

No: 9/89

Ref: EW/G88/08/15

Category: 1a

Aircraft Type and Registration: HS 748 series 2B, G-BCOE

No & Type of Engines: 2 Rolls-Royce Dart 536-2 turboprop engines

Year of Manufacture: 1975

Date and Time (UTC): 8 August 1988 at 1500 hrs

Location: Manchester International Airport

Type of Flight: Scheduled Passenger

Persons on Board: Crew - 4 Passengers -15

Injuries: Crew - None Passengers - None

Nature of Damage: Substantial damage to the nose landing gear and the front structure of the airframe.

Commander's Licence: Airline Transport Pilot's Licence

Commander's Age: 45 years

Commander's Total Flying Experience: 7,236 hours (of which 1,028 were on type)

Information Source: Aircraft Accident Report form submitted by the company

After both engines had been started, the ground engineer was told that the aircraft was cleared for unrestricted pushback. Before the aircraft brakes had been released, the tractor moved forward, the nose landing gear collapsed and the front part of the aircraft sank onto the tractor cab roof. Both propellers were immediately feathered and the engines were shut down. No injuries were sustained and the crew and passengers disembarked in the normal manner.

The driver stated that the tractor moved forward with no input from him. An investigation, by the company, found a major air leak in the rear brake. This could have started a chain of events which would result in the tractor moving forward of its own volition.