

From: [Kenny Rees](#)
To: [Simon Mollart](#)
Cc: [Claire Matheson](#)
Subject: Fw: Helium - MRI (FOR FOI)
Date: 03 August 2026 12:18:22
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

SG Waiting Times team re helium supply

From: [REDACTED]@gov.scot> on behalf of [REDACTED]@gov.scot>
Sent: Friday, March 20, 2026 10:36
To: Kenny Rees [REDACTED]@nhs.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot>; Michael Conroy [REDACTED]@nhs.scot>; Gordon Beattie [REDACTED]@nhs.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot>
Cc: Kris Lindsay [REDACTED]@nhs.scot>; [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Helium - MRI

Thanks Kenny

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Planned Care Waiting Times

From: Kenny Rees [REDACTED]@nhs.scot>
Sent: 20 March 2026 10:24
To: Waiting Times PMO [REDACTED]@gov.scot>; Michael Conroy [REDACTED]@nhs.scot>; Gordon Beattie [REDACTED]@nhs.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot>
Cc: Kris Lindsay [REDACTED]@nhs.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot>
Subject: Re: Helium - MRI

Hello [REDACTED] we will continue to closely monitor the situation via regular contact with our suppliers, including exploring their contingency plans and will act accordingly as the situation evolves.

Thanks
Kenny

From: [REDACTED]@gov.scot> on behalf of [REDACTED]@gov.scot>
Sent: Friday, March 20, 2026 09:56
To: Kenny Rees [REDACTED]@nhs.scot>; Michael Conroy [REDACTED]@nhs.scot>; Gordon Beattie [REDACTED]@nhs.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot>
Cc: Kris Lindsay [REDACTED]@nhs.scot>; [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: Helium - MRI

Thanks all, is it your intention to have a contingency plan (or is there one already in existence) should the worst-case scenario occur and supplies are affected/ stopped?

Regards,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Planned Care Waiting Times

From: Kenny Rees [REDACTED]@nhs.scot>

Sent: 19 March 2026 14:15

To: Michael Conroy [REDACTED]@nhs.scot>; Gordon Beattie

[REDACTED]@nhs.scot>; Waiting Times PMO [REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]@gov.scot>

Cc: Kris Lindsay [REDACTED]@nhs.scot>; [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]@gov.scot>

Subject: Re: Helium - MRI

Will do, thanks

Sent from [Outlook for Android](#)

From: [REDACTED]@gov.scot>

Sent: Thursday, March 19, 2026 1:47:25 PM

To: Michael Conroy [REDACTED]@nhs.scot>; Kenny Rees [REDACTED]@nhs.scot>; Gordon Beattie <[REDACTED]@nhs.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot>

Cc: Kris Lindsay [REDACTED]@nhs.scot>;

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: Helium - MRI

Thanks all

Really helpful updates. If you can let us know once you have update on supply statement from suppliers for info.

[REDACTED]

From: Michael Conroy [REDACTED]@nhs.scot>

Sent: 19 March 2026 13:00

To: Kenny Rees [REDACTED]@nhs.scot>; Gordon Beattie <[REDACTED]@nhs.scot>; Waiting Times PMO [REDACTED]@gov.scot>

Cc: [REDACTED]@gov.scot>; Kris Lindsay [REDACTED]@nhs.scot>

Subject: Re: Helium - MRI

Worth noting that Siemens have the biggest inventory in Scotland, followed by Phillips, GE and United Imaging. Siemens are around 60% coverage

M

From: Kenny Rees [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@nhs.scot>
Sent: 19 March 2026 12:57
To: Gordon Beattie [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@nhs.scot>; Michael Conroy [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@nhs.scot>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>
Cc: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>; Kris Lindsay [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@nhs.scot>
Subject: Re: Helium - MRI

Just sent this minute Gordon.

Cheers
Kenny

From: Gordon Beattie [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@nhs.scot>
Sent: Thursday, March 19, 2026 12:57
To: Michael Conroy [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@nhs.scot>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>; Kenny Rees [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@nhs.scot>
Cc: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>; Kris Lindsay [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@nhs.scot>
Subject: RE: Helium - MRI

Thanks Mike.

Kenny, can we get a supply statement from the inclusive contract supplier on security of Helium supplies and locally held stock levels. Thanks

Best Regards

Gordon

Gordon Beattie
Director of National Procurement,
NHS National Services Scotland

M: [REDACTED]

E: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@nhs.scot>



From: Michael Conroy <[REDACTED]@nhs.scot>
Sent: 19 March 2026 12:52
To: Gordon Beattie [REDACTED]@nhs.scot>; [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]@gov.scot>; Kenny Rees [REDACTED]@nhs.scot>
Cc: [REDACTED]@gov.scot>; Kris Lindsay [REDACTED]@nhs.scot>
Subject: Re: Helium - MRI

Morning All,

For the majority of MRI scanners in Scotland, they require Helium to operate (46 MRI), more modern system are helium free (3 - but they still have around 7-10L).

The Helium filled magnets require around 1200 Litres of helium and dependant on age and technology over time this helium burns off and needs replenishing. At times the systems quench where most of the helium needs replacing.

Within Scotland all MRI scanners are on a Fully inclusive contract including Cryogenes (Helium). Albeit that some have upper limits on amounts.

This means if the scanner due to wear and tear needs a top up of Helium this would be done as part of the service contract. If the loss of Helium was caused by the customer due to a power loss etc - The cost s would be borne by ourselves.

It is very rare that we have to pay for Helium outwith contracts but does happen. In general most Boards work with supplier to top MRIs up to be in line with servicing requirements.

However, at times when selling these assets at end of life I have gone direct to Air Liquid to get them to top up the MRI before transporting as its cheaper.

There is usually helium in Scotland and the contracts in the main are managed by radiology departments not estates.

Hope that helps

Mike

From: Gordon Beattie [REDACTED]@nhs.scot>
Sent: 19 March 2026 11:52
To: [REDACTED]@gov.scot>; Michael Conroy
[REDACTED]@nhs.scot>; Kenny Rees [REDACTED]@nhs.scot>
Cc: [REDACTED]@gov.scot>; Kris Lindsay [REDACTED]@nhs.scot>
Subject: RE: Helium - MRI

Hi [REDACTED]

I've copied in Mike Conroy and Kenny Rees who will be able to advise.

Also cc'd Kris Lindsay for awareness as we mentioned this earlier.

Best Regards

Gordon

Gordon Beattie
Director of National Procurement,
NHS National Services Scotland

M: [REDACTED]

E: [REDACTED]@nhs.scot



From: [REDACTED]@gov.scot> On Behalf Of
[REDACTED]@gov.scot
Sent: 19 March 2026 11:39
To: Gordon Beattie [REDACTED]@nhs.scot>
Cc: [REDACTED]@gov.scot>
Subject: Helium - MRI

You don't often get email from [REDACTED]@gov.scot. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Gordon,

Hope this email finds you well. I am writing to you on behalf of the Planned Care Team, Scottish Government in relation to Helium supply from Qatar. What we are trying to understand is how it is used in MRI scanners, is it something that needs topped up, how often and do Scotland hold stockpiles?

Grateful if you can provide some clarity.

Many thanks,

[REDACTED]
Planned Care Waiting Times

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