



afbi

**AGRI-FOOD
& BIOSCIENCES
INSTITUTE**

HSP-AFBI-1.1 Corporate
Health and Safety Policy –
Statement of Intent
V3.0, December 2019



CORPORATE HEALTH & SAFETY POLICY: STATEMENT OF INTENT

Reference:	HSP-AFBI-1.1
Board Approval:	09/12/2019
Version:	3.0
Author:	AFBI Health and Safety Unit

Amendment History

Date	Vers. No	Section	Details of amendment
01.10.18	2.0	N/A	Unchanged – addition of signature of new AFBI Chief Executive Officer.
09.12.19	3.0	All	Annual review – minor amendments and re-approval by AFBI Board.

AFBI CORPORATE HEALTH AND SAFETY POLICY – STATEMENT OF INTENT

0.0 Introduction

The Agri-Food and Biosciences Institute (AFBI) is an executive Non-Departmental Public Body (NDPB) sponsored by the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA). It is responsible for the provision of statutory and scientific programmes in the areas of agri-food, animal and plant health, fisheries and the environment, providing access to specialist expertise and providing facilities to industry and public sector bodies for contracted scientific services.

The Institute is governed by an independent Board and operational responsibility for its activities rests with its Chief Executive Officer. It consists of two science divisions, Sustainable Agri-Food Sciences Division (SAFSD) and Veterinary Sciences Division (VSD), which are supported by the Finance and Corporate Affairs Division.

AFBI is located at seven sites across Northern Ireland (see diagram below), these being at Newforge Lane, Belfast (1); Stoney Road, Belfast (2); Crossnacreevy (3); Hillsborough (4); Loughgall (5); Omagh (6) and Bushmills (7); and a sea going research vessel (8). The estate is comprised of 406 ha of land, a wide range of office, specialist laboratory, and research farm accommodation.



AFBI CORPORATE HEALTH AND SAFETY POLICY – STATEMENT OF INTENT

1.1 General Statement of Intent

The Agri-Food & Biosciences Institute (AFBI) is a non-departmental public body (NDPB) of Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA). In using scientific excellence to advance the local and global agri-food sector, AFBI delivers high technology research and development, statutory, analytical, and diagnostic testing functions whilst committing to ensuring, so far as is reasonably practicable, the health, safety and welfare of its staff and others through:

- Fostering a positive, proactive, health and safety culture throughout the organisation, with effective leadership from management level.
- Identifying and eliminating hazards, assessing and effectively controlling risks.
- Compliance with all relevant legal and other requirements, including relevant Approved Codes of Practice and industry best practice.
- Setting health and safety objectives and ensure that goals are met. These shall have equal priority with wider business objectives.
- Providing a safe and healthy place of work with the aim of prevention of work-related injuries **and** ill health. This shall include across our diverse range of sites and activities:
 - Safe plant, equipment and systems of work.
 - Facilities and arrangements that are adequate for the welfare of staff and others.
 - Arrangements for the safe use, handling, storage and transport of articles, materials and substances (including hazardous substances and biohazards).
- Provision of suitable information, instruction, training and supervision to provide staff with competence to avoid hazards and contribute positively to their own health and safety.
- Employing competent Health & Safety Advisers (including specialist biological safety advice) to give guidance and assistance on health and safety matters, and in the implementation of this Policy.
- Establish effective lines of communication, consultation and, as appropriate, active participation of the workforce (and their Health & Safety Representatives/Representatives of Employee Safety) on matters of health and safety.
- Establish and maintain a Health & Safety Committee structure and to actively encourage consultation between Management, Trades Union Health & Safety Representatives and other employees and to assist in the implementation of the Health & Safety Policy.
- Health and Safety arrangements shall be adequately resourced.
- Monitor and ensure compliance with the Health & Safety Policy, with the aim of achieving continuous improvement of health and safety performance (tracked against suitable performance metrics) to fulfil AFBI's obligations as a responsible employer and service provider.
- Review the Health & Safety Policy on an annual basis and bring any changes deemed necessary to the attention of staff and others. This Policy was approved on 09 December 2019 by the Board by:



Chief Executive Officer



Chair of AFBI Board