

INCIDENT

Aircraft Type and Registration: Boeing 737-400, G-OBMO
No & Type of Engines: 2 CFM 56-3 turbofan engines
Year of Manufacture: 1992
Date & Time (UTC): 12 March 1993 at 0650 hrs
Location: London Heathrow Airport
Type of Flight: Public Transport
Persons on Board: Crew - 6 Passengers - None
Injuries: Crew - None Passengers - N/A
Nature of Damage: Localised rear fuselage damage
Commander's Licence: N/A
Commander's Age: N/A
Commander's Flying Experience: N/A
Information Source: AAIB Field Investigation

The aircraft was parked on Stand B2 at Terminal 1, London Heathrow Airport, being prepared for passenger boarding for a scheduled service to Edinburgh. As the commander was carrying out an external inspection a Ford Transit Luton van belonging to the airline arrived at the aircraft with mail to be loaded into the rear freight bay. It was reversed back towards the right side of the rear fuselage, with a ramp agent near the rear of the vehicle on the right side and a loader on the left. As the rear of the van approached the fuselage the ramp agent signalled it to stop but noted that the driver was watching the loader on the other side. The loader reportedly signalled and/or shouted for the van to stop but it struck the fuselage side with the right rear upper corner of the roof, causing a puncture of the fuselage skin just above the cabin floor. The aircraft damage was localised, but indicative of a fairly forcible impact. The aircraft was removed from service for repair.