



UK Hydrographic Office

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Telephone: [REDACTED]
E-mail: [REDACTED]
Website: www.gov.uk/ukho

[REDACTED]
REF: FOI2022/04817

09 May 2022

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 06 April 2022 requesting the following information:

"This is a request made under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act. My FOIA requester status is as a UK citizen since birth and as a "representative of the news media." I am a freelance podcast producer based in the North of the UK.

I would prefer electronic delivery of the requested material via email if at all possible. However, if that is not possible, I can provide my postal address for any physical documents that you may wish to send. I understand that there is usually no charge for this service, but please do not hesitate to contact me should this FOIA request incur a charge.

I respectfully request a copy of any documents held by the UK Hydrographic Office that relate to the following terms:

'USO' (Unidentified Submersed Object)

'UAP' (Unidentified Aerial Phenomena)

'Plasma'

The date range I am interested in is between 2004 up to present date."

I am treating your correspondence as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

A search for the information has now been completed within the UKHO, and I can confirm that no information in scope of your request is held.

Unidentified Aerial Phenomena - Since UKHO are generally only interested in the ocean surface down to the seabed below, we have no concern with atmospheric phenomena, other than the effect it has upon our ability to make observations and measurements of the ocean from Earth Observation satellites or aircraft (LiDAR surveys and vertical aerial photography). Therefore, UKHO do not hold any information on Unidentified Aerial Phenomena

Unidentified Submersed Object – Unidentified Submersed Object would be of more interest if they posed a (permanent) hazard to navigation, such as uncharted submerged seamounts, underwater volcanoes, coral reefs, shipwrecks, etc. As UKHO's interest is primarily in "foundation data" to support safe navigation, we generally do not keep any data on transient objects, whether identified

or not. Multiple observations or surveys from different times generally enable us to filter out “mobile” phenomena such as whales, fish, sargassum, flotsam, pollution, algal blooms, vessels, turbidity, etc. Beyond identifying them as “transient” we rarely need to investigate or log what they are other than to be able to recognise them as transient features to be removed from survey data, and hence to ensure they don’t appear as erroneous features on nautical charts or within digital seabed datasets. Therefore, UKHO do not hold any information on Unidentified Submersed Objects.

Plasma –For the same reasons above, plasma phenomena hold no relevance or interest for UKHO. This may be covered by the UK Meteorological Office.

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 Information Rights Compliance team, Ground Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB (e-mail 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.org.uk>.

Yours sincerely,

UKHO Secretariat