

No: 1/85

Ref: EW/G84/09/14

Aircraft type and registration: Bell 212 G-BLDY (heavy helicopter — public transport)

Year of Manufacture: 1978

Date and time (GMT): 29 September 1984 at 1215 hrs

Location: North Cormorant platform — North Sea

Type of flight: Commercial passenger and cargo

Persons on board: Crew — 1 Passengers — Nil

Injuries: Crew — Nil Passengers — N/A

Nature of damage: Dent in tail rotor drive shaft, and minor damage to tail rotor drive shaft cover.

Commander's Licence: Airline Transport Pilot's Licence

Commander's Age: 39 years

Commander's total flying experience: 3759 hours (of which 1143 were on type)

Information Source: Aircraft Accident Report form submitted by the pilot.

The helicopter had been landed and shut down on the North Cormorant platform, being positioned in the centre of the landing circle with the main rotor disc close to the edge of the helideck. The subsequent start-up was made with the aircraft facing into a steady 30 kt wind which the pilot, as a result of previous experience on other helidecks in stronger winds, considered would create no difficulties. A normal engine start was carried out but the main rotor struck the tail boom a glancing blow within one revolution.

The pilot considered that the rotor passed through updraughting air at the edge of the deck which was made worse by the fact that the space under the helideck was occupied by offices thus creating a vertical 'cliff' close to the windward edge of the deck.