
Judges embrace 'i-trials'

Judges will use iPads and laptops today in the first "digital" hearings to take place in the Court of Appeal in a modernisation drive backed by the Lord Chief Justice.

The move is part of a nationwide plan to bring in paperless trials, ending the tradition of clerks carrying stacks of pink-taped bundles. Lord Thomas, the Lord Chief Justice and the most senior judge in England and Wales, has told lawyers that in the present climate courts have to change.

"We simply cannot go on as before," he said. "It is essential that new ideas are considered. Cheaper does not have to mean weaker." Judges had to embrace change and courts needed to be speedier.
