

North Sea Reporter

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NSTA urges more well interventions in effort to improve output efficiency

The North Sea Transition Authority (NSTA) is urging operators to increase the number of well interventions they carry out as part of efforts to boost the efficiency of production in UK waters.

The offshore regulator, in a statement yesterday (Tuesday), said its UKCS 2025 *Wells Insight Report* showed that well interventions contributed more than a month's supply last year despite activity being lower.

The report said that the number of well interventions on the UKCS fell to 425 in 2024 from 443 in 2023. However, it argued the interventions that were carried out last year proved their worth by delivering around 37.5 million barrels of oil equivalent, equating to 34 days of average UK production.

The NSTA reported that the efficiency of well intervention work improved last year, with costs dropping to £9.60 (\$12.77) per boe produced from £11 in 2023. The authority emphasised the benefits of well interventions in slowing production decline from assets and potentially allowing them to operate more efficiently for longer. It said they are "cheaper, quicker and produce fewer emissions than drilling new wells".

In addition, the NSTA spoke of interventions providing work for supply chain companies, encouraging them to keep vessels in the North Sea region so that there is enough capacity for future work.

The report points out that 30% of the UK's well stock was shut in last year and while acknowledging that decommissioning is the next step for many of those wells, a "significant" number could be reactivated. "Without investment, they will be lost permanently, along with domestic reserves and resources," the report said.

The regulator explained that since early-2024 it has "proactively engaged with eight leading operators to promote interventions and help them identify about 200 shut-in wells which could be reactivated". (Continued on page 2)