

No: 11/92 **Ref: EW/G92/09/27** **Category: 2c**

Aircraft Type and Registration: Robinson R22 Beta, G-CPLI

No & Type of Engines: 1 Lycoming O-320-B2C piston engine

Year of Manufacture: 1991

Date & Time (UTC): 29 September 1992 at 1630 hrs

Location: Lashenden Airfield, Kent

Type of Flight: Private (training)

Persons on Board: Crew - 1 Passengers - None

Injuries: Crew - None Passengers - N/A

Nature of Damage: Major damage to main rotor blades and hub, tail rotor assembly, tail boom, gear box, rotor mast and controls

Commander's Licence: Student Pilot

Commander's Age: 31 years

Commander's Flying Experience: 64 hours (of which 38 were on type)
Last 90 days - 38 hours
Last 28 days - 10 hours

Information Source: Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot

The student pilot was engaged on his third supervised solo flight practising hovering. The weather was fine with calm conditions.

During take-off the aircraft yawed to the left. The pilot corrected the yaw with right pedal and raised the collective control in an attempt to stabilise in the hover. During this manoeuvre he inadvertently applied aft cyclic control. The aircraft drifted backwards contacting the ground with the rear of the skids. The aircraft continued to pivot about the skids allowing the tail rotor to strike the ground. This caused distortion of the tail boom which led eventually to the main rotor blades coming into ground contact. The engine stopped and, as the blades came to rest, the pilot, who was wearing a lap and diagonal seat belt, vacated the aircraft without injury.