

Drones & Airspace

Safety Issues

Press Coverage of Drone Incursions

- At least 10 European Countries (since Sept 25)
 - Belgium, Denmark, Estonia, France, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Poland, Romania
 - 90% recorded round airports
 - Discovered by pilots and ATC
 - Scandinavian airports: Copenhagen, Aalborg, Billund, Sonderborg, Esbjerg, Oslo
 - Airport shut downs
 - Suspected Russian (GERAN) drones

Genuine Threat

- Airlines UK Conference Monday 10 November 2025
- “*Entirely unrealistic [to think] drones won’t cause disruption...It’s not a question of if, only of when.*” Rob Bishton, CE CAA
- Thomas Woldbye, CE HAL “*increasingly concerned*”

What are the safety strategies?

- Impact of shut downs and restarts on communities?
- Expansion c 2000+ (700 more) AMs per day
- Rules around backlog clearing?
- Airspace modernisation includes facility for ‘friendly’ drones & flying taxis
- How to tell friend from foe?
- Buffer zone: will some postcodes around airport never have drone deliveries?
- How police?

CAP 3157 Proposal 17 BVLOS Beyond Visual Line of Sight

- Drone operators define where they want to fly using SORA*
- CAA produces airspace structure (sectors) – their only input
- Drone operators licenced to fly BVLOS drones outside controlled airspace in these sectors
 - Below 500ft
 - 24 hours in any 7 days (same sector can be used every 28 days)
 - 8am – 8pm
- ATC & CAA not involved day to day
- ‘Limited engagement’ with aviation stakeholders, not Joe Public?

*SORA = Specific Operations Risk Assessment