

No: 1/93

Ref: EW/G92/11/04

Category: 1a

**Aircraft Type and Registration:** Fokker F27 Mark 100 Friendship, G-BLFJ

**No & Type of Engines:** 2 Rolls-Royce Dart 514-7 turboprop engines

**Year of Manufacture:** 1959

**Date & Time (UTC):** 6 November 1992 at 0744 hrs

**Location:** Teeside International Airport, County Durham

**Type of Flight:** Public Transport

**Persons on Board:** Crew - 4                      Passengers - 13

**Injuries:** Crew - None                      Passengers - None

**Nature of Damage:** Minor to fuselage skin

**Commander's Licence:** Airline Transport Pilot's Licence

**Commander's Age:** 52 years

**Commander's Flying Experience:** 6847 hours (of which 1164 were on type)  
Last 90 days - 194 hours  
Last 28 days - 68 hours

**Information Source:** Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot and further inquiries by the AAIB

Following engine start, a ground power unit (GPU) was being towed away from the aircraft when it became detached from its tug and struck the aircraft's rear fuselage. Subsequent examination of the pin used to attach the GPU to its tug, indicated that it was too short to ensure a reliable connection. The service company responsible for the operation of the GPU now use a pin of sufficient length together with a safety clip to ensure a reliable connection between the GPU and its tug.