

Robinson R22 Beta, G-BOEX, 13 August 2002

AAIB Bulletin No: 11/2002	Ref: EW/G2002/08/10	Category: 2.3
Aircraft Type and Registration:	Robinson R22 Beta, G-BOEX	
No & Type of Engines:	1 Lycoming O-320-B2C piston engine	
Year of Manufacture:	1987	
Date & Time (UTC):	13 August 2002 at 0804 hrs	
Location:	Cranfield Airport, Bedford	
Type of Flight:	Training	
Persons on Board:	Crew - 1	Passengers - None
Injuries:	Crew - None	Passengers - N/A
Nature of Damage:	Damaged beyond economic repair	
Commander's Licence:	Student Pilot	
Commander's Age:	27 years	
Commander's Flying Experience:	50 hours (all on type)	
	Last 90 days - 27 hours	
	Last 28 days - 27 hours	
Information Source:	Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot	

The student pilot was asked to hover taxi the helicopter from the maintenance area to the flying school's main dispersal. Having completed the normal checks for the first flight of the day, the engine was started and the collective lever raised for lift-off. As the helicopter left the ground however it began to rotate to the right. The pilot applied left rudder in an attempt to control the yaw but this failed to affect the rotation. He then decided to centralise the rudder pedals. After approximately six rotations, a metallic sound was heard from the rear and the helicopter descended, hitting the ground and immediately rolling over onto its right side. The pilot, who was unhurt, managed to vacate the cabin via the left side.

During its rotations, the helicopter had drifted downwind causing its tail rotor to strike the main rotor blade of another helicopter parked nearby. The pilot usually used back cushions to assist him with the application of full yaw pedal but on this occasion the cushions were absent.

