



Ministry  
of Defence

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Ref: FOI2018/12790

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[REDACTED]

2 November 2018

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your letter of 23 August 2018 requesting the following information:

*“Could you please forward me information on the types of professions and the equipment they operate etc. Skynet.*

*And about Skynet itself*

*What ranks and professions are the personnel who operate the transmitters receivers and satellite communications systems.*

*What rank and profession is the chief satellite ground station commander?*

*Hypothetically if an alien craft was spotted coming down to earth from space which rank and profession would be able to detect it and collect and collate and analyse all the facts and observations?*

*And what rooms and equipment would be used to help them do those tasks?*

*What ranks and professions would investigate UFO's to find out if they are enemy aircraft in disguise and a threat to security?*

*What unit would they come from and what military civilian and other organisation and professions would they work with (in the investigation etc)?*

*What sort of theories and facts would likely be dedacted by the sight and sound, speed shape and where the UFO is flying from and landed both by the computer and physically?*

*What sort of civilian and military professions would examine the inside of a crushed UFO and its alien crew both on the crash site and at a facility what buildings and organisations would be used to do those tasks and hold the craft and crew in?*

*Who would the personnel at the Skynet military satellite ground station report to if they detected a UFO and collected, collated and monitored every sight and sound?”*

This letter originally went to a company called AIRBUS who have a contract with MOD for Skynet. They forwarded your letter to us to provide a response under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

A search for the information has now been completed within the Ministry of Defence, and I can confirm that some information in scope of your request is held. The information you have requested can be found below.

Some of the information you requested on Skynet is available in the public domain and under section 21 of the FOIA, it can be easily accessed in the following link:

<http://www.securecommunications-airbusds.com/products-solutions/products-systems/bandwidth/skynet-5-x-band-2/>

Skynet 5 Ground Stations are operated by contractor staff under the Skynet 5 contract. The chief satellite ground station commander post is fulfilled by Airbus under the Skynet 5 contract – The official post is:- Airbus Defence & Space, Head of Service Delivery.

The MOD is not obliged to answer hypothetical questions; however, I have interpreted your questions requesting what MOD would do in an event of an unidentified flying objects (UFO) sighting to mean: Please can you provide any information the MOD holds on UFOs.

The MOD does not hold any information in scope of your request dated before December 2009. This is because all the information the Department used to hold on this subject has been sent to The National Archives at Kew, Richmond, Surrey, TW9 4DU. If you choose to view the records in person, then you will not have to pay a fee.

The remaining records held on the subject that we hold are exempt under section 22 of the FOIA. Section 22 of the FOIA allows public authorities to refuse requests if the information is intended for future publication. Section 22 is a qualified exemption, which means that the MOD must assess whether releasing this information in response to your request is in the public interest. A public interest test has been conducted and the arguments against disclosure are considered to outweigh those in favour of release. While there is a measure of public interest in UFOs, the Department has concluded that there is no overriding reason why the public should have the information that we hold immediately. Indeed, these records, which almost entirely consist of correspondence with members of the public, do not reveal anything new about the MOD's role in UFO matters. All these records are currently being prepared for release and will be published in due course on gov.uk.

Section 16(1) of the FOIA requires the public authority to provide advice and assistance wherever possible. As you may be aware, the MOD has no opinion on the existence, or otherwise, of extra-terrestrial life and does not investigate UFO reports.

If you have any queries regarding the content of this letter, please contact this office in the first instance.

If you wish to complain about the handling of your request, or the content of this response, you can request an independent internal review by contacting the Information Rights Compliance team, Ground Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB (e-mail [CIO-FOI-IR@mod.gov.uk](mailto:CIO-FOI-IR@mod.gov.uk)). Please note that any request for an internal review should be made within 40 working days of the date of this response.

If you remain dissatisfied following an internal review, you may raise your complaint directly to the Information Commissioner under the provisions of Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act. Please note that the Information Commissioner will not normally investigate your case until the MOD internal review process has been completed. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire,

SK9 5AF. Further details of the role and powers of the Information Commissioner can be found on the Commissioner's website at <https://ico.org.uk/>.

Yours sincerely,

ISS Secretariat