Lockheed L1011 Tristar, TF-ABD

AAIB Bulletin No: 10/98 Ref: EW/G98/08/07 Category: 1.1

Aircraft Type and Registration: Lockheed L1011 Tristar, TF-ABD

No & Type of Engines: 3 Rolls-Royce RB211- 22B turbofan engines

Year of Manufacture: 1981

Date & Time (UTC): 5 August 1998 at 0710 hrs

Location: Northwich, Cheshire

Type of Flight: Public Transport (Passenger) **Persons on Board:** Crew - 12 - Passengers - 235

Injuries: Crew - None - Passengers - None

Nature of Damage: None

Commander's Licence: Airline Transport Pilot's Licence

Commander's Age: 52 years

Commander's Flying Experience: 21,347 hours (of which 1,711 were on type)

Last 90 days - 126 hours

Last 28 days - 61 hours

Information Source: Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot

A member of the public saw something drop from the aircraft as it departed from Manchester Airport for Lanzarote in the Canary Islands. The associated part, described as an 'air vent', was recovered and handed in to Cheshire Police. Nothing was felt by the crew or passengers as a result of the detachment, and the aircraft continued to its destination without further incident.

The part was described by the operator as a non-structural panel, measuring some 65 cm by 65 cm, which covered an air vent in the upressurised section of the rear fuselage. An internal investigation has been instituted by the operator to establish the reason for the panel detachment, and a company directive has been issued requiring ground and flight engineers to check this panel on all of the company's L1011 aircraft.