

WIAL 1 Obstacle Limitation Surface Annual Summary – 2025/26

2025/26 at a glance

✅ 7 approvals | 🕒 2.2 working days | 📍 Inner Horizontal OLS | ❌ 0 declined | 🔄 No changes required

What is this about?

Wellington Airport has an airspace **Obstacle Limitation Surface (OLS)** designation, known as **WIAL 1**, in the Wellington City Council District Plan.

The OLS protects airspace around the airport by limiting building heights in certain areas to ensure aircraft safety.

Each year, WIAL reports publicly on:

- Requests for written approval where a proposal extends into the OLS; and
- Whether the designation should be reviewed or changed.

Written approvals – 2025/26

Reporting period: 1 April 2025 – 31 March 2026

During the year:

- 7 written approval requests were received
- All requests were approved
- All related to the Inner Horizontal OLS
- Average processing time: 2.2 working days

After the designation was confirmed in September 2025, all approvals were processed within one working day.

What kinds of developments were involved?

Requests related to standard residential and infrastructure proposals, including:

- New dwellings and second dwellings
- Multi-unit housing
- Telecommunications equipment on existing buildings

No applications were declined.

What impact is the OLS having on the community?

WIAL reviews each year whether the OLS creates disproportionate impacts on surrounding communities.

Based on this year's data:

- Only a small number of properties required written approval
- Processing times were quick and predictable
- There is no evidence of unreasonable delays or barriers to development

Has technology changed the need for the OLS?

WIAL also considers whether advances in technology allow the OLS to be reduced or changed.

At this time:

- No relevant technological advances have been identified that would allow the OLS to be safely altered.

Conclusion

For the 2025/26 financial year:

- The OLS approval process worked efficiently
- Community impacts were minimal
- There is no need to change the WIAL 1 designation at this time

More information

A detailed technical report is available on request.

For enquiries about the OLS, visit <https://www.wellingtonairport.co.nz/community-hub/planning-designations/obstacle-limitation-surface-designation/>