

Aircraft: Embraer EMB 110-P1 Bandeirante G-BGCS

Year of Manufacture: 1979

Date and time (GMT): 22 December 1982 at 1110 hrs

Location: Belfast Airport (Aldergrove)

Type of flight: Scheduled Passenger

Persons on board: Crew - 2 Passengers - Nil

Injuries: Crew - Nil Passengers - N/A

Nature of damage: Damage to aircraft engine, gearbox and propeller, slight damage to ground power unit.

Commander's Licence: Airline Transport Pilot's Licence

Commander's Age: 45 years

Commander's total flying experience: 10,000 hours

The aircraft was parked on a stand at Belfast Airport. The pilot started both engines and received pushback clearance from Air Traffic Control. The pilot signalled the ground crew for brake release and this was acknowledged. He then diverted his attention to cockpit duties for a few seconds and when he looked up, the aircraft was rolling forwards into a ground power unit which it struck with the starboard propeller. The pilot could then see that there was no driver on the tug, which also did not have its brakes applied. The pilot states that he could not see the tug because of reflections on the windscreen and that he was misled by the hand signals from the ground crew.