

## ANNEX 1 Examples of Information request made by GM Freeze 2005-2011

Date of request	To whom	Nature of request	Reason for request	Outcome	Comments	Result
2005	Randomly selected LAs and Port Health Authorities	Information on the enforcement of the GMO Traceability and Labelling Regulations	To test that these regulations were being enforced and on the quality of the enforcement	Mixed response to our questions to start with. To obtain a reasonable sample we had to ask more specific questions	Some authorities replied very quickly. Some tried to make very high charges which was successfully challenged through the ICO. Some LAs were clearly unaware of the legislation.	GM Freeze Published the first report on the enforcement of these regulations including information on costs of sampling and monitoring <sup>1</sup> .
2005	Food Standards Agency	Information about the contamination of maize imports with an unauthorised GM trait Bt10.	To ensure that the response by the UK regulators was effective in preventing further contamination	Some information was provided –but lot was withheld for public interest and international relations – including comments on a press release we issued.	Too many documents were withheld to enable us to fully understand the approach adopted to deal with a significant GM contamination incident.	We gained some information which enable us to make constructive criticism of the FSA's approach and actions.
2006	Food Standards Agency	Information the contamination of long grain rice imports with the unauthorised GM trait LL601	To ensure that the response by the UK regulators was effective in preventing further contamination – we were concerned that contaminated stocks were not being removed from sale.	Information was released on communications between Defra, and FSA and industry. The case became the subject of the Judicial Review taken by Friends of the Earth	The JR found in favour of the FSA's handling of the incident but the judgement made a series of criticisms about how future incident should be handled	Our concerns about the delays in removing contaminated stocks from retail shelves were justified as it was clear that the FSA advice was unclear if lawful.
2006	Scottish Executive (by Members in Scotland)	Information on the discussions between UK administrations on the coexistence of GM and other crops	Major area of policy where disagreement between UK administrations existed. We wished to find out what issues were subject to disagreement	Minutes and agendas for the GM Policy Co-ordination group released with large amounts of redaction based on public/national interest tests.	Very little useful information on the nature of disagreements released	Nothing of value gained due to redactions.
2009	Defra/DTI	Information regarding correspondence between Defra and BASF regarding GM potato trials	To establish whether there had been any discussions regarding the siting of the test sites in the	Most correspondence released and information apparently released except that deemed	No information released on whether there was an invite to site the test site in England.	Cast some light upon the relationship between Defra GM unit and BASF.

			UK	"commercially confidential.	Emails suggested that BASF were consulted about the acceptability of the conditions placed on the release consent.	
2009	Food Standards Agency	Information on the handling of the contamination of flax imports with an unauthorised GM trait CDC Triffid.	To ensure that the response by the UK regulators was effective in preventing further contamination.	Most documents appeared to be released although some lacked clarity on exactly what measures had been taken eg seed imports	Approach appeared to be an improvement on response to LL601 rice (see above)	A reasonably clear picture of FSA and Defra actions emerged.
2009	Defra	Request for information regarding the contamination of an oilseed rape crop in Somerset with a GM trait including the location of the field	To ensure the response of the regulators was effective and the interests of farmers and the environment were being protected.	Defra withheld the 6 figure map reference of the field on grounds of data protection /personal information. Other information was provided. Defra failed to meet statutory deadlines for responding to our requests on a number of occasions.	GM Freeze appealed against the withholding of the map reference because we thought that it was in the public interest to do so to ensure the risk of contamination was known to farmers and beekeepers nearby, ICO refused the appeal and we requested a Tribunal. The Tribunal decide there was insufficient public interest to release the location. Release of the location of future cases with higher levels of contamination have not been excluded by the decision.	We felt it was important to test personal information v public interest in this case and accept the Tribunal's decision. However as a result of information released as a result of the hearing and before we were able to confirm the name of the company which imported the contaminate seed, and the fact that they had gone into liquidation soon after the incident. The name (Aardvark Investments was later confirmed by a Parliamentary Answer.
2011	GM Inspectorate	To request information on the measures taken to prevent contaminated flax seed	To ensure that seed lots imported from Canada had been adequately checked to	The initial response merely provided reassurance without any detail. Details were provided	The measures detailed following are second letter provided a clear picture of the actions	The documents released to us should have been posted on the GMI website

		entering the UK following the CDC Triffid incident (see above) having first checked that the information was not on the GMI website.	prevent ongoing contamination of UK flax crops	after we wrote a second time.	taken.	to provide evidence of the measures taken and provide guidance for seed companies. We see no reason why this was not done and had it been so would have saved time and money.
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