

**From:** XXXXXXXX  
**Sent:** 04 August 2008 11:36  
**To:** XXXXXXXXXXXXX  
**Subject:** Release-authorized: Unidentified Aerial Phenomena  
Dear XXXXXXX,

Thank you for your e-mail of 3 August 2008. You raised a number of issues that I will deal with in order.

Firstly, it may be helpful if I explain that the Ministry of Defence 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.

It would be helpful if you would identify where the statistic that “*95% of sightings are mundane misidentifications*” came from. Although I have seen this statistic mentioned in the media and on the internet, I am unaware of any MoD survey or statistical analysis that came to this conclusion. It would however, be reasonable to state, albeit based on experience rather than statistical analysis, that something in the region of 95% of UFO sightings reported to the MoD are simply never investigated and therefore no conclusions can be drawn from them.

Turning to your second question regarding (I assume a hypothetical?) sighting of a “*metallic UAP*” some 500ft in the air with associated missing time and memories of strange beings, is that given the above policy, it is not necessarily the MoD's function to investigate the matter or, indeed, to make any conclusion as to whether it was a threat to the individual that saw it.

Finally, you asked what specifically would constitute a threat to UK national security from a UAP. It is not possible to provide you with an all encompassing definition of what constitutes a threat to national security from a UAP. If we were to investigate an incident, it would have to be judged on a case by case basis.

I am sorry I could not be more helpful.

XXXXXX  
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