

Robinson R22, G-BZJK, 15 December 2000

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Aircraft Type and Registration: Robinson R22, G-BZJK

No & Type of Engines: 1 Beta II piston engine

Year of Manufacture: 2000

Date & Time (UTC): 15 December 2000 at 1524 hrs

Location: Liverpool Airport

Type of Flight: Training

Persons on Board: Crew - 1 - Passengers - None

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

Nature of Damage: Damage to canopy and rotor blades

Commander's Licence: Student Pilot

Commander's Age: 37 years

Commander's Flying Experience: 43 hours (all on type)
Last 90 days - 19 hours
Last 28 days - 6 hours

Information Source: Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot

Following approximately one hour of dual instruction, and as consolidation training on the exercises, the student pilot was carrying out solo hover landing and take-off practice. There had been a break between the two sorties during which the helicopter was refuelled. The pilot began by repeating the exercises which had been carried out earlier as briefed by the instructor, taking off into the hover and then landing again on the concrete pad. When a number of these had been satisfactorily completed the pilot hover taxied to the grass training area and repeated the exercise.

When these were successfully completed he hover taxied forward for two or three metres and brought the helicopter back to the hover. The pilot commenced a vertical descent whereupon either one or both skids contacted the ground unexpectedly. The helicopter seemed to roll to the right and the pilot applied left cyclic pitch control to counter the roll. The main rotor blades struck the ground on the left side of the aircraft and it rolled onto its right side. Once the helicopter had come to rest the pilot switched off the fuel, unfastened his restraint harness and exited the aircraft through the left hand door. The airfield Rescue and Fire Fighting Service were in attendance within one minute. The pilot suffered a minor injury to his left hand. The pilot considered that the accident occurred due to his limited experience and his over controlling when the skids unexpectedly contacted the ground.

