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# Former chief of MoD UFO project warns UK is 'wide open' to alien visitors

BRITAIN is "wide open" to alien visitors and a department meant to look into UFO sightings is virtually "closed down", a former Government expert warned yesterday.

Despite a series of "highly credible" sightings and landings in UK territory of metallic aircraft projecting lightbeams and emitting humming sounds, there is no

longer formal interviewing of witnesses or investigation into the sightings, he said.

Instead, those working for the Ministry of Defence UFO project spend their time releasing formerly classified documents in answer to Freedom of Information requests from the media or members of the public. Nick Pope, who ran the MoD UFO project from

1991 to 1994, said he decided to speak out about the failure to seriously address the issue for the first time since resigning from his MoD post at the Directorate of Defence Security this week.

"The consequences of getting this one wrong could be huge," he said. If you reported a UFO sighting now, I am absolutely sure that you would just get back a standard

letter telling you not to worry. Frankly we are wide open - if something does not behave like a conventional aircraft now, it will be ignored. The X-Files have been closed down."

While there is no evidence of UFO hostile intent, he said, it cannot be ruled out.

"There has got to be the potential for that, and one is left with

the uneasy feeling that if it turned out to be so, there is very little we could do about it," he said.

"If you believe these things are extra terrestrial craft then you cannot rule out that what is happening is some kind of covert reconnaissance."

He said he was initially sceptical about UFOs, but access to classified files on the subject and

investigation of a series of spectacular UFO sightings gradually changed his mind.

"Every one is a piece of a puzzle but no one takes it seriously."

A spokesman for the MoD insisted that all UFO sightings were investigated for "evidence to suggest that UK airspace has been compromised by hostile or unauthorised air activity".