**Getting to know Karina O’Neill**

Karina O’Neill works in AFBI’s Grassland and Plant Sciences Branch in Belfast. Here, we find out more about Karina and her interests inside and outside of work.

**Hi Karina. Tell us a bit about yourself.** My name is Karina O’Neill and I have worked at Newforge, as a SGB2, for fifteen years in Crop Pathology.

**Tell us about your career with AFBI.** I started working for AFBI in 2007. My main role is to carryout statutory testing of bacterial and viral pathogens that infect potatoes following EPPO standards. A typical day can be preparing buffers for the week ahead. Also, it can involve performing the relevant testing and general housekeeping of the lab.

**Can you tell me an interesting fact about your job?** I enjoy finding work that interests and challenges me as I am very driven, and I like to take pride in everything I do. Also, I find it more interesting having a variety of tasks to do. At the moment we have quite a number of new people in our branch and as I am a people person, I enjoy getting to know them and consequently building working relationships with them.

**What are you passionate about outside of work?** I enjoy spending time with my family, especially my daughter, as we both love to go to the park for walks and then maybe get a takeaway for tea, which is safer than eating a meal prepared by myself! I am also very interested in fashion always keeping myself updated on the latest trends.