

No: 6/83

Ref: EW/G83/U5/05

Aircraft: Bell 47 G5A G-BBRI (Light single engined helicopter)

Year of manufacture: 1973

Date and time (GMT): 24 May 1983 at 1000 hrs

Location: Fair Oaks Aerodrome, Surrey

Type of flight: Private (Instruction)

Persons on board: Crew - 2 Passengers - Nil

Injuries: Crew - Nil Passengers - N/A

Nature of damage: Damage to the tail rotor, tail rotor drive shaft and tail rotor guard

Commander's Licence: ATPL

Commander's Age: 44 years

Commander's total flying experience: 3900 hours (of which 2000 were on type)

During hovering practice the student pilot moved the cyclic rapidly rearwards resulting in a pronounced tail down attitude. Before the instructor could take control the tail rotor guard struck the ground and fractured, allowing the tail rotor also to strike the ground. The aircraft began to yaw and roll to starboard. The instructor closed the throttle and managed to land the aircraft without further damage.