

No: 4/90

Ref: EW/G90/02/01

Category: 2c

Aircraft Type and Registration: Enstrom F28C, G-SHFF

No & Type of Engines: 1 Lycoming HIO-360-E1AD piston engine

Year of Manufacture: 1977

Date and Time (UTC): 10 February 1990 at 1525 hrs

Location: Barton Airfield, Manchester

Type of Flight: Private

Persons on Board: Crew - 1 Passengers - None

Injuries: Crew - None Passengers - N/A

Nature of Damage: Helicopter destroyed

Commander's Licence: Student Pilot

Commander's Age: 39 years

Commander's Total Flying Experience: 32 hours (all on type)

Information Source: Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot

A student, carrying out a solo flight, was briefed to carry out a flight of 3 circuits. The wind was 230°/15 kt and the helicopter lifted off to the hover and settled into wind. The pilot began a turn to the left in order to ensure that the area was clear behind him and had turned through about 40° when the wind suddenly veered some 60° and gusted to 30 kt.

The pilot stated that this caused the rate of turn to increase suddenly and so he put in right yaw pedal and lowered the collective lever. The helicopter hit the ground left skid first and rolled onto its left side.

The instructor, however, suggests that the wind gust probably put the helicopter in a state outside of the student's experience or ability and, consequently, it suddenly drifted sideways rather than increased its rate of yaw.