**Getting to know Barry McInerney**

Barry McInerney works as Head of Disease Surveillance & Investigation branch and is based at our AFBI Stormont site, we find out more about Barry and his interests inside and outside of work.

**![A person with his arms crossed

Description automatically generated with medium confidence]()Hi Barry. Tell us a bit about yourself.** I grew up on a small dairy farm in County Clare. I studied Veterinary Medicine in UCD. I worked in a large animal veterinary practice for 10 years. I returned to academia before joining the veterinary pharmaceutical industry in 2011.

**What attracted you to work for AFBI?** Working for AFBI, I get to work at the cutting edge of disease surveillance and science, in a time where this type of work was never so important, which also includes emergency response to significant disease risks such as Avian Influenza.

**Tell us about your career with AFBI.**  I’ve joined AFBI in 2018. I get to work with stakeholders and experts within AFBI, as well as across the UK and Ireland in my field of veterinary sciences and disease, all working to the common aim to protect the health of the national herd supporting the Agri Food industry, which is worth approx. 1.6 billion annually to the economy in NI. The flexibility of working for AFBI also allows me to achieve a good work life balance to ensure I get to enjoy downtime pursuing interests outside of work, which is such an important aspect of my life and my health

**What are you passionate about outside of work?** I’m passionate about being active, I love all sports, particularly enjoy running, football, cycling and I’m heavily involved in the sport my children partake in. I enjoy downtime when the chance comes around and enjoy watching films, listening to music, and reading.