

From: [Kris Lindsay](#)
To: [Melinda Keir](#); [Simon Mollart](#)
Cc: [PSD Planning](#)
Subject: Re: Helium supply query
Date: 20 April 2026 11:18:37
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Hi

A weekly SITREP is provided to SG colleagues (Chris Taylor and Michael Heally) around supplier and commercial issues arising from the on-going conflict in the Middle East.

In relation to the Helium the current high level situation is as below -

'Helium supply risk previously highlighted remains, with Qatar accounting for one third of global helium production. Again, whilst the UK does not directly source helium from Qatar, there is potential for indirect global market pressure should disruption persist. The primary NHSS dependency is helium for MRI scanners; other medical uses are limited and specialist. Suppliers continue to indicate no immediate risk to supply in UK, with reserves in place.'

KR

Kris Lindsay

**Head of Strategic Sourcing & Commercial | National Procurement
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From: Melinda Keir [REDACTED]@nhs.scot>
Sent: Monday, April 20, 2026 11:04
To: Kris Lindsay [REDACTED]@nhs.scot>; Simon Mollart [REDACTED]@nhs.scot>
Cc: nss planning [REDACTED]@nhs.scot>
Subject: FW: Helium supply query

Hi Kris and Simon

See the below can you advise who is best placed to respond?

Regards Mel

Melinda Keir

Development Services Manager | Public Services Delivery Scotland

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From: nss planning [REDACTED]@nhs.scot>

Sent: 20 April 2026 10:51

To: Melinda Keir <[REDACTED]@nhs.scot>

Subject: FW: Helium supply query

Hi Mel,

Please see the below request from SG: are you able to raise with NP please?

Thanks,

Colin

Colin Kelly

Planning & Performance Manager | Public Services Delivery Scotland

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[Chat with me on Teams](#)

He/Him

From: [REDACTED]@gov.scot>

Sent: 20 April 2026 10:32

To: nss planning [REDACTED]@nhs.scot>

Cc: P [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot>

Subject: Helium supply query

Morning,

Hope you could help me with a query – SG's correspondence unit is trying to place a ministerial response relating to a query around NHSScotland's helium supply.

Details are:

- RE: the global helium shortage resulting from the conflict in Iran and its potential impact on healthcare services in Scotland.

The conflict has caused severe disruption to global helium supply.

Prices have more than doubled on the open market. **As helium has no viable substitute in**

many critical applications, including cooling the superconducting magnets in MRI scanners, a sustained shortage risks delaying diagnoses and treatment for patients in Scotland, as well as disrupting semiconductor supply chains and research facilities.

Health authorities in Canada have already been warned of a 50% reduction in helium allocations, and I am concerned similar pressures may soon affect NHS Scotland.

Can the Scottish Government could set out what assessment has been made of current helium stocks, **what contingency planning is in place to protect MRI and other helium-dependent services, and whether the the government is engaging with industry to secure alternative supply or prioritise healthcare allocations.**

They've asked whether this would sit with the PSDS sponsorship team (we would be reliant on lines from National Procurement if so). Unhelpfully, I quite genuinely do not know.

Can I check whether **your assessment is that this sits with NP? If so, do they have a policy team liaison within SG that would be a more appropriate contact on this?**

Sorry not to come to NP directly – I couldn't get access to the portal this morning.

[REDACTED]

PSD Scotland Senior Sponsorship Manager
Health Finance, Directorate for Health and Social Care
Scottish Government

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