

No: 8/91

Ref: EW/G91/06/24

Category: 2c

**Aircraft Type and Registration:** Schweizer 269C, G-BPDR

**No & Type of Engines:** 1 Lycoming HIO-360-D1A piston engine

**Year of Manufacture:** 1988

**Date & Time (UTC):** 27 June 1991 at 1440 hrs

**Location:** Oxford Airport, Oxfordshire

**Type of Flight:** Private

**Persons on Board:** Crew - 1                      Passengers - None

**Injuries:** Crew - None                      Passengers - N/A

**Nature of Damage:** The helicopter sustained severe damage

**Commander's Licence:** FAA Commercial Pilot's Licence (Airplane)  
Student (Helicopter) pilot

**Commander's Age:** 37 years

**Commander's Flying Experience:** 52 hours Rotary Wing (of which 12 were on type)  
830 hours Fixed Wing

**Information Source:** Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the  
Chief Flying Instructor and information gathered  
by the operating company's inquiry.

The student had been sent on his first solo flight on the morning of 27 June and that afternoon, after a 30 minute dual flight consisting of circuit flying, the instructor climbed out to watch the student's second solo flight. The wind was 270°/5 to 10 kt and the aircraft was positioned into wind on the level surface of the grass runway 27.

The instructor reports that the student's attempt to lift the helicopter into the hover was not smooth and that at about one foot above the ground it began an unsteady turn to the right, rotating through about 360°, before contacting the ground with the front of the right skid. The aircraft then pitched nose down, pivoted and dropped onto the left skid, coming to rest on the left side of the fuselage.

The instructor returned to the helicopter and, reaching down from the right door on top of the fuselage, switched off the fuel and electrical systems and helped the student out. The Airport Fire Service and the local emergency services were called and, although there was no fire, applied foam to the wreckage as a precaution.