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Mrs Kirsty Drain

Email: [request-29970-  
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Our Ref:  
04-03-2010-102956-002

10 March 2010

Dear Mrs Drain,

Thank you for your email of 4 March 2010 asking for information on recorded UFO sightings in the region of Dumfries and Galloway over the last ten years. This has been considered as a request for information in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

The MOD has no opinion on the existence or otherwise of extra-terrestrial life. However, in over fifty years, no UFO report has revealed any evidence of a potential threat to the United Kingdom. It has been identified that there is no Defence benefit in such investigations and it is an inappropriate use of defence resources. Accordingly, in order to make best use of our resources, with effect from 1 December 2009, the MOD no longer responds to reported sightings or investigates them. Additionally we have withdrawn the dedicated UFO hotline answer-phone service and email address.

The information you have requested is already available in the public domain and is therefore exempt under Section 21 of the FOI Act – “information available to the applicant by other means”. Summaries of the UFO sighting reports received by the MOD between 1997 and 2009 can be accessed on the Ministry of Defence website on the following link:

<http://www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/FreedomOfInformation/PublicationScheme/SearchPublicationScheme/UfoReportsInTheUk.htm>

If you are not satisfied with this response or you wish to complain about any aspect of the handling of your request, then you should contact me in the first instance. If informal resolution is not possible and you are still dissatisfied then you may apply for an independent internal review by contacting the Head of Corporate Information, 6th Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB (e-mail [CIO-FOI-IR@mod.uk](mailto:CIO-FOI-IR@mod.uk)). Please note that any request for an internal review must be made within 40 working days of the date on which the attempt to reach informal resolution has come to an end.

If you remain dissatisfied 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.ico.gov.uk>.

I hope that this information is useful

Yours sincerely

[RAF Bus Sec 8]



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