

- [Skip to main content](#)
- [Low Graphics](#)
- [Access keys help](#)

BBC Home

 Search

[Explore the BBC](#)

[Low graphics](#) | [Accessibility help](#)



LIVE [BBC NEWS CHANNEL](#)

[News Front Page](#)

Last Updated: Tuesday, 18 December 2007, 14:51 GMT

[World](#)

[E-mail this to a friend](#)

[Printable version](#)



UFOs exist, says Japan official

- [Africa](#)
 - [Americas](#)
 - [Asia-Pacific](#)
 - [Europe](#)
 - [Middle East](#)
 - [South Asia](#)
 - [UK](#)
 - [England](#)
 - [Northern Ireland](#)
 - [Scotland](#)
 - [Wales](#)
 - [Business](#)
 - [Politics](#)
 - [Health](#)
 - [Education](#)
 - [Science &](#)
 - [Environment](#)
 - [Technology](#)
 - [Entertainment](#)
 - [Also in the news](#)
-
- [Video and Audio](#)
-
- [Have Your Say](#)
 - [Magazine](#)
 - [In Pictures](#)
 - [Country Profiles](#)
 - [Special Reports](#)
 - Languages

- [Chinese](#)
- [Vietnamese](#)
- [Indonesian](#)
- [More](#)

By Chris Hogg
BBC News, Tokyo

Japan's chief government spokesman has announced that unidentified flying objects (UFOs) exist.

Earlier, in response to a question from an opposition lawmaker, the Japanese government issued a statement saying it could not confirm any cases of UFOs.

But Chief Cabinet Secretary Nobutaka Machimura later told reporters he believed they were "definitely" real.

It is the sort of question politicians dread but, under Japanese rules, are unable to ignore.

A member of the opposition asked the government what its policy was to deal with UFOs.

He said work should begin urgently to try to confirm whether or not they exist because of what he called "incessant" reports of sightings.

The Japanese civil service swung into action.

In a statement it said that should a flying saucer be spotted in the country's airspace, a fighter would be scrambled to attempt visual confirmation.

But it emphasised that the government was not aware of cases where a UFO from space had been discovered.

Most alerts turned out to be birds or other objects.

'Not confirmed'

The document revealed that Japan has not yet planned what to do should aliens arrive here.

The government's chief spokesman Nobutaka Machimura drew laughter from reporters when he admitted that this was a "stereotypical" response from the bureaucrats.

Perhaps with his tongue a little in his cheek he insisted that he believed UFOs did "definitely" exist.

Questioned about the existence of alien spaceships, Japan's Prime Minister Yasuo Fukuda thought about it and then answered carefully.

He said he had "not yet confirmed" whether they existed.

The conspiracy theorists will note that the answer was not a "no".



Mr Machimura's comments might not have been serious



Many UFO sightings can be easily explained

SEE ALSO

[Call for US to re-open UFO file
Saucers in the sky](#)

**[MOST POPULAR STORIES
NOW](#)**

- [MOST SHARED](#)
- [BBC News](#)
- [BBC News](#)
- [BBC News](#)
- [BBC News](#)
- [BBC News](#)
- [BBC News](#)
- [Church 'colluded' with sex abuse bishop](#)
- [UK rail ticket machines hit by IT glitch](#)
- [BBC News](#)
- [BBC News](#)

[Most popular now, in detail](#)

 [E-mail this to a friend](#)

 [Printable version](#)

Bookmark with:

- [Delicious](#)
- [Digg](#)
- [reddit](#)
- [Facebook](#)
- [StumbleUpon](#)

[What are these?](#)

FEATURES, VIEWS, ANALYSIS



[Ghost town](#)

Has China's housing bubble burst?



[The guerilla plant](#)

How the world's oldest clove tree defied an empire



[Walking away](#)

Why Royal Ballet principal Sergei Polunin quit

[Most Popular Now](#)

The most read story in Africa is: [Saudi 'reprieve' in sorcery case](#)

[PRODUCTS & SERVICES](#)

- [E-mail news](#)
- [Mobiles](#)
- [Alerts](#)
- [News feeds](#)
- [Interactive TV](#)
- [Podcasts](#)

- [BBC Copyright Notice](#)
MMIX
- [Back to top ^^](#)

- [Help](#)
- [Privacy and cookies policy](#)
- [News sources](#)
- [About the BBC](#)
- [Contact us](#)