



**AIR ACCIDENT
INVESTIGATION UNIT**

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PRELIMINARY ACCIDENT REPORT

This is preliminary information, subject to change, and may contain errors. Any errors in this Report will be corrected when the Final Report has been completed.

Report No:	2006-018
1. AIRCRAFT MANUFACTURER:	Pilatus Aircraft Ltd
Model:	B4-PC11 AF
State of Registry:	Ireland
Registration:	EI-121
Serial Number:	199
Year of Manufacture:	1976
2. OPERATOR:	Kilkenny Flying and Gliding Club.
3. TYPE OF OPERATION:	Private Flight.
4. DATE / TIME:	07 August 2006 @ 17:35 hrs
5. POSITION OF OCCURRENCE:	Adjacent Kilkenny Airfield.
6. PERSONS ON BOARD:	Crew: 1 Passengers: None
7. INJURIES:	Crew: 1 (Fatal) Passengers: None.
8. DAMAGE:	Aircraft destroyed.
9. INVESTIGATOR-IN-CHARGE:	Frank Russell.

The weather in the Kilkenny area was good, unrestricted visibility and little cloud. Some pilots reported strong thermal activity in the vicinity of the airfield. The members of the local Flying Club were taking full advantage of the good flying conditions on this August Bank Holiday Monday. The pilot, who was very experienced in both power and glider aircraft, had earlier that afternoon flown an MS 893 Rallye aircraft, which is the Club's glider towing aircraft. This was a routine towing flight. On his return, he had arranged to fly the Pilatus B4, a single seat glider, which had recently been issued with a Temporary Certificate of Airworthiness by the Irish Gliding and Soaring Association.

Again, the MS 893 was the towing aircraft and EI-121 was released, as briefed, at 2000 feet. The pilot had two-way communications with other airborne members of the Club in the Kilkenny area, and his well being was evidenced by an upbeat mobile phone call to his home. At the Airfield, his flight was observed by two Club members on the ground. Both recall his approaching the Airfield in a Southerly direction, at 90° to the 09 Runway. Having crossed the Airfield boundary, at approx 400 feet, both witnesses recall the glider adopting a sudden nose down attitude with wings level, as it continued down to impact the ground. The pilot received fatal injuries and the aircraft was destroyed. The Investigation is ongoing and a Final Report will be published in due course.

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