

# Written Ministerial Statement

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## Department of Health

### WRITTEN STATEMENT TO THE ASSEMBLY BY HEALTH MINISTER MIKE NESBITT: 29 NOVEMBER 2024 – RADIOISOTOPES SHORTAGE

*Published at 4.15pm on Friday 29 November 2024*

**Mr Nesbitt (The Minister of Health):** I am writing to provide an update to Members that the temporary reduction in the production of radioisotopes has been resolved and that the supply of affected radioisotopes has returned to normal.

My Department has worked closely throughout the shortage with the Department of Health and Social Care, which leads on the maintenance of medicines supply chains to the UK, as well as suppliers, clinical experts and HSC providers to develop and implement mitigations aimed at making the best use of available stock and ensuring critical patients were prioritised.

I am thankful for the collaborative approach that was taken by all parts of the system in helping to manage the unique challenges presented by this radioisotope shortage, which ensured fair and equitable access for patients across the UK.

Throughout this time, HSC providers worked to mitigate the impact on patients as far as possible, with alternative scanning offered, where appropriate.

I appreciate how difficult this issue has been for patients, and I am pleased to note that production from the affected reactors recommenced ahead of schedule, and supplies have now resumed. All HSC Trusts are actively working to ensure that patients impacted by this issue receive a rescheduled appointment as soon as possible, where this is still required, whilst continuing to ensure patients with the most critical needs are prioritised.