

## **FOI 087 2025 Response**

### **Request**

#### **1. Clinical & Treatment Metrics**

- Annual number of short arm casts applied
- Breakdown by clinical indication (e.g. distal radius, scaphoid fractures, soft tissue injuries)
- Average duration of immobilisation
- Refracture or re-casting rate within 6–12 weeks
- Complication rates (e.g. skin breakdown, pressure sores, compartment syndrome)
- Follow-up appointment frequency (for cast checks/removal)
- Percentage of patients requiring imaging during or after casting

#### **2. Economic Metrics**

- Average cost per short arm cast treatment (including materials, labour, appointments)
- Cost comparison between plaster and fibreglass casts
- Staff time allocation per cast application (by professional category)
- Number of casts outsourced to private providers (if applicable)
- Costs associated with cast-related complications or unplanned re-interventions

#### **3. Operational & Workforce Metrics**

- Average staff time required for short arm cast application
- Number of certified staff per site qualified to apply/remove short arm casts
- Backlog or average wait times for fracture clinic appointments involving casting
- Local variation or standardisation in casting practices

#### **4. Patient Outcomes / Experience**

- Patient satisfaction scores related to short arm casts (comfort, weight, duration)
- Compliance rates (e.g. early removal, misuse)
- Patient-reported issues (e.g. hygiene difficulties, discomfort, lifestyle interference)
- Average recovery time (e.g. return to work or function)

## 5. Replacement & Reuse Metrics\*

- Percentage of casts requiring unplanned replacement
- Early cast removals due to complications or discomfort
- Policy or practice on reusability of casting materials

## 6. Procurement & Usage

- Annual volume of short arm casting materials purchased
- Types of materials used (e.g. fibreglass, plaster of Paris, thermoformable)
- Approved suppliers and average price per unit
- Stock turnover rates or average inventory for casting materials

## 7. Advanced Clinical & Pathway Metrics

- Demographic breakdown of patients receiving short arm casts (e.g. age, gender)
- Setting of injury management (A&E, outpatient, GP referral)
- Percentage of patients transitioning to splints post-casting
- Rate of physiotherapy referrals following short arm casting
- Average number of radiographic controls per patient
- Time from injury to definitive immobilisation
- Cast failure rates requiring re-casting

## 8. Financial & Procurement Insights

- Total annual spend on casting materials
- Breakdown of cost components (materials, staff, imaging, etc.)
- Comparison of in-house vs. outsourced casting costs
- Budget caps or cost thresholds for orthopaedic consumables
- Contract duration and renewal cycles for casting supplies
- Tender evaluation criteria for casting materials
- Frequency of backorders or stock shortages
- Criteria for adopting new immobilisation technologies

- Barriers to adoption of new casting products (if recorded)

**Response**

Please note that Birmingham and Solihull Mental Health Foundation Trust explicitly provide mental health services and do not provide physical healthcare like an Acute Trust.

Your request for information is therefore not applicable to the Trust.