

No: 7/90

Ref: EW/G90/05/15

Category: 2c

Aircraft Type and Registration: Robinson R22 BETA, G-BRZJ

No & Type of Engines: 1 Lycoming O-320-B2C piston engine

Year of Manufacture: 1989

Date and Time (UTC): 18 May 1990 at 0915 hrs

Location: Newtownards airfield, County Down

Type of Flight: Private (training)

Persons on Board: Crew - 1 Passengers - None

Injuries: Crew - None Passengers - N/A

Nature of Damage: Damaged beyond economical repair

Commander's Licence: Private Pilot's Licence, Group A
Student Pilot (H)

Commander's Age: 45 years

Commander's Total Flying Experience: Fixed wing: 435 hours.
Rotary wing: 19 hours (all of which were on type)

Information Source: Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot

As part of a course of instruction in helicopter flying, the pilot completed 30 minutes of hovering to the satisfaction of his instructor. The exercise involved hovering at three points of the training area in the northern part of the airfield and turning through 90° at each point. The pilot was then briefed by his instructor to repeat the exercise solo whereupon the instructor left the helicopter and took up an observation position some 10 metres away. The helicopter lifted off into a light easterly wind and moved forwards about 3 metres. It turned left through 360° before coming once more to an apparently unstable hover. It then yawed left and pitched nose up allowing the tail to strike the ground before rolling onto its side and slewing through a further 270°. The instructor ran over to the helicopter and assisted the pilot from the wreckage, noting as he did so that the engine had continued to run for a few seconds after the roll over. Having escorted the pilot to a safe position, he went back to the helicopter to switch off the fuel and electrics. The instructor considers that his student may have reverted to control inputs more appropriate to fixed wing flying as he overcontrolled whilst attempting to hover the helicopter.