

No: 5/88

Ref:1b

Aircraft Type and Registration: DHC-6 Twin Otter Series 310, G-BGEN

No & Type of Engines: 2 Pratt & Whitney PT6A-27 turbo-prop engines

Year of Manufacture: 1979

Date and Time (UTC): 29 December 1987 at 1006 hrs

Location: Barra, Scotland

Type of Flight: Airline Scheduled passenger

Persons on Board: Crew -2 Passengers -13

Injuries: Crew -None Passengers -None

Nature of Damage: Bent nose landing gear leg and surrounding structure, damage to nose landing gear tyre

Commander's Licence: Commercial Pilot's Licence

Commander's Age: 39 years

Commander's Total Flying Experience: 3150 hours (of which 102 were on type)

Information Source: Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot and AAIB telephone enquiries

The aircraft was making an approach to an approved beach landing strip; the wind was estimated at 20 kt, and there were 7 oktas at 1000 feet, with a visibility of 1000 to 1500 metres in heavy rain.

The pilot has stated that at a low height on the approach, the flooded beach merged with the sea in the background such that judgement of height above the surface was difficult. The aircraft touched down and became airborne again. A go-around was initiated with the aircraft touching down a second time before climbing away. Initial damage to the nose landing gear leg and tyre may have occurred at this time.

The aircraft carried out a circuit and landing and, after touchdown when the propellers were selected into the Beta range, vibration was felt within the airframe until the aircraft came to a stop. After landing it was found that steering became progressively more difficult, and ground manoeuvring was accomplished by use of asymmetric power. The occupants were uninjured.