

Aircraft type and registration: Aerospatial Gazelle SA 3419 G-SFTB (light single jet-engined helicopter)

Year of manufacture: 1975

Date and time (GMT): 9 November 1983 at 1205 hrs

Location: Talkin Tarn, 10 miles south east of Carlisle Airport

Type of flight: Training

Persons on board: Crew – 1 Passengers – Nil

Injuries: Crew – 1 (slight) Passengers – N/A

Nature of damage: The aircraft was destroyed

Commander's Licence: Private Pilot's Licences (Fixed Wing and Helicopters)

Commander's Age: 22 years

Commander's total flying experience: 205 hours (of which 75 hours were on type)

The pilot was a foreign military student undergoing an extended fixed and rotary wing flying course. He was briefed for a solo low level navigation exercise, transiting to and from the planned area at medium level. On completion of the exercise, the aircraft was seen to make three low passes over Talkin Tarn (lake). At the end of the third pass witnesses saw the aircraft pull up, apparently to avoid trees, before descending and striking the water in a level attitude. The aircraft broke up and was destroyed. The pilot suffered minor injuries, and was rescued by attendant fisherman. His individual course has since been terminated, and he has returned home.