

# Review of the year

GM Freeze's Annual Report and Accounts for the year April 2018-March 2019 are published on the GM Freeze website and will be discussed at the [AGM](#). Here, we share a roundup of key events and activities in our year.

## Protecting our food and our farms after Brexit

We [worked throughout 2018/19 to highlight](#) the impact that leaving the EU could have on GM in food and farming across the UK. We submitted evidence to consultations on Defra plans for future farming policy, the [Food Standards Agency's](#) approach to retained EU law, trade negotiations and [a Conservative Manifesto for Conservation](#).

We made the case for robust GM regulation; proper protection from GM contamination; and clear labelling. We supported public subsidy for public good. We raised concerns about the UK's capacity to take on responsibilities held by key European agencies and the need to respect Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland's [rejection of GM crops](#).

In September 2018 we launched the [Don't Hide What's Inside petition](#) which has attracted over 4,000 signatures to defend our GM ingredient labels.

## Challenging GM crop trials

GM Freeze has long led the response to [open trials of GM crops](#) but even we were rather daunted when four separate field trial applications

were lodged in early 2019. Field trial applications include around 50 pages of technical detail and formal objections must be scientifically accurate and fully referenced if they are to be taken seriously. We [turned to our supporters](#), whose generous donations allowed us to focus on getting our evidence in to each statutory consultation as well as creating user-friendly guides to help others make their voices heard.

Sadly, all four trials were approved but some controls were improved in response to points we raised, and, together, we made it abundantly clear that objection to GM crops has not gone away.

## ECJ ruling

July 2018 brought celebrations when the [European Court of Justice \(ECJ\) ruled](#) that new forms of genetic engineering are GM and must be regulated as such. [We demanded the immediate halt](#) of Rothamsted Research's trial of genome edited plants that had not been through the GM consent process. A few months later, farming minister George Eustice admitted we were right.

The ECJ ruling was a huge success but, having failed to get legal backing for their interpretation of a key EU

Directive, the biotech lobby is now campaigning to get that Directive changed. We [continue to work with colleagues across Europe](#) to demand that the ECJ ruling is respected and put onto practice.

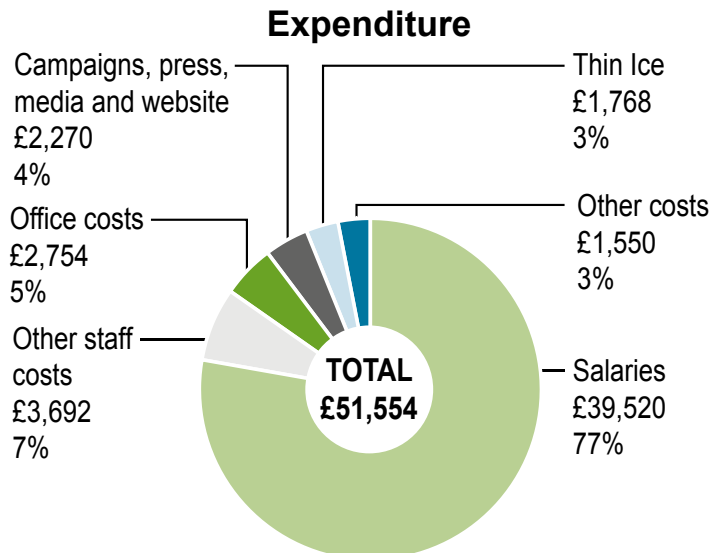
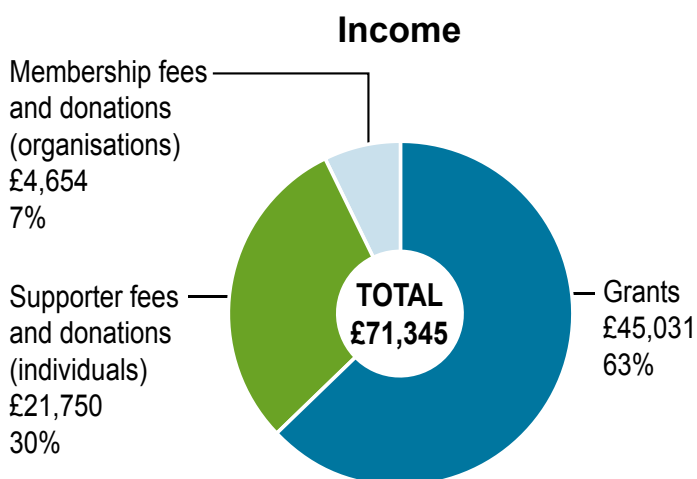
## Thank you

We are grateful to JMG Foundation, the Sheepdrove Trust, the Andrew Wainwright Reform Trust and Lush Charity Pot for grants awarded during 2018/19. We also received a very generous one-off donation but many other supporters gave what they could and all those gifts, be it £5 a month or £500 in response to an urgent appeal, are what allowed us to achieve the work described on this page, and much more.

Thank you for your support, in whatever form it takes.

Members and supporters are warmly invited to attend the GM Freeze AGM on Thursday 7 November 2019, starting at 2pm at Friends of the Earth, The Printworks, 139 Clapham Road, London, SW9 0HP. After the formal meeting there will be a discussion about exactly what needs to be included in regulations designed to safeguard our food and our farms, outside of the European Union.

## Our finances 2018/19



£3,268 of grant income received in previous years was brought forward to spend in 2018/19  
 £4,595 of grant income received in 2018/9 has been carried forward into 2019/20 for ongoing work.

Please note: all figures are provisional, pending final approval by the GM Freeze Management Committee.