

No: 10/90

Ref: EW/G90/06/21

Category: 1c

Aircraft Type and Registration:	Cessna 152, G-BPLW
No & Type of Engines:	1 Lycoming O-235-L2C piston engine
Year of Manufacture:	1981
Date and Time (UTC):	20 June 1990 at 1550 hrs
Location:	Culmore, near Londonderry, Northern Ireland
Type of flight:	Private
Persons on Board:	Crew - 1 Passengers - None
Injuries:	Crew - None Passengers - N/A
Nature of Damage:	Damaged beyond economical repair
Commander's Licence:	Airline Transport Pilot's Licence
Commander's Age:	30 years
Commander's Total Flying Experience:	1,810 hours (of which 250 were on type)
Information Source:	Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot

The aircraft had been flown to a private grass airfield which was evenly mown, with no defined runway. After a brief stop the engine was restarted and having completed the 'after start' and 'power' checks the aircraft was taxied, at about 15 knots with a low throttle setting, for about 400 metres before being turned into wind. After turning into wind, full throttle was applied immediately and slight back pressure applied to the control column. The aircraft accelerated and lifted-off normally.

After lift-off the pilot allowed the aircraft to accelerate in ground effect before raising the nose to climb away. As he did so, the engine lost power and the aircraft's nose dropped slightly. Despite attempting evasive action, the pilot was unable to prevent the left wing of the aircraft striking a hawthorn bush beside his selected take-off path. The aircraft slewed violently to the left and landed heavily on its right side, coming to rest facing the reciprocal of the take off direction. There was no fire and the pilot evacuated from the aircraft very quickly and without assistance.

The aircraft was beyond economical repair and no engine examination was reported. The temperature was reported as +15° C and the surface condition as dry. No information on the local relative humidity was available.