ACCIDENT

Aircraft Type and Registration: Cessna 152, G-OFRY

No & Type of Engines: 1 Lycoming O-235-L2C piston engine

Year of Manufacture: 1978

Date & Time (UTC): 18 September 2008 at 1040 hrs

Location: Dunkeswell Airfield, Devon

Type of Flight: Training

Persons on Board: Crew - 1 Passengers - None

Injuries: Crew - None Passengers - N/A

Nature of Damage: Tailplane damaged

Commander's Licence: Student pilot

Commander's Age: 37 years

Commander's Flying Experience: 19 hours (of which 17 were on type)

Last 90 days - 10 hours Last 28 days - 6 hours

Information Source: Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot

Synopsis

On completion of two circuits and landings with an instructor on Runway 05, the pilot under instruction was to fly solo circuits and landings for the remainder of the detail. The initial takeoff and circuit was uneventful but the aircraft landed to the left of the centreline due to a slight crosswind from the right. Once stabilised in the ground roll, full power was applied and, as the aircraft accelerated, it began to 'pull' to the left. It departed the paved surface, and crossed disused Runway 17/35 before coming to rest.

Subsequent examination found no defects with aircraft's wheel braking or control systems. The student's instructor attributed the accident to the student's insufficient use of right rudder to counteract the effect of the crosswind and propeller slipstream.

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