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RAF Business Secretariat

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Our Ref:
UFO Reports

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Dear Ms Garraway

Thank you for your emails of 5 October. They have been considered as a request for information in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOI). You asked for information regarding the amount of serving members of the Armed Forces who have reported UFO's or alien activity over the last 12 months; where the incidents took place; what investigations took place and which were passed onto other government agencies or related civilian agencies.

Firstly, it may be helpful if I explain that 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 unauthorised air activity.

Unless there is 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.

The 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 life forms, 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.

There is no requirement for individuals who correspond with the MOD, including those who report sightings, to provide details of their employment. I can confirm, however, that in the last 12 months (1



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October 2008 to 30 September 2009) from the records that MOD holds on UFO sightings reported to the Department, there have been two sightings by people who identified themselves as serving members of the armed forces: one sighting at Shepton Mallet reported by a Royal Navy individual and one at Northolt reported by a Royal Air Force individual. Neither of these sightings prompted further investigation or was passed to other Government or civilian agencies.

Yours sincerely

[Original signed]

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