



# CLERKSROOM DRONE GETS GREEN LIGHT

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**C**lerksroom will step up its drone tests in UK airspace after winning approval from the Government to lift strict flying restrictions in a major boost to its plans for unmanned brief delivery aircraft.

The Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) has granted the innovative chambers special permission to test its aerial vehicles without several of the rules that typically bind drone pilots.

The agreement will see Clerksroom move a step closer to fulfilling its dream of seeing fleets of drones delivering briefs and papers directly to Barristers within 30 minutes flight of their Stand HQ.

The tests, which are due to begin today, Saturday the 1st April 2017 are the most extensive trials of instruction drones for Barristers anywhere in the World. Clerksroom chambers have been developing the technology at a research and development base

in Taunton Somerset and is believed to be testing the aircraft in a rural location south west of Taunton as well as a number of other areas.

Clerksroom's agreement with the CAA grants it a series of concessions on drone flying rules. **Clerksroom will be able to operate its vehicles without a direct line of sight**, and will be able to trial "sense and avoid" technology that lets the drones automatically evade obstacles in the air.

Unlike other drone flights, which require a pilot to be in control of a drone at all times, Clerksroom will also be able to allow one pilot to control multiple autonomous vehicles. The restrictions are only being lifted in certain "controlled spaces" approved by the CAA.

The 1st planned tests starting today will trial **10am deliveries** direct to London courts within a **30 minute radius** and **2pm deliveries** for urgent matters such as injunction hearings.

**Abi Cox**, one of the diary clerks at Clerksroom overseeing the project

## DRONE TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS:

**Flight range:** 10 miles

**Maximum altitude:** 400 feet

**Estimated delivery time:**  
30 minutes

**Weight:** 55 pounds

**Maximum load:** 5 pounds

said "The current test vehicle, is able to take off and land vertically but fly like a plane to cover distances, can fly for 10 miles at an altitude of 400 feet and carry packages of up to 5lb, but much of its autonomous flying technology is yet to be fully tested."

Speaking on behalf of Clerksroom, **Barrister Barry Havenhand** said "It can be frustrating sometimes when you have to go via the office to collect papers for an urgent matter. Having the clerks send it to the court directly by drone will save valuable time".

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