| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 23-3143  Responded to: 4th January 2024 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

## I am requesting all information that Police Scotland hold in relation to Unidentified Flying Object/Unidentified Aerial Phenomena sightings for the period 1st January 2023 to the 4th December 2023. This includes all reports made by members of the public or employees of Police Scotland and may include a keyword search of the following words: UFO, UAP, lights in the sky, aliens or extra-terrestrial beings. This information should include date, time, location and the description given by the reporting person.

In response to your request, I must first of all advise you that there is no relevant classification code which specifically relates to this subject matter.

It is not possible to conduct searches of our systems based on what a caller may have mentioned in their account, however we can base searches on the presence of a particular word(s)/ phrases in the notes taken by the call handler and input on to our incident recording system, STORM.

As such, I have progressed your request on that basis, searching for the words and phrases included in your request.

I must stress that Police Scotland does not consider keyword searches for specific words/ phrases to be an accurate means of analysis.

Please also note that there may be incidents of relevance to your request which do not include the specific phrases you have listed.

Similarly, although the phrase appears in an incident log, it cannot be assumed on that basis that the incident was directly related to the subject matter of UFOs/ aliens etc. as per the context of your request.

In researching your request, a keyword search of the Police Scotland incident recording system, STORM, was carried out for ‘UFO’, ‘UAP’, ‘lights in the sky’, ‘aliens’ and ‘extra-terrestrial beings’.

The search facility in use means that incidents will be included in search results where UFO or UAP is part of a word, and this has proven to be the case with your request, as the vast majority of hits were for incidents where the letters are part of a name, address or other word. The letters also frequently appear as part of a vehicle registration number or other similar codes.

For all the reasons above, I would therefor take the view that the data below does not accurately reflect reports of matters that could be described as UFO/ UAP sightings to Police Scotland.

On that basis, I can advise you that between the 1st January 2023 and 4th December 2023, there were a total of six incident reports of relevance. A breakdown of these incidents can be found below:-

* ‘**Extra-Terrestrial Beings’**

0 incidents identified.

* **‘UAP’**

75 incidents initially identified but on further review, the vast majority of these were parts of longer words, vehicle registration marks or other codes.

19th May 2023 at 03:11

K Division

Description: ‘Caller reporting a UAP, looked up and saw a string of what can only be described as satellites’.

* **‘UFO’**

54 incidents initially identified but on further review, the vast majority of these were parts of longer words, vehicle registration marks or other codes.

Other incidents made reference to the caller believing in UFOs or it was otherwise apparent from information in the report that the references to UFOs were connected to vulnerability/ mental health issues as opposed to reporting a UFO sighting.

Within other reports, it was established that the object was in fact a drone or aeroplane.

Four Incidents were assessed as potentially relevant to your request. Details can be

found below:

1st March 2023 at 19:36

A Division

Description: ‘Caller reports there are two objects in the sky which are like white globes and they shot across the sky approx. 100ft and believes them to be UFOs’.

21st April 2023 at 02:20

E Division

Description: ‘Caller has seen three white objects over home – believes they are UFOs. One was moving at rapid speed and the other two were flying controlled’.

18th August 2023 at 16:32

K Division

Description: ‘Reporting a UFO flying within restricted airspace without clearance’.

16th October 2023 at 23:16

Q Division

Description: ‘Caller reporting that they see a UFO in the sky and it is in the flightpath of planes and they see a bright white light and moves the way a squid would move in water from side to side about 10 ft and is approx. 3 miles up.’

* **‘Aliens’**

126 incidents initially identified but on further review, many incident descriptions clarified that the context of the word was in relation to immigration etc. – i.e. ‘illegal aliens’.

Other incidents made reference to the caller believing in aliens or it was otherwise apparent from information in the report that the reference to aliens were connected to vulnerability/ mental health issues as opposed to reporting an alien sighting.

0 incidents assessed as potentially relevant to request.

* **‘Lights in the Sky’**

10 incidents initially identified but on further review, many incident reports included reference to planes and one report made reference to lanterns. As such, they were ruled out on that basis.

For other incidents, it was apparent from the information within the report that the reference to lights in the sky were connected to vulnerability/ mental health issues as opposed to reporting seeing lights in the sky.

One incident was assessed as potentially relevant to your request. Details can be found below:-

23rd September 2023 at 03:50

G Division

Description – ‘Caller reporting an assortment of lights in the sky in a triangular shape. States it is only lights with no sound’.

If you require any further assistance please contact us quoting the reference above.

You can request a review of this response within the next 40 working days by [email](mailto:foi@scotland.police.uk) or by letter (Information Management - FOI, Police Scotland, Clyde Gateway, 2 French Street, Dalmarnock, G40 4EH). Requests must include the reason for your dissatisfaction.

If you remain dissatisfied following our review response, you can appeal to the Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner (OSIC) within 6 months - [online](http://www.itspublicknowledge.info/Appeal), by [email](mailto:enquiries@itspublicknowledge.info) or by letter (OSIC, Kinburn Castle, Doubledykes Road, St Andrews, KY16 9DS).

Following an OSIC appeal, you can appeal to the Court of Session on a point of law only.

This response will be added to our [Disclosure Log](http://www.scotland.police.uk/access-to-information/freedom-of-information/disclosure-log) in seven days' time.

Every effort has been taken to ensure our response is as accessible as possible. If you require this response to be provided in an alternative format, please let us know.