

ACCIDENT

Aircraft Type and Registration:	Robinson R22 Beta, G-EFON
No & Type of Engines:	1 Lycoming O-360-J2A piston engine
Year of Manufacture:	2005 (Serial no: 3833)
Date & Time (UTC):	25 February 2016 at 1533 hrs
Location:	Retford Gamston Airport, Nottinghamshire
Type of Flight:	Training
Persons on Board:	Crew - 1 Passengers - None
Injuries:	Crew - None Passengers - N/A
Nature of Damage:	Tail rotor destroyed, damage to vertical fin and tail boom
Commander's Licence:	N/A (Student pilot)
Commander's Age:	27 years
Commander's Flying Experience:	57 hours (of which 57 were on type) Last 90 days - 11 hours Last 28 days - 8 hours
Information Source:	Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot

The student pilot was preparing to lift off for a solo flight. Having completed the magneto checks he increased the throttle but, as the governor engaged, the helicopter adopted a nose-high attitude and the tailskid and tail rotor struck the ground, crumpling the former and destroying both tail rotor blades. The helicopter rotated around the rear of the skids in a clockwise direction at least once before the pilot settled it back down onto its skids and shut down.

The pilot believes that he had inadvertently held aft cyclic stick and some raised collective input as the governor cut in and increased power, causing the helicopter to pitch up.