

No: 11/84

Ref: EW/G84/10/05

**Aircraft type and registration:** Beechcraft 99, D-LEXA (light twin turbo prop aircraft)

**Year of Manufacture:** 1968

**Date and time (GMT):** 12 October 1984 at 2338 hrs

**Location:** Luton Airport

**Type of flight:** Non Scheduled Cargo

**Persons on board:** Crew — 2                      Passengers — Nil

**Injuries:** Crew — Nil                      Passengers — N/A

**Nature of damage:** Aircraft landed with nose gear retracted damaging underside of forward fuselage and propellers

**Commander's Licence:** ATPL

**Commander's Age:** 28 years

**Commander's total flying experience:** 2200 hours (of which 800 were on type)

**Information Source:** Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by pilot.

The aircraft flew from Frankfurt to Luton without incident and commenced an approach to land at Luton on Runway 26. On selecting the landing gear down only the main gear indications were obtained. After initiating missed approach procedure the landing gear was again selected with the same result. Following a check of the indicator bulbs the emergency landing gear system was used but again only a main gear indication was obtained. On flying past the tower the commander was advised that the nose landing gear was completely retracted and on the instructions of air traffic control prepared to land on the grass runway 18 (684 m available length). The wind was 220/7 kt, no low cloud and visibility more than 10 km. The landing was made with the nose held up as long as possible and no use of the brakes; the aircraft came to rest after a ground run of 130 m having suffered damage to the underside of the forward fuselage and propellers. No injuries were sustained by the crew who evacuated the aircraft without difficulty.

When the aircraft was recovered the nose landing gear actuation system was found to be inoperative and following temporary repair the aircraft was flown back to Germany for detailed investigation and repair.