

No: 6/92

Ref: EW/G92/04/05

Category: 2c

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

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

Year of Manufacture: 1989

Date & Time (UTC): 8 April 1992 at 1315 hrs

Location: Leavesden Airport, Hertfordshire

Type of Flight: Private

Persons on Board: Crew - 1 Passengers - None

Injuries: Crew - None Passengers - N/A

Nature of Damage: Damage to skids, engine frame, mast, blades, gearbox and bulkhead

Commander's Licence: Private Pilot's Licence

Commander's Age: 40 years

Commander's Flying Experience: 282 hours (of which 16 were on type)

Information Source: Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot

The flight was the pilot's third observed solo flight. He was briefed to practice hovering, sideways and backwards movement and spot turns. The pilot stated that he completed his run up checks in accordance with the published checklist and then lifted the aircraft into the hover. He immediately noticed that the controls felt different and he put this down to the fact that he was solo instead of dual and that he was lifting off in a 10 kt tail-wind. The result was that he overcontrolled and lost control. The helicopter spun round as he moved forward and turned cross-wind when the rear left skid struck the ground heavily. The immediate landing was very firm but felt no more severe than one or two he had performed before. The pilot then shut down the engine at which point he was joined by a flying instructor who said that the cyclic friction had not been removed.