



**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:	2007-014
1. AIRCRAFT MANUFACTURER:	Cessna
Model:	C208B - Grand Caravan
State of Registry:	United States
Registration:	N208EC
Serial Number:	208B1153
Year of Manufacture:	2005
2. OPERATOR:	Private
3. TYPE OF OPERATION:	Private
4. DATE / TIME:	05 July 2007 @ 13:50 hrs UTC
5. POSITION OF OCCURRENCE:	Connemara Airport (Inverin), Co. Galway, Ireland
6. PERSONS ON BOARD:	Crew: 1 Passengers: 8
7. INJURIES:	Crew: 1 (fatal) Passengers: 1 (fatal) 7 (serious)
8. DAMAGE:	Aircraft destroyed
9. INVESTIGATOR-IN-CHARGE:	Mr. Paddy Judge

The private flight was organised by an acquaintance of the owner to demonstrate the capabilities of the Cessna Caravan to businessmen who were involved in setting up an airport and who might be interested in acquiring a similar model aircraft. The aircraft, flown as a single pilot operation, was returning to Inverin Airport (EICA) from Inis Meáin (EIMN), one of the Aran Islands in Galway Bay, with eight passengers on board.

At 13.50 hrs witnesses observed the aircraft approaching Inverin Airport at a low altitude. It struck a small outcrop, bounced and cartwheeled to the left. The left wing severed coming to rest on the right hand side of the fuselage. The engine detached and came to rest on the top of the right wing, which was still attached at the main spar point. There was no fire.

Witnesses reported the sounds of an engine increasing power shortly before impact.

Witnesses also reported weather conditions as overcast and dark. A complex weather system was transiting the area at the time. In addition, an aircraft passing to the south shortly afterwards reported poor visibility.

The flight was operating under Visual Flight Rules (VFR). Inverin Airport does not have navigation aids.

The aircraft, controls, systems and instrumentation are being examined by the AAIU. The power plant has been disassembled and no pre-impact damage was found. At this point no significant technical defects have been found, however, further investigation of the aircraft and systems is ongoing.

The Engine Monitoring Unit, an electronic device that records engine parameters, altitude and speed, was found in a damaged condition. However, data has since been recovered from the Unit and this is currently being evaluated by the AAIU.

The Investigation is ongoing and a Final Report will be published in due course.

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