

Boeing 757-204, G-BYAU

AAIB Bulletin No:	1/2000	Ref:	EW/G99/09/17	Category:	1.1
Aircraft Type and Registration:	Boeing 757-204, G-BYAU				
No & Type of Engines:	2 Rolls-Royce RB211-535E4 turbofan engines				
Year of Manufacture:	1994				
Date & Time (UTC):	20 September 1999 at 0610 hrs				
Location:	Stansted Airport				
Type of Flight:	Public Transport				
Persons on Board:	Crew - 9 - Passengers - Boarding				
Injuries:	Crew - None - Passengers - 1 Serious				
Nature of Damage:	None				
Commander's Licence:	N/A				
Commander's Age:	N/A				
Commander's Flying Experience:	N/A				
Information Source:	Company reports and telephone enquiries				

Passengers were boarding at the rear of the aircraft by means of a set of steps. Ground conditions were wet. There was a gap of about six inches between the top of the steps and the aircraft door sill through which a two and a half year old child fell, landing on the ground below. Ambulance and other emergency services were called and attended within 15 minutes. Hospital examination of the child revealed a fractured wrist and some bruising.

The steps at the rear of the aircraft had been positioned about one hour earlier and were used for disembarking a previous flight. The steps, on inspection after the incident, were found to have a damaged stabiliser mount on one side making its deployment difficult and also a missing foot to the jack. One of the other four stabiliser jacks was found to be in the retracted position. The handbrake was found in the off position. It is probable that the steps moved gradually from their original location as they were being used thus creating a gap against the side of the aircraft. Disciplinary action was taken against the employee who positioned the steps, which were immediately withdrawn from service.