservoir to assist with a painting of the area. He heard a humming noise, turned towards the Reservoir and saw a disc-like object, high in the sky, moving slowly in his direction. He described the object as metallic, with several points of diffused light on its underside, inside a darker coloured rim. He took two photographs before the object moved away to the west. Air defence staff were consulted at the time and records show that there had been no unusual radar returns. There is no indication that this sighting produced anything of defence concern. The photographs are not contained in our files and we assume they were returned to the Scottish Daily Record.

You also requested a photograph of a UFO near Pitlochry, Perthshire in 1990. The MOD does not produce photographs of UFO sightings. The only photographs the MOD holds are those which members of the public very occasionally send to us with their sighting reports. If requested these are returned to the individual, or if they do not want them returned, they are filed with the report in our files. We have examined our records for 1990 and they contain no photographs relevant to your request. However, we have a record that two members of the public contacted The Scottish Daily Record to report a large diamond shape UFO hovering for about 10

minutes before ascending vertically upwards at high speed. The witnesses said that during the sighting an RAF aircraft believed to be a Harrier was in the area. The sighting was over Calvine, 20 miles north of Pitlochry at 2100 hours on 4 August 1990. A number of colour photographs were taken and passed to The Scottish Daily Record, who in turn sent the negatives to the MOD. These were considered at the time and it was concluded that the jet was a Harrier. No definite conclusions were reached regarding large diamond-shaped object. Our records show that the original negatives were returned to The Scottish Daily Record.

Finally, you asked for correspondence between ministers and civil servants relating to the incident at Rendlesham Forest, Suffolk in December 1980. The MOD papers on this incident are already published in the MOD Freedom of Information Publication Scheme on the internet and can be viewed at <http://www.foi.mod.uk>. A search under 'Rendlesham Forest' will take you directly to these documents. We are not aware of any specific internal correspondence about this incident which has not already been released. It is normal practice for officials to brief Ministers as to the background of parliamentary business, for example, when answering specific parliamentary questions. If this is the type of information you are seeking, it would be useful if you could clarify the information you are particularly searching for.

I hope this is useful. If this information does not address your requirements or you wish to complain about any aspect of the handling of this request, then you should contact the undersigned in the first instance. Should you remain dissatisfied, then you may apply for an internal review by contacting the Director of Information Exploitation, 6th Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB.

If you are still 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 MOD 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>