

No: 10/88

Ref: EW/G88/07/18

Category: 2c

Aircraft Type and Registration: Robinson R22, G-BUMF

No & Type of Engines: 1 Lycoming O-320-A2C piston engine

Year of Manufacture: 1981

Date and Time (UTC): 24 July 1988 at 1415 hrs

Location: Stockenchurch, Near High Wycombe, Bucks

Type of Flight: Private (pleasure)

Persons on Board: Crew - 1 Passengers - 1

Injuries: Crew - None Passengers - N/A

Nature of Damage: Damage to main rotor blades, gearbox and tail boom

Commander's Licence: Airline Transport Pilot's Licence (Helicopters) with full Instructor Rating

Commander's Age: 43 years

Commander's Total Flying Experience: 7398 hours (of which 145 were on type)

Information Source: Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot and telephone enquiries

The helicopter had landed facing up a slope in a field of long grass. Prior to lift off the helicopter moved forwards and it is thought likely that the long grass caught in between the skids and metal skid shoes. With full aft cyclic control applied and despite the pilot's attempt to continue to lift off, the helicopter tipped forwards so that the main rotor struck the ground. The helicopter rolled onto its side and the main rotor blades, having been bent, then struck the tail boom. There was no fire and both occupants were able to leave the aircraft unaided. Since June 1985 there have been 8 reported accidents involving Robinson R22 helicopters which have rolled over whilst manoeuvring close to the ground. The attention of the CAA has been drawn to the abnormally high incidence of similar accidents to this type of helicopter.