

No: 5/89

Ref: EW/G89/01/16

Category: 1b

**Aircraft Type
and Registration:**

Cessna 404, G-EXEX

No & Type of Engines:

2 Continental Motors Corp GTSIO-520-M1 piston engines

Year of Manufacture:

1977

Date and Time (UTC):

27 January 1989 at 0035 hrs

Location:

Coventry Airport

Type of Flight:

Business

Persons on Board:

Crew - 1 Passengers - None

Injuries:

Crew - None Passengers - N/A

Nature of Damage:

Damage to nose skin, propellers and pitot tubes

Commander's Licence:

Commercial Pilot's Licence

Commander's Age:

24 years

**Commander's Total
Flying Experience:**

1159 hours (of which 17 were on type)

Information Source:

Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot and examination of nose landing gear actuator by AAIB.

The aircraft was established inbound to the Coventry beacon and the pilot checked that the landing gear down lights were illuminated during the pre-landing checks. The runway was acquired visually at approximately 1000 ft and a smooth touch-down achieved.

The landing roll was initially unremarkable, but the nose continued to lower beyond its normal position and the propellers touched the runway surface; the aircraft came to rest on the runway centreline.

The nose landing gear actuator, manufactured by Western Hydraulics, was examined by AAIB and showed the following defects:

No electrical continuity was found across the leads from the microswitch assembly irrespective of the position of the microswitch plunger. Internal examination showed that the two microswitches making up the assembly were serviceable, however damage to all the leads was observed at the point where they entered the base.

The 'O' ring seal under the lock piston had been cut and showed signs of having extruded.