

Aircraft type and registration: Robinson R22 G-PAXO

No & Type of engines: 1 Lycoming 0-320-A2C piston engine

Year of Manufacture: 1981

Date and time (UTC): 29 April 1987 at 0945 hrs

Location: Wycombe Air Park, Nr Marlow, Bucks

Type of flight: Training

Persons on board: Crew — 1 Passengers — None

Injuries: Crew — 1 (Minor) Passengers — N/A

Nature of damage: Aircraft destroyed

Commander's Licence: Student Pilot

Commander's Age: 28 years

Commander's Total Flying Experience: 20 hours (all of which were on type)

Information Source: Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot

Following a period of dual instruction, the student pilot restarted the engine to fly his third solo flight. As he called ATC for take-off clearance, he noticed that the aircraft had yawed 60° to the left. As he applied corrective right pedal the aircraft started to oscillate and, suspecting ground resonance, he took off to the hover. The aircraft continued to oscillate laterally whilst moving forward until it struck the ground in what appeared to be a left-hand cartwheel. The tail boom and right skid separated from the fuselage, which came to rest lying on its right side.

No defects were found in the aircraft that might have caused the accident. The student's instructor considered that the collective lever may have risen on its own accord, causing the aircraft to judder over the ground on light skids, and that the subsequent behaviour of the aircraft might have been caused by overcontrolling.