

Registered company number

5525160



GM Freeze

Report and Accounts

31 March 2016

GM Freeze
Company Information

A company limited by guarantee, incorporated August 2005.

Directors

Helena Paul - resigned 23 July 2015
Bruce Pearce - Treasurer
Clare Coatman - Chair
Peter Lundgren - resigned 13 October 2015
Jane O'Meara
Louise Payton
Ricarda Steinbrecher
Lawrence Woodward

Secretary

Liz O'Neill

Accountants

Slade and Cooper Limited
Green Fish Resource Centre
46-50 Oldham Street
Manchester
M4 1LE

Bankers

The Co-operative Bank plc
PO Box 250
Skelmersdale
WN8 6WT

Registered office

50 South Yorkshire Buildings
Silkstone Common
Barnsley
S75 4RJ

Registered number

5525160

GM Freeze
Registered number: 5525160
Directors' Report

The directors present their report and accounts for the year ended 31 March 2016.

Principal activities

The objects of the company are to maintain a national moratorium on GM foods, the growing of GM crops for any purpose and on patents on genetic resources used in agriculture and food production to benefit the members of the community, farmers, and the environment.

Directors

The following persons served as directors during the year:

Clare Coatman

Peter Lundgren

Jane O'Meara

Louise Payton

Bruce Pearce

Ricarda Steinbrecher

Lawrence Woodward

Helena Paul

Co-opted (Chair)

PC & RA Lundgren (resigned October 2015)

GM-Free Dorset

Soil Association

Organic Research Centre (Treasurer)

EcoNexus

Whole Earth Plus/GM Education

EcoNexus (resigned 23 July 2015)

GM food and farming in 2015/16

This has been a year of potentially seismic change in the status of genetic modification within UK food and farming, but the full implications of political developments are still unknown and difficult to predict.

By the deadline of 3 October 2015, seventeen EU member states and four regions that have the status of "competent authority" for agriculture applied for "[restrictions of geographical scope of GMO applications/authorisations](#)" against all GM crops that were at the time either authorised for cultivation in the EU, or in the pipeline for such authorisation. All applications were accepted so these states and regions have now "opted out" of growing these specific GM crops, regardless of whether or not they are authorised for cultivation within the EU.

Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales, whose devolved administrations have competence for agriculture, all chose to opt out, with the Scottish Government announcing this as a ban on GM. The UK Government, however, remains strongly supportive of GM and the opt-outs could make the cultivation of GM crops in England more likely. This is because countries which have established a de-facto ban at home may no longer oppose the authorisation of particular GM crops. At the time of writing we are still waiting to see how the opted-out countries will vote in such circumstances.

Rothamsted Research downplayed the [disastrous results of their controversial GM "whiffy" wheat trial](#), which failed to deter pests, as widely predicted by campaigners (including GM Freeze) when the trial was first proposed. However, while media coverage of the failed trial was extensive, the overall tone of media debate throughout the year has been strongly pro-GM. For example, BBC1's flagship *Panorama* strand broadcast an edition entitled "GM Food: Cultivating Fear" which led to a significant number of complaints.

Newer forms of genetic engineering have been relentlessly promoted throughout the past year, collectively branded "New Plant Breeding Techniques" by the biotech industry. Those promoting such techniques claim they are not GM because they do not involve the insertion of DNA from an unrelated species, but they all do involve changing a plant's DNA in the lab. They share many of the same problems as older GM techniques and bring new ones of their own. The European Commission has repeatedly delayed issuing a ruling on the legal status of a group of seven techniques and GM Freeze continues to encourage anyone concerned about the issue to [write to the Commission](#).

Two applications for new open air trials of GM crops were made in February 2016: a new trial of blight resistant potatoes at the Sainsbury's Laboratory and an extension of the "fish oil" camelina trials at Rothamsted Research. Both were granted permission in April.

Clear role for GM Freeze

Work to deliver a new GM Freeze five-year business plan began in earnest in April 2015. Working towards the aims identified in our [Strategic Plan 2015-2020](#), everything we do is focused on helping to create a world in which our food is produced responsibly, fairly and sustainably.

GM Freeze remains an umbrella group and our membership encompasses a wide range of organisations from large NGOs to small family farmers; from retailers to groups of grassroots activists. Our role is to consider and raise the profile of concerns about the impact of genetic modification. We inform, inspire, represent and support those who share our concerns. We campaign for a moratorium on GM food and farming in the UK and we oppose the patenting of genetic resources.

The nature of our cause is such that we cannot plan every aspect of our work. We must retain a strong capacity for reactive work, responding to threats as they emerge and supporting others to do the same. However, at the same time we need a strong programme of planned, proactive project work. This year, that project work has focused in particular on the GM that is already present in the UK.

Project work: Grassroots Resources and Feed the Facts

Thanks to a grant of £6,995 from the Network for Social Change Charitable Trust, and another of £12,000 from the Polden-Puckham Charitable Trust, we began a three-year programme of work to:

- raise the profile of core environmental and ethical concerns about GM
- highlight the extensive use of GM in farm animal feed
- generate consumer pressure for change

This year we produced three new leaflets: [What is GM and why does it matter?](#), [Feed: the hidden GM on your plate](#) and [GM in your shopping basket?](#). Over 10,000 copies of *What is GM and why does it matter?* and over 7,000 copies of *Feed: the hidden GM on your plate* were distributed during 2015/6.

Campaigners told us that they are often challenged about the fine detail so we published fully referenced versions of each leaflet [on our website](#). We dedicated significant staff time throughout the year to actively promoting all three leaflets through social and traditional media, grassroots and other networks.

We also re-focused parts of our website to highlight core environmental and ethical concerns about GM. We also worked with grassroots campaigners to help them campaign more effectively on the hidden use of GM cooking oil in catering establishments, by creating of a flexible resource that can be adapted to each group's local circumstances.

We created new web pages specifically focused on [GM Animal Feed](#). We built messages about the prevalence of GM animal feed into press releases, interviews, comments and social media throughout the year.

We identified a "long list" of potential targets for consumer pressure over the issue of GM animal feed and worked with potential partners, including GM Freeze member organisations and key grassroots activists, to narrow that list down to a smaller number which we then approached directly to find out more about their policies and plans relating to GM animal feed.

Our regularly updated [webpage listing GM and non-GM-fed supermarket meat, eggs and dairy products](#) is the single most popular page on our website.

Other work to support our strategic aims

1 Protecting people's right to grow and eat GM Free

A members' workshop after the 2015 AGM explored various scenarios under which GM crops might be cultivated at a commercial scale in the UK. This process has proved very useful in plotting out the different ways in which GM could end up in our fields and different ways we could respond to each.

This remains an ongoing area of work with regular reviews and discussion with like-minded organisations to build shared understanding and our ability to respond quickly to new developments.

2 Raising awareness of the presence of GM in the UK and supporting people's right to avoid it

We boosted our online register of GM products spotted for sale in the UK, at www.gmfreeze.org/shopping and worked particularly to highlight the sale of GM pizza bases at Domino's, which have now been withdrawn.

3 Understanding and communicating concerns about GM

Incremental work has gone on throughout the year to improve the ways in which our website, www.gmfreeze.org presents the case for a freeze on GM. However, progress was limited by technical problems and we decided during this year that we really need to start again with a new content management system, as discussed below.

GM Freeze Director Liz O'Neill was interviewed on *Panorama*, BBC Radio 4's *PM* and *Farming Today* programmes, BBC 5 Live, ITV news, LBC and BBC One's *Tomorrow's Food* this year. Comments from GM Freeze also featured in a wide range of print media, including the Mirror, Telegraph, Daily Mail, Observer, Scotsman, Express and Financial Times; trade and specialist publications including The Grocer, Ethical Consumer, New Internationalist and Feed Navigator; local and regional media across the country.

GM Freeze staff members spoke at the London March Against Monsanto, a British Science Association debate, Friends of the Earth's activist Base Camp, the Oxford Real Farming Conference and smaller local events around the country.

4 Representing the evidence-based case against GM

In October GM Freeze submitted evidence to [the Food Standards Agency's consultation on proposals to allow EU nations to opt-out of GM food and feed import authorisations](#).

In February we submitted [evidence to the Nuffield Council on Bioethics](#) on the subject of Genome Editing.

In March we submitted [an objection to Rothamsted Research's new GM camelina trial](#) on behalf of 21 organisations and [an objection to the Sainsbury's Lab's proposed trial of GM blight-resistant potatoes](#) on behalf of 22 organisations

We worked throughout the year with GM Freeze members (especially Eco Nexus) and European colleagues to make the case for full regulation [of newer genetic engineering techniques](#) through a range of means. As noted above, there is still no decision on the status of these techniques so this area of work continues.

5 Improving our own effectiveness

Income in 2015/16 rose sharply on the previous year, which had, necessarily, involved a lot of internal discussion and planning to develop our new strategic and five year plans. We were delighted to secure funding from the Network for Social Change and a three-year project funding agreement from the Polden-Puckham Charitable Foundation for the Feed: the Facts campaign. At the end of the financial year we also secured funding from Lush Charity Pot for the development of a new www.gmfreeze.org website, to take place during 2016/7.

Donations and subscription fees from individual supporters rose by 22% compared with the previous year; membership fees by 23%.

A reader survey was included in the September 2015 issue of our members' and supporters' newsletter *Thin Ice*. Responses enthusiastically endorsed the retention of a printed paper version and highlighted the

GM Freeze
Registered number: 5525160
Directors' Report

different needs of member organisations and individual supporters. These points have been incorporated into subsequent issues of *Thin Ice*, and in plans for the redevelopment of our website and other online communications.

The 2015 Annual General Meeting voted to make two changes to the GM Freeze Articles of Association; reducing the quorum for a general meeting and updating a clause relating to the removal of Directors.

In April we adopted a new information assurance policy, in July a detailed expenditure procedure and in January a new conflicts of interest policy. A new GM Freeze sustainability policy was developed this year and adopted in May 2016.

Looking to the future

At the time of writing, the future is particularly difficult to predict. Enormous levels of uncertainty surround the details and timing of a UK exit from the European Union. Whatever happens, there is a key role for GM Freeze in making the case for strong regulation of GM in our food and on our farms.

2016/7 will see the launch of more public work on our animal feed campaign, funded by the Polden-Puckham Charitable Foundation under the Feed: the Facts project.

We are working with two academics to highlight the ways in which social and ethical concerns around new forms of genetic engineering (and GM more generally) are excluded from media debate and regulatory processes and expect to publish more on this during 2016/7.

We are rebuilding our website and plan to launch the new www.gmfreeze.org in the autumn of 2016.

Organisational updates and thanks

Management committee

We remain grateful to the Management Committee (who act as the Board of Directors) who volunteer their time to support, guide and develop the work of GM Freeze.

Staff and volunteers

The GM Freeze staff team is very small but dedicated. Director Liz O'Neill was joined by a new Co-ordinator, Raoul Bhambral in April 2015.

Heartfelt thanks go to the many members, supporters and volunteers who act on our Action Alerts; lobby their elected representatives, distribute leaflets, share information on social media, write to their local papers, comment online and remind their own communities that there is more to GM than those promoting it would have us believe. The role that you all play is essential to our success.

Financial contributions

Our most significant source of income during the year was grant funding from the JMG Foundation. Their generous support for our work for many years and its continued commitment to our aims and approach is greatly appreciated.

Other work mentioned above was achieved by valuable project funding from the Polden-Puckham Charitable Foundation and Network for Social Change Charitable Trust.

Membership fees (which range from £25 to £500 depending on the member organisation's turnover), supporter contributions and donations are all vital to paying the bills and we are always keen to hear from organisations and individuals who would like to join and support our work.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all of those who make a financial contribution to GM Freeze. Whether their resources are great or much smaller, every donation, grant and membership fee helps to cover the costs of the work described in this report. Your support now and over the coming years is the only way we can achieve this and we thank you.

GM Freeze
Registered number: 5525160
Directors' Report

Small company provisions

This report has been prepared in accordance with the provisions in Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 applicable to companies of this size.

This report was approved by the board on 20 July 2016 and signed by its order.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Clare Coatman', with a horizontal line drawn underneath the name.

Clare Coatman
Chair

GM Freeze

Statement of Directors' Responsibilities

The directors are responsible for preparing the report and accounts in accordance with applicable law and regulations.

Company law requires the directors to prepare accounts for each financial year. Under that law the directors have elected to prepare the accounts in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (United Kingdom Accounting Standards and applicable law). Under company law the directors must not approve the accounts unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company and of the profit or loss of the company for that period. In preparing these accounts, the directors are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- prepare the accounts on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the company will continue in business.

The directors are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the company's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the company and enable them to ensure that the accounts comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

GM Freeze

Report to the directors on the preparation of the unaudited statutory accounts of GM Freeze for the year ended 31 March 2016

In order to assist you to fulfil your duties under the Companies Act 2006, we have prepared for your approval the accounts of GM Freeze for the year ended 31 March 2016 which comprise of the Profit and Loss Account, the Balance Sheet and the related notes from the company's accounting records and from information and explanations you have given us.

As a practising member firm of the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants, we are subject to its ethical and other professional requirements which are detailed at <http://rulebook.accaglobal.com/>

This report is made solely to the Board of Directors of GM Freeze, as a body, in accordance with the terms of our engagement letter dated 19 June 2015. Our work has been undertaken solely to prepare for your approval the accounts of GM Freeze and state those matters that we have agreed to state to the Board of Directors of GM Freeze, as a body, in this report in accordance with the requirements of the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants as detailed at <http://www.accaglobal.com/factsheet163>. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than GM Freeze and its Board of Directors as a body for our work or for this report.

It is your duty to ensure that GM Freeze has kept adequate accounting records and to prepare statutory accounts that give a true and fair view of the assets, liabilities, financial position and profit of GM Freeze. You consider that GM Freeze is exempt from the statutory audit requirement for the year.

We have not been instructed to carry out an audit or a review of the accounts of GM Freeze. For this reason, we have not verified the accuracy or completeness of the accounting records or information and explanations you have given to us and we do not, therefore, express any opinion on the statutory accounts.

Slade & Cooper Limited

Slade and Cooper Limited
Accountants
Green Fish Resource Centre
46-50 Oldham Street
Manchester
M4 1LE

21.11.16

GM Freeze
Profit and Loss Account
for the year ended 31 March 2016

| | Notes | 2016 | 2015 |
|---|--------------|--------------|-----------------|
| | | £ | £ |
| Turnover | | 9,653 | 7,785 |
| Administrative expenses | | (64,701) | (62,995) |
| Other operating income | | 58,966 | 38,083 |
| Operating profit/(loss) | | <u>3,918</u> | <u>(17,127)</u> |
| Interest receivable | | 25 | 60 |
| Profit/(loss) on ordinary activities before taxation | | <u>3,943</u> | <u>(17,067)</u> |
| Tax on profit/(loss) on ordinary activities | | - | - |
| Profit/(loss) for the financial year | | <u>3,943</u> | <u>(17,067)</u> |

**GM Freeze
Balance Sheet
as at 31 March 2016**

| | Notes | 2016 £ | 2015 £ |
|---|-------|---------------|---------------|
| Current assets | | | |
| Debtors | 3 | 468 | - |
| Cash at bank and in hand | | 29,506 | 24,984 |
| | | <u>29,974</u> | <u>24,984</u> |
| Creditors: amounts falling due within one year | 4 | (10,158) | (9,111) |
| Net current assets | | <u>19,816</u> | <u>15,873</u> |
| Net assets | | <u>19,816</u> | <u>15,873</u> |
| Capital and reserves | | | |
| Profit and loss account | 5 | 19,816 | 15,873 |
| Funds | | <u>19,816</u> | <u>15,873</u> |

The directors are satisfied that the company is entitled to exemption from the requirement to obtain an audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006.

The member has not required the company to obtain an audit in accordance with section 476 of the Act.

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions in Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (effective January 2015).



Bruce Pearce
Director

Approved by the board on 20 July 2016

1 Accounting policies

The accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (effective January 2015).

Turnover represents income from fees, subscriptions, sales of publications and donations, and is entirely attributable to activity in the United Kingdom. The company is not registered for VAT.

Depreciation has been provided at the following rates in order to write off the assets over their estimated useful lives.

Fixtures & fittings 25% straight line

11

GM Freeze
Notes to the Accounts
for the year ended 31 March 2016

| | | |
|--|-------------|-------------|
| 3 Debtors | 2016 | 2015 |
| | £ | £ |
| Other debtors | 468 | - |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| 4 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year | 2016 | 2015 |
| | £ | £ |
| Trade creditors | 1,004 | 236 |
| Other taxes and social security costs | - | 1,920 |
| Deferred income | 9,154 | 6,955 |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| | 10,158 | 9,111 |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| 5 Profit and loss account | 2016 | |
| | £ | |
| At 1 April 2015 | 15,873 | |
| Profit for the year | 3,943 | |
| | <hr/> | |
| At 31 March 2016 | 19,816 | |
| | <hr/> | |
| 6 Related party transactions | 2016 | 2015 |
| | £ | £ |
| Director | | |
| Temporary cover for the Campaign Director post whilst recruitment and induction in progress. | - | 1,000 |

GM Freeze

Notes to the Accounts

for the year ended 31 March 2016

7 Detailed Project accounts

| | Core | Grassroots (Feed the Facts) | Feed the Facts | Website | Total |
|---|----------------|--------------------------------|-------------------|--------------|----------------|
| | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| Income | | | | | |
| Grants | 45,000 | - | 12,000 | 4,165 | 61,165 |
| Membership, supporter fees & donations | 9,043 | - | - | - | 9,043 |
| Other income | 610 | - | - | - | 610 |
| Interest | 25 | - | - | - | 25 |
| | <u>54,678</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>12,000</u> | <u>4,165</u> | <u>70,843</u> |
| Expenditure | | | | | |
| Salaries | 39,871 | 3,527 | 6,227 | - | 49,625 |
| Other staff costs | 3,738 | 225 | 540 | - | 4,503 |
| Office costs | 1,919 | 461 | 244 | - | 2,624 |
| Campaign materials | 16 | 2,831 | - | - | 2,847 |
| Website | 280 | 610 | - | - | 890 |
| Thin Ice | 1,956 | - | - | - | 1,956 |
| Other costs | 2,256 | - | - | - | 2,256 |
| | <u>50,036</u> | <u>7,654</u> | <u>7,011</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>64,701</u> |
| Net income before deferrals | <u>4,642</u> | <u>(7,654)</u> | <u>4,989</u> | <u>4,165</u> | <u>6,142</u> |
| Grants brought forward | - | 6,955 | - | - | 6,955 |
| Grants carried forward | - | - | (4,989) | (4,165) | (9,154) |
| Profit/(Loss) for the year | <u>£ 4,642</u> | <u>£ (699)</u> | <u>£ -</u> | <u>£ -</u> | <u>£ 3,943</u> |

GM Freeze
Detailed profit and loss account
for the year ended 31 March 2016

| | 2016 | 2015 |
|---------------------------------|--------------|-----------------|
| | £ | £ |
| Turnover | 9,653 | 7,785 |
| Administrative expenses | (64,701) | (62,995) |
| Other operating income | 58,966 | 38,083 |
| Operating profit/(loss) | <u>3,918</u> | <u>(17,127)</u> |
| Interest receivable | 25 | 60 |
| Profit/(loss) before tax | <u>3,943</u> | <u>(17,067)</u> |

GM Freeze
Detailed profit and loss account
for the year ended 31 March 2016

| | 2016 | 2015 |
|----------------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| | £ | £ |
| Turnover | | |
| Membership fees - Organisations | 3,330 | 2,718 |
| Supporter fees & donations | 5,713 | 4,670 |
| Other income | 610 | 397 |
| | <u>9,653</u> | <u>7,785</u> |
| Administrative expenses | | |
| General administrative expenses: | | |
| Staff Costs | 49,625 | 47,823 |
| Travel & accomodation | 3,205 | - |
| Consultancy fees | 1,040 | 5,572 |
| Professional fees | 1,813 | 2,565 |
| Office expenses | 1,149 | 1,132 |
| Premises | 924 | 979 |
| Telephone | 324 | 541 |
| Meetings and conferences | 227 | 2,974 |
| Thin Ice | 1,956 | 1,125 |
| Website | 890 | - |
| Campaign materials | 2,847 | 18 |
| Training & research | 268 | 191 |
| Fundraising costs | 420 | - |
| Banks charges & filing fees | 13 | 75 |
| | <u>64,701</u> | <u>62,995</u> |
| | <u>64,701</u> | <u>62,995</u> |
| Other operating income | | |
| Grants | <u>58,966</u> | <u>38,083</u> |