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Section 40

Your reference

Our reference
D/Sec(AS)/64/3
Date
10th December 1997

Dear Section 40

1.   Thank you for your letter to Section 40 of 25 October concerning "unidentified flying objects" and a former member of Sec(AS)2 staff, Mr Nicholas Pope (Section 40 predecessor).

2.   You have indicated that you were not happy with Section 40 Section 40 response to your letters of 15 May and 30 July. I have therefore reviewed your previous correspondence and the way your letters have been handled. The Ministry of Defence's limited interest in the subject of "unidentified flying objects" was clearly set out in Section 40 letter of 30 June and I am satisfied that your questions have been answered within the scope of this interest.

3.   Turning specifically to your comments concerning Mr Pope, I should point out that he was a junior desk officer in the Secretariat(Air Staff)2a section from 1991-1994 and was not in charge of, or the head of any part of Secretariat (Air Staff)2. Mr Pope was an executive officer and shared the support of one administrative officer. Although Sec(AS)2a was, and still is, the focal point for handling queries directed at the MOD in connection with "unexplained" aerial sightings, during Mr Pope's time such work represented a small part of his overall duties. There were no staff working on this subject on a full-time basis and this remains the case.

4.   Finally, I should say that in the civil service, promotion is based on merit over a number of years and a wide range of tasks and experience. Mr Pope's time in Sec(AS)2a comprised some 36 months only and anything attributed to him since July 1994 when he left is, and continues to be, his own personal opinion.

5.   I hope this explains the position and we can draw this correspondence to a close.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40