

Robinson R44, G-EKKO

AAIB Bulletin No:	11/2001	Ref:	EW/G2001/09/04	Category:	2.3
Aircraft Type and Registration:	Robinson R44, G-EKKO				
No & Type of Engines:	1 Lycoming O-540-F1B5 piston engine				
Year of Manufacture:	2000				
Date & Time (UTC):	2 September 2001 at 1200 hrs				
Location:	Wellesbourne Mountford Airport, Warwickshire				
Type of Flight:	Training				
Persons on Board:	Crew - 1			Passengers - None	
Injuries:	Crew - None			Passengers - N/A	
Nature of Damage:	Severe damage to tail and main rotor system				
Commander's Licence:	Student Pilot				
Commander's Age:	NK				
Commander's Flying Experience:	20 hours (of which all were on type)				
	Last 90 days Not known				
	Last 28 days Not known				
Information Source:	Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot and his instructor				

The student pilot had just completed 2 lessons practising takeoffs, circuits and landings. The weather was fine with a surface wind of 225°/6 to 8 kt. The instructor decided to send the student pilot for a solo exercise involving a lift into the hover, hover taxiing for approximately 20 yds and a landing. Once the instructor was clear the student lifted the helicopter into a very low hover but allowed it to move rearwards. The tail of the helicopter struck the ground causing him to lose control. The student instinctively lowered the collective pitch control but, by now the helicopter had risen some 3 to 4 feet from the ground. As a result it descended rapidly and landed heavily rolling onto its left side. The student, who was wearing a lap and diagonal seat belt, was able to extricate himself from the cabin without injury.