

ACCIDENT

Aircraft Type and Registration:	Agusta AW-109, M-EMLI	
No & Type of Engines:	2 Pratt & Whitney Canada PW206C turboshaft engines	
Year of Manufacture:	2001	
Date & Time (UTC):	2 May 2012 at 1625 hrs	
Location:	West London Shooting School, Northolt, Middlesex	
Type of Flight:	Private	
Persons on Board:	Crew - 1	Passengers - 2
Injuries:	Crew - None	Passengers - None
Nature of Damage:	Impact damage to rotor tips	
Commander's Licence:	Commercial Pilot's Licence	
Commander's Age:	37 years	
Commander's Flying Experience:	2,099 hours (of which 162 were on type) Last 90 days - 22 hours Last 28 days - 1 hour	
Information Source:	Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot	

On arrival at the landing site, the passenger, who was a helicopter pilot, requested that the aircraft be landed on a path to avoid damaging a lawn, which was "boggy". He said that he had established on a previous visit that there was sufficient clearance from a line of trees to the north-west. The pilot agreed to the request and also judged that there would be sufficient clearance. However, the rotor blades clipped a small branch of one of the trees while the helicopter was manoeuvring

The pilot believed he had allowed himself to be persuaded to take an inappropriate course of action. He would not normally have landed so close to obstacles and, although he saw the trees, he did not see the overhanging branch, which was not in leaf.