No: 8/85 **Ref: EW/G85/07/12**

Aircraft type and registration:	Westland Bell 47G.3B1 (Soloy) G-SMRI (light single engined helicopter)	
Year of Manufacture:	1980	
Date and time (GMT):	24 July 1985 at 1545 hrs	
Location:	Field near Maghull on A59, 6 miles north of Liverpool	
Type of flight:	Aerial Application	
Persons on board:	Crew — 1	Passengers — None
Injuries:	Crew — None	Passengers — N/A
Nature of damage:	Tail rotor destroyed by wire strike, airframe substantially damaged by heavy landing	
Commander's Licence:	Airline Transport Pilot's Licence (Helicopters)	
Commander's Age:	43 years	
Commander's Total Flying Experience:	12,515 hours (of which approx 600 were on type)	
Information Source:	Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot.	

The helicopter had been loaded with 60 gals of a liquid fungicide in a centrally mounted hopper between the landing skids. The pilot's intentions were to spray a rectangular shaped field of potatoes, he had been provided with a map of the field that showed a public road close to the left hand side and electricity power lines running along the right hand side.

As the pilot lined up for the first spray run along the side nearest to the road, he became aware of heavy traffic using the road and so aborted the run and turned to the right to reposition when there was a gap in the traffic. His attention was on the traffic as he turned back towards the field when the tail rotor struck the electricity wires. The tail rotor and drive failed immediately and the helicopter gyrated rapidly and descended to make a heavy landing on level ground.

The pilot was unhurt, the fuel tanks and chemical hopper remained intact.