

Registered number
5525160

GM Freeze
Report and Accounts
31 March 2017

GM Freeze
Company Information

A company limited by guarantee, incorporated 1 May 1988.

Directors

Clare Coatman - Chair

Bruce Pearce - Treasurer

Jane O'Meara

Louise Payton

Ricarda Steinbrecher

Lawrence Woodward - resigned 19 October 2016

Maria Paola Andreoni - appointed 20 April 2017

Secretary

Liz O'Neill

Accountants

Slade & Cooper Ltd

46-50 Oldham Street

Manchester

M4 1LE

Bankers

The Co-operative Bank plc

PO Box 250

Skelmersdale

WN8 1LE

Registered office

50 South Yorkshire Buildings

Silkstone Common

Barnsley

S75 4RJ

Registered number

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GM Freeze

Registered number:

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Directors' Report

The directors present their report and accounts for the year ended 31 March 2017.

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 - (Chair)
Jane O'Meara - GM-Free Dorset
Louise Payton - Soil Association
Bruce Pearce - Organic Research Centre (Treasurer)
Ricarda Steinbrecher - EcoNexus
Lawrence Woodward - Whole Organic Plus/GM Education - resigned 19 October 2016

Core work in 2016/7

This year was the second under our strategic plan 2015-2020 and saw solid progress against all five of our strategic aims.

1 Protecting people's right to grow and eat GM-free.

The UK's vote to leave the European Union (EU), on 23 June 2016, could transform this area of work. UK legislation relating to the cultivation, import and sale of genetically modified food and crops is largely controlled from Europe. In recent years, UK Governments have consistently voted in a more GM-friendly fashion than their European neighbours. Brexit could open the UK's door to GM so we have been working to identify what's needed to protect the integrity of our food, our farms and our crops when the UK leaves the EU.

During the year, we worked with UK and EU colleagues to challenge proposals to authorise new GM maize crops for cultivation in the EU. At the time of writing, the fate of these crops is still undecided. We also continued to highlight the need for all forms of genetic engineering to be properly regulated, including newer techniques such as gene editing.

2 Raising awareness of the presence of GM in the UK and supporting people's right to avoid buying, using or eating products made using GM ingredients or animal feed.

GM Freeze is the only UK organisation actively campaigning on GM ingredients and animal feed. Behind the scenes we liaised with trading standards over breaches of labelling rules in a national franchise of sweet shops. We highlighted GM products for sale across the UK on our website and we helped consumers who wanted to say no, to do so in the most effective way.

In October 2016, we launched the *Feed me the Truth* campaign, as part of our project **Feed: the facts** (see project work, below).

3 Equipping organisations, campaigners and individuals to understand and communicate their concerns about the impacts of GM in food and farming.

Our work to help people express their "gut instinct" against GM more effectively continued throughout the year.

In June, we worked with academics from the Universities of Nottingham, Sheffield and Exeter to stage a workshop for NGO representatives, exploring issues around the way that the debate on new genetic engineering techniques is framed to exclude social and ethical concerns. A workshop report was produced and an academic paper is in the pipeline.

GM Freeze staff members spoke at a number of events attended by campaigners and grassroots activists, including the Green Gathering, the Oxford Real Farming Conference, Friends of the Earth Base Camp, Friends of the Earth Cymru annual gathering and the Global Greens Congress. At each event we combined listening to activists' concerns and priorities with clear messages about the evidence and value-based case against GM crops.

Our twitter account (@gmfreeze) saw a 12% growth in followers and we have created a GM Freeze facebook page (/GMfreezeUK). Our website (www.gmfreeze.org) received some 19,000 visits from over 13,000 different visitors. We began work on a new website this year, as reported under project work, below.

4 Representing the evidence-based case against GM.

This was a very busy year for formal consultations relating to GM.

In May 2016, we submitted evidence to a House of Commons Science and Technology Committee inquiry into Science Communication. We highlighted the way that social and ethical concerns about the use of GM in food and farming are actively excluded from regulatory consultations and wider debate on the issue.

In December 2016, we submitted a detailed objection to a new GM wheat trial at Rothamsted Research. In March 2017, we submitted a detailed objection to another trial of experimental GM potatoes at the Sainsbury Laboratory. Over thirty different organisations, including GM Freeze members and others, signed on to one or both of these two objections. We also supported individual members of the public in making their feelings known and saw a very significant increase in the number of people submitting evidence to the public consultations for these trials. Both trials were granted consent but our voices are beginning to be heard more clearly.

During the year GM Freeze Director Liz O'Neill was interviewed on BBC Radio 4's Farming Today, BBC Scotland, the BBC World Service, Talk Radio, local and regional BBC stations. She also took part in a Royal Society debate in Cardiff in November 2016. We were quoted in a wide range of national, regional, local and specialist newspapers, magazines and websites.

5 Improving our own effectiveness as an organisation.

Grant income received during the year was down on 2015/6. This was partly due to timing differences with project work carried out this year being funded by grants received and carried over from last year, but we also saw a reduction in core grant income. Income from membership, supporter fees and donations was up 65%, including both an exceptional donation from one supporter and a more sustained increase in donations more generally.

During the year, the GM Freeze board adopted a conflicts of interest policy, a health and safety policy, a home and lone working policy and a sustainability policy.

Project work – Feed: the Facts

The public phase of our project on GM animal feed, funded by a grant from the Polden-Puckham Charitable Foundation, was launched in October 2016. Feed me the Truth (www.FeedmeTheTruth.org) highlights poor performance by the UK's top ten supermarkets in three key areas: policy on the use of GM animal feed; information for consumers; and the provision of non GM-fed meat, eggs and dairy products. The campaign will continue in 2017/8 with a third and final year of grant funding.

Another element of this project is the provision of solid information through a suite of easy to read leaflets. One of these, *What is GM and why does it matter?*, has proved so popular that we produced an updated reprint a year earlier than planned, with printing costs covered by donations from our supporters.

Project work – Website

Project work to create a new GM Freeze website began during the year. Our very small staff team, and the high level of work responding to consultations and other emerging events during the year, meant that the site progressed via a series of incremental surges with the public launch delayed into the financial year 2017/8. Non-staff costs of this project are covered by a grant from Lush Charity pot.

Looking ahead

We face challenging times, with a significant reduction in core grant funding for 2017/8 and beyond. This means we must concentrate on projects that can attract funding and may need to reduce other areas of work. Despite this difficult context, GM Freeze will continue to address the critical task of helping to create a world in which everyone's food is produced responsibly, fairly and sustainably. Amongst other plans, we are seeking funding to protect vital food and farming safeguards as the UK leaves the EU.

Small company provisions

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

This report was approved by the board on 18/10/2017 and signed on its behalf.



Clare Coatman
Director

GM Freeze

Report to the directors on the preparation of the unaudited statutory accounts of GM Freeze for the year ended 31 March 2017

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 2017 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/>

Our work has been undertaken in accordance with the requirements of the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants as detailed at <http://www.accaglobal.com/factsheet163>.

Slade + Cooper Limited

Slade & Cooper Ltd
Chartered Certified Accountants
46-50 Oldham Street
Manchester
M4 1LE

15/11/17

GM Freeze
Profit and Loss Account
for the year ended 31 March 2017

	2017	2016
	£	£
Turnover	14,984	9,653
Administrative expenses	(71,283)	(64,701)
Other operating income	46,372	58,966
Operating (loss)/profit	<u>(9,927)</u>	<u>3,918</u>
Interest receivable	15	25
(Loss)/profit on ordinary activities before taxation	<u>(9,912)</u>	<u>3,943</u>
Tax on (loss)/profit on ordinary activities	-	-
(Loss)/profit for the financial year	<u>(9,912)</u>	<u>3,943</u>

GM Freeze
Registered number: 5525160
Balance Sheet
as at 31 March 2017

	Notes	2017 £	2016 £
Current assets			
Debtors	2	246	468
Cash at bank and in hand		11,480	29,506
		11,726	29,974
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year			
	3	(1,822)	(10,158)
Net current assets		9,904	19,816
Net assets		9,904	19,816
Capital and reserves			
Profit and loss account		9,904	19,816
Total funds		9,904	19,816

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 members have 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 and delivered in accordance with the special provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.



Bruce Pearce
 Director

Approved by the board on 17/10/17

GM Freeze
Notes to the Accounts
for the year ended 31 March 2017

1 Accounting policies

Basis of preparation

The accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with FRS 102, The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (as applied to small entities by section 1A of the standard).

Transition to FRS 102

These financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2017 are the first financial statements that comply with FRS 102 as applied to small entities by section 1A. The date of transition is 1 April 2015. The transition has not resulted in any material changes in accounting policies to those used previously.

Turnover

Turnover is measured at the fair value of the consideration received or receivable, net of discounts and value added taxes. Turnover includes revenue earned from the sale of goods and from the rendering of services. Turnover from the sale of goods is recognised when the significant risks and rewards of ownership of the goods have transferred to the buyer. Turnover from the rendering of services is recognised by reference to the stage of completion of the contract. The stage of completion of a contract is measured by comparing the costs incurred for work performed to date to the total estimated contract costs.

Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are measured at cost less accumulative depreciation and any accumulative impairment losses. Depreciation is provided on all tangible fixed assets, other than freehold land, at rates calculated to write off the cost, less estimated residual value, of each asset evenly over its expected useful life, as follows:

Freehold buildings	over 50 years
Leasehold land and buildings	over the lease term
Plant and machinery	over 5 years
Fixtures, fittings, tools and equipment	over 5 years

Debtors

Short term debtors are measured at transaction price (which is usually the invoice price), less any impairment losses for bad and doubtful debts. Loans and other financial assets are initially recognised at transaction price including any transaction costs and subsequently measured at amortised cost determined using the effective interest method, less any impairment losses for bad and doubtful debts.

Creditors

Short term creditors are measured at transaction price (which is usually the invoice price). Loans and other financial liabilities are initially recognised at transaction price net of any transaction costs and subsequently measured at amortised cost determined using the effective interest method.

Taxation

GM Freeze
Notes to the Accounts
for the year ended 31 March 2017

A current tax liability is recognised for the tax payable on the taxable profit of the current and past periods. A current tax asset is recognised in respect of a tax loss that can be carried back to recover tax paid in a previous period. Deferred tax is recognised in respect of all timing differences between the recognition of income and expenses in the financial statements and their inclusion in tax assessments. Unrelieved tax losses and other deferred tax assets are recognised only to the extent that it is probable that they will be recovered against the reversal of deferred tax liabilities or other future taxable profits. Deferred tax is measured using the tax rates and laws that have been enacted or substantively enacted by the reporting date and that are expected to apply to the reversal of the timing difference, except for revalued land and investment property where the tax rate that applies to the sale of the asset is used. Current and deferred tax assets and liabilities are not discounted.

Leased assets

A lease is classified as a finance lease if it transfers substantially all the risks and rewards incidental to ownership. All other leases are classified as operating leases. The rights of use and obligations under finance leases are initially recognised as assets and liabilities at amounts equal to the fair value of the leased assets or, if lower, the present value of the minimum lease payments. Minimum lease payments are apportioned between the finance charge and the reduction in the outstanding liability using the effective interest rate method. The finance charge is allocated to each period during the lease so as to produce a constant periodic rate of interest on the remaining balance of the liability. Leased assets are depreciated in accordance with the company's policy for tangible fixed assets. If there is no reasonable certainty that ownership will be obtained at the end of the lease term, the asset is depreciated over the lower of the lease term and its useful life. Operating lease payments are recognised as an expense on a straight line basis over the lease term.

Pensions

Contributions to defined contribution plans are expensed in the period to which they relate.

2 Debtors	2017	2016
	£	£
Other debtors	<u>246</u>	<u>468</u>

3 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	2017	2016
	£	£
Trade creditors	1,040	1,004
Other creditors	<u>782</u>	<u>9,154</u>
	<u>1,822</u>	<u>10,158</u>

4 Staff

The average number of employees in the year was 2 (2016:2)

5 Other information

GM Freeze
Notes to the Accounts
for the year ended 31 March 2017

GM Freeze is a private company limited by guarantee and incorporated in England. Its registered office is: 50 South Yorkshire Buildings, Silkstone Common, Barnsley, S75 4RJ.

GM Freeze
Notes to the Accounts
for the year ended 31 March 2017

Detailed Project accounts	Core	Feed the Facts	Website	Total	
	£	£	£	2017	2016
	£	£	£	£	£
Income					
Grants	26,000	12,000	-	38,000	61,165
Membership, supporter fees & donations	14,194	790	-	14,984	9,043
Other income	-	-	-	-	610
Interest	15	-	-	15	25
	40,209	12,790	-	52,999	70,843
Expenditure					
Salaries	39,959	10,064	-	50,023	49,625
Other staff costs	4,255	482	350	5,087	4,503
Office costs	2,185	706	-	2,891	2,624
Campaign, press, media	132	6,264	167	6,563	2,847
Website	102	-	3,079	3,181	890
Thin Ice	1,816	-	-	1,816	1,956
Other costs	1,672	50	-	1,722	2,256
	50,121	17,566	3,596	71,283	64,701
Net income before deferrals	(9,912)	(4,776)	(3,596)	(18,284)	6,142
Grants brought forward	-	4,989	4,165	9,154	6,955
Grants carried forward	-	(213)	(569)	(782)	(9,154)
Profit/(Loss) for the year	£ (9,912)	£ -	£ -	£ (9,912)	£ 3,943

GM Freeze
Detailed profit and loss account
for the year ended 31 March 2017

	2017	2016
	£	£
Income	14,984	9,653
Administrative expenses	(71,283)	(64,701)
Other operating income	46,372	58,966
Operating (loss)/profit	<u>(9,927)</u>	<u>3,918</u>
Interest receivable	15	25
(Loss)/profit before tax	<u>(9,912)</u>	<u>3,943</u>

GM Freeze
Detailed profit and loss account
for the year ended 31 March 2017

	2017	2016
	£	£
Sales		
Organisation fees & donations	3,240	3,330
Supporter fees & donations	11,479	5,713
Other income	265	610
	<u>14,984</u>	<u>9,653</u>
Administrative expenses		
General administrative expenses:		
Staff Costs	50,023	49,625
Travel & accomodation	3,032	3,205
Consultancy & freelance	1,725	1,040
Professional fees	1,496	1,813
Office expenses	1,610	1,149
Premises	1,030	924
Telephone	198	324
Meetings & conferences	226	227
Thin Ice	1,816	1,956
Website	3,181	890
Campaign, press, media	6,563	2,847
Training & research	331	268
Fundraising costs	41	420
Miscellaneous	11	13
	<u>71,283</u>	<u>64,701</u>
	<u>71,283</u>	<u>64,701</u>
Other operating income		
Grants	<u>46,372</u>	<u>58,966</u>

Supporter fees and donations

A generous donation of £5,000 was received this year from a long-standing supporter.

Website costs

Project expenditure on the redevelopment of our website www.gmfreeze.org

Campaign, press, media costs

Project expenditure on the *Feed me the Truth* campaign, www.feedmethetruth.org

Fundraising costs

Fees charged for receipt of donations and supporter subscriptions via Paypal.

