

# Party lights in sky spark UFO scare

HUNDREDS of calls clogged telephone switchboards last night after bizarre lights in the sky triggered a UFO scare across South Wales.

Calls flooded in to police and the Echo after four lights were seen above Cardiff, Merthyr, Caerphilly and Newport. Gwent police switchboard was jammed by 999 calls.

But the mystery lights were four World War II searchlight beams from an 18th birthday party with a Hollywood theme for Debbie Thomas, of Rudry Road, Lisvane, Cardiff.

Eventually police told party organisers to switch the beams off after worried air traffic controllers in London told them they had received reports of UFOs over South Wales.

The police said: "By 9.45pm we had been flooded with calls and told organisers to turn the lights off."