

DEF 24/3156

F
102

DEF 24/3156



LOOSE MINUTE

D/DAS/64/1

27 April 2004

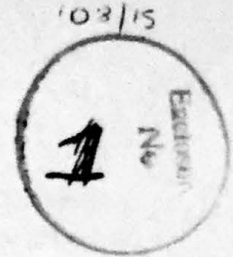
D UK-SO1 AIR OPS 2
DI BCR CG AD
InfoAccess-PM4
Info-Records1

Copy to:
DAS-SecAD
DI BCR D
DI55B
InfoExp-AccessAD
Hd of AHB

**UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS -NEW CLASSES OF INFORMATION FOR THE
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION PUBLICATION SCHEME**

Reference A:D/DAS/64/1 dated 16 April 2003
B:D/DAS/64/1 dated 23 May 2003
C:D/DAS/64/1 dated 18 August 2003
D:D/DI BCR/10/8/3 dated 20 August 2003

1. Thank you for your comments late last year concerning the release of information on UFOs into the MOD Freedom of Information Publication Scheme(PS). Taking into account your comments and advice from Info-Records1 regarding future arrangements with The National Archives (TNA), I propose that we now proceed as follows.
2. In light of the forthcoming access rights under the Freedom of Information Act, an exercise is already underway to consider whether files held at TNA which are due for release between 2006-2009 could be released in January 2005 or soon after. A final decision has yet to be made, but if this goes ahead it is likely that in the future, information will be made available to the public immediately on transfer to TNA instead of being held in the archive until the 30 year point. I therefore propose that to allow for a sufficient period between redacted information appearing in the PS and the original material being fully open at TNA, the start date for inclusion in the PS should be revised to 1985 instead of 1980 as proposed in Reference C.
3. With regard to the new classes of information I propose to start with two classes for each year from 1985 to date. The first would be titled 'UFO Reports received by the MOD in 1985' and will contain all of the UFO reports received from members of the public, military personnel, civil pilots, air traffic controllers, policeman etc. As DIS files are currently unavailable due to the asbestos contamination in the OWOB basement area, we will include reports from DAS and D UK Air files only at this stage. To reflect this the class will include a note such as: 'This class does not include any UFO reports which may have been received by



LOOSE MINUTE

D/DAS/64/1

27 April 2004

D UK-SO1 AIR OPS 2
DI BCR CG AD
InfoAccess-PM4
Info-Records1

Copy to:
DAS-SecAD
DI BCR D
DI55B
InfoExp-AccessAD
Hd of AHB

**UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS –NEW CLASSES OF INFORMATION FOR THE
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION PUBLICATION SCHEME**

Reference A:D/DAS/64/1 dated 16 April 2003
B:D/DAS/64/1 dated 23 May 2003
C:D/DAS/64/1 dated 18 August 2003
D:D/DI BCR/10/8/3 dated 20 August 2003

1. Thank you for your comments late last year concerning the release of information on UFOs into the MOD Freedom of Information Publication Scheme(PS). Taking into account your comments and advice from Info-Records1 regarding future arrangements with The National Archives (TNA), I propose that we now proceed as follows.

2 In light of the forthcoming access rights under the Freedom of Information Act, an exercise is already underway to consider whether files held at TNA which are due for release between 2006-2009 could be released in January 2005 or soon after. A final decision has yet to be made, but if this goes ahead it is likely that in the future, information will be made available to the public immediately on transfer to TNA instead of being held in the archive until the 30 year point. I therefore propose that to allow for a sufficient period between redacted information appearing in the PS and the original material being fully open at TNA, the start date for inclusion in the PS should be revised to 1985 instead of 1980 as proposed in Reference C.

3. With regard to the new classes of information I propose to start with two classes for each year from 1985 to date. The first would be titled 'UFO Reports received by the MOD in 1985' and will contain all of the UFO reports received from members of the public, military personnel, civil pilots, air traffic controllers, policeman etc. As DIS files are currently unavailable due to the asbestos contamination in the OWOB basement area, we will include reports from DAS and D UK Air files only at this stage. To reflect this the class will include a note such as: 'This class does not include any UFO reports which may have been received by

102/15
1
No
FURTHER

the Defence Intelligence department of the MOD. These documents are currently inaccessible due to asbestos contamination in the archive storage area. These documents may be added at a later date'.

4. I believe that it is important to include all the reports regardless of the source, because in our experience, the public are more interested in credible witness reports than they are from those from members of the public and any attempt to exclude these could lead to accusations that we have something to hide. Also, we have released such reports on request in the past. All personal data will be redacted in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998 (DPA 98). DI BCR CG AD has raised concerns that this title would mean that we would be committed to the release of military reports of possible incursions into the UK Air Policing Area. However, D UK-SO1 Air has confirmed that such incidents are not classed as UFO reports or reported in the same way.

5. The second class of information would be titled 'UFO correspondence received from members of the public in 1985'. This title has been changed since Reference C to reflect the comments of DI BCR CG AD who felt that 'UFO correspondence received by MOD' was too broad a term and could be interpreted to mean internal MOD correspondence. Although this would seem inconsistent with the naming of the class for UFO reports, I can not recall seeing material that could be classed as correspondence from credible witnesses that was not related to a report, therefore all the released correspondence would be from members of the public. Again all personal data would be redacted in accordance with DPA 98.

6. I would be grateful if you could let me know if you have any comments on this proposal by COP 7th May 2004. I then intend to ask InfoAccess-PM4 to seek the Information Commissioner's agreement to the addition of these classes into the PS.

(Original Signed)

Linda Unwin
DAS-Sec3
MT6/73 86638MB

LOOSE MINUTE

D/DI BCR/10/8/3

7 May 2004

DAS-Sec 3

Copy to:
DI BCR D
Hd of AHB
DAS-Sec AD
ADI ALM
InfoExp-AccessAD
D UK-SO1 AIR OPS 2
InfoAccess-PM4
Info-Records1

UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS – NEW CLASSES OF INFORMATION FOR THE
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION PUBLICATION SCHEME

1. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on your proposal for new classes of information for the FOI Publication Scheme.
2. I am most grateful that you have taken into account DIS's concerns in naming the classes, and we are content with your proposals, except for the proposed note. You suggested adding a note to the class explaining that it does not include any UFO reports which may have been received by the Defence Intelligence department of the MOD, that these documents are currently inaccessible due to asbestos contamination and may be added at a later date. This is unnecessary and misleading.
3. First of all, the DIS is not a point of entry for these reports, As you know, the DIS only received **copies** of the reports sent by Sec(AS), and there are no reports in our files which DAS would not already have. Secondly, it would be misleading to imply that there were additional documents which could be added later when in fact, this would not be the case. I would therefore be grateful if the suggested note was not included.
4. I am grateful for the confirmation from D UK-SO1 Air that this would not commit us to the release of military reports of possible incursions into the UK Air Policing Area, as such incidents are not classed as UFO reports or reported in the same way.

Teresa Andrews
DI BCR CG AD
WH307a 82128MB