

No: 6/87

Ref: 1c

Aircraft type and registration: Piper PA-28-140 G-BBLA

No & Type of engines: 1 Lycoming 0-320-E30 piston engine

Year of Manufacture: 1971

Date and time (UTC): 30 March 1987 at 1745 hrs

Location: RAF Woodvale

Type of flight: Training

Persons on board: Crew — 1 Passengers — None

Injuries: Crew — None Passengers — N/A

Nature of damage: Substantial — nose wheel separated

Commander's Licence: Student Pilot

Commander's Age: 40 years

Commander's Total Flying Experience: 34 hours (of which 30 were on type)

Information Source: Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot and AIB telephone enquiries.

After a number of circuits with an instructor the student pilot was sent solo. After 3 circuits and landings which were uneventful, the pilot reported that the aircraft pulled a little to the left on the fourth landing. During the fifth landing, the aircraft swung to the left and the nosewheel became detached, coming to rest some 50 yards ahead of where the aircraft stopped. The runway in use was 27 and the wind was reported as 270°, less than 5 knots.

Diagonal upper torso restraint was in use, and held during the accident sequence. The aircraft was substantially damaged but there was no fire.

To date, the maintenance organisation repairing the aircraft has found no apparent reason for the aircraft to yaw to the left.