

Registered number
5525160

GM Freeze
Report and Accounts
31 March 2019

GM Freeze
Company Information

A company limited by guarantee, incorporated 2 August 2005.

Directors

Maria Paola Andreoni – resigned 30 October 2018
Kierra Box
Clare Coatman - Chair
Honor May Eldridge – appointed 30 October 2018
Jane O'Meara
Louise Payton
Bruce Pearce
Ricarda Steinbrecher

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 6WT

Registered office

Open Space Cooperative
Unit 1, 41 Old Birley Street
Hulme, Manchester
M15 5RF

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GM Freeze

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Directors' Report

The directors present their report and accounts for the year ended 31 March 2019.

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:

Maria Paola Andreoni – resigned 30 October 2018
Kierra Box - Friends of the Earth England Wales and Northern Ireland
Clare Coatman – (Chair)
Honor May Eldridge – appointed 30 October 2018
Jane O'Meara – GM Free Somerset
Louise Payton – Soil Association
Bruce Pearce – Organic Research Centre (Treasurer)
Ricarda Steinbrecher - EcoNexus

OUR WORK IN 2018/19

This year was the fourth under our strategic plan 2015-2020 and saw both new and continuing activity to address all five of our strategic aims, through a combination of core work and projects.

PROJECT: Protecting our food and our farms after Brexit

This project, which began in 2017/18, delivers against two of our strategic aims: **Protecting people's right to grow and eat GM-Free** and **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.**

Throughout 2018/19 we have been working hard to highlight both the threats and the opportunities that leaving the EU could present around GM in food and farming. We submitted evidence to many consultations including those on:

- Defra's *Health and Harmony* command paper on future farming policy and a select committee inquiry into the related draft agriculture bill
- The Food Standards Agency's approach to retained EU law
- Four separate consultations on trade negotiations with, respectively, Australia, New Zealand, the United States and the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership.
- Think tank Bright Blue's call for evidence towards a Conservative Manifesto for Conservation.

Our submissions focused on the need for robust GM regulation to protect people, animals and the environment; proper protection from GM contamination; and clear labelling to allow people to make an informed choice. We supported the principle of public subsidy for public good and pushed for genetic diversity to be recognised as one such public good. We also stressed the need to reject the control of genetic resources through patenting. We raised concerns about the UK's capacity to replicate the role of the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) in providing GM risk assessments and the need to respect Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland's rejection of GM crops. We called for the retention of high standards and highlighted the opportunity Brexit offers to improve legislation around GM through improved risk assessments, contamination control measures and labelling of GM-fed products.

In September we launched the **Don't Hide What's Inside** petition to protect our GM labels. So far, the petition has attracted over 4,000 signatures, including 1,334 people who had never interacted with GM Freeze before but who spotted and responded to one of our advertisements on Facebook.

PROJECT: Objecting to GM field trials

This project, which was once again funded in response to a focused appeal for donations, delivers against two of our strategic aims: ***Representing the evidence-based case against GM*** and ***Equipping organisations, campaigners and individuals to understand and communicate their concerns about the impacts of GM in food and farming.***

GM Freeze has always led responses to open field trials of GM crops in the UK but even we were daunted when four separate field trial applications were published by Defra in less than two months in early 2019. These applications each include around 50 pages of technical detail and the objections we submit need to be scientifically accurate and fully referenced if they are to be taken seriously, all within a consultation period that lasts just a few weeks. Thanks to the generosity of our supporters, we were able to devote enough resources to submit formal objections to all four trials on behalf of over 30 different organisations that share our concerns. We also created and shared widely a set of user-friendly guides to help others make their voices heard in the most effective ways.

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.

KEY SUCCESS: European Court of Justice ruling

This area of core work delivers against our strategic aims: ***Protecting people's right to grow and eat GM-Free*** and ***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.***

July 2018 brought celebrations when the European Court of Justice (ECJ) ruled unequivocally that genome editing and other newer forms of genetic engineering are GM and must be regulated as such within the European Union. We wrote the same day to then Environment Secretary Michael Gove to demand the immediate halt of an unlawful trial of genome edited camelina plants at Rothamsted Research, which had not been through the full GM trial consent process. A few months later Farming Minister George Eustice confirmed that no further such trials would be planted without full and specific consent.

The ECJ ruling was a huge success but, having failed to get legal backing for their interpretation of a key EU Directive (2001/18/EC), the biotech lobby immediately began campaigning to get the Directive changed. We continue to work with colleagues across Europe to demand that the ECJ ruling is respected and that practical steps are taken to put its implications

FINANCES AND PLANNING AHEAD

None of the work described above would be possible without some focus on our fifth strategic aim: ***Improving our own effectiveness as an organisation.***

Income for the year 2018/19 is up on the previous year, thanks in large part to a one-off donation from a generous supporter. This was supported by a rise in smaller donations towards our Trial Objections project.

A number of trusts and foundations that have previously funded GM Freeze have experienced financial challenges of their own in recent years, while others have decided to focus on different concerns such as climate change. We are, therefore, sincerely grateful to JMG Foundation, the Sheepdrove Trust, the Andrew Wainwright Reform Society and Lush Charity Pot which all awarded GM Freeze grants during 2018/19.

The full impact of a staffing change made in 2017/18 was felt this year in a reduced total spend on salaries.

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Directors' Report

New Strategic Priorities

The Directors reviewed our strategy and agreed an amended set of strategic priorities for the coming years:

- 1 We will **oppose** the cultivation, import, production and sale of GM crops, seed, animal feed and food in the UK, by influencing policy and regulation of all forms of genetic engineering in food and farming.
- 2 While GM is present in UK food and farming, we will campaign for greater **transparency** and support people's right to make informed choices about what they buy, use and eat.
- 3 We will change the **narrative** and win public support by effectively presenting the evidence-based case against GM across a range of channels and audiences.
- 4 We will provide an **umbrella** to support and build the network of organisations, campaigners and individuals that share our vision of a GM-free food and farming system.
- 5 We will **improve** our own effectiveness as an organisation.

Given the turbulent political times in which we are operating, and the potential impact of the UK's departure from the EU, we also agreed to adopt a dynamic approach to planning for the next few years. To support this, the directors agreed a set of guiding principles that will be used to assess competing demands on GM Freeze's time and resources.

ORGANISATIONAL UPDATES AND THANKS

We remain grateful to the Management Committee (Board of Directors) who volunteer their time to support, guide and develop the work of GM Freeze. The staff team is small but dedicated and both Liz O'Neill (Director) and Vicky Hart (Admin Assistant) remained in post throughout 2018/19. They were supported by a small pool of expert freelancers who work on GM Freeze projects when budget allows.

Heartfelt thanks go to the GM Freeze members, supporters and volunteers who have joined our campaign actions; shared our news and action requests online; gathered signatures for our petition; written to their MP or MEP and so much more. Financial support from our member organisations and individual supporters is also vital to our work. Whether it is £5 a month or £500 in response to an urgent appeal, every penny we receive has helped make the work described here happen. Thank you for your support, in whatever form it takes.

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 10 October 2019 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 2019

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 2019 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

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

18/12/2019

GM Freeze
Profit and Loss Account
for the year ended 31 March 2019

	2019 £	2018 £
Turnover	26,314	11,607
Administrative expenses	(51,554)	(57,812)
Other operating income	43,715	47,880
Operating profit	<u>18,475</u>	<u>1,675</u>
Profit on ordinary activities before taxation	<u>18,475</u>	<u>1,675</u>
Tax on profit on ordinary activities	-	-
Profit for the financial year	<u>18,475</u>	<u>1,675</u>

GM Freeze**Registered number:** 5525160**Balance Sheet****as at 31 March 2019**

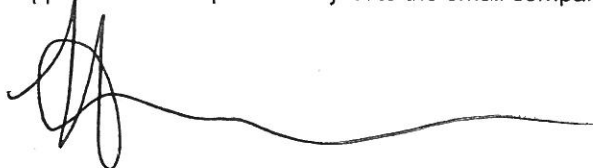
	Notes	2019 £	2018 £
Current assets			
Debtors	2	511	317
Cash at bank and in hand		35,087	15,506
		<u>35,598</u>	<u>15,823</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	3	(5,544)	(4,244)
Net current assets		<u>30,054</u>	<u>11,579</u>
Net assets		<u>30,054</u>	<u>11,579</u>
Capital and reserves			
Profit and loss account		30,054	11,579
Total funds		<u>30,054</u>	<u>11,579</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 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.



Honor May Eldridge
Director

Approved by the board on 10 October 2019

GM Freeze
Notes to the Accounts
for the year ended 31 March 2019

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).

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.

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

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.

Pensions

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

GM Freeze
Notes to the Accounts
for the year ended 31 March 2019

2 Debtors	2019	2018
	£	£
Other debtors	<u>511</u>	<u>317</u>
3 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	2019	2018
	£	£
Trade creditors	960	976
Other creditors	<u>4,584</u>	<u>3,268</u>
	<u>5,544</u>	<u>4,244</u>

4 Staff

The average number of employees in the year was 2 (2018: 2)

5 Other information

GM Freeze is a private company limited by guarantee and incorporated in England (company registered no. 5525160). Its registered office is: Open Space Cooperative, Unit 1, 41 Old Birley Street, Hulme, Manchester, M15 5RF.

GM Freeze
Notes to the Accounts
for the year ended 31 March 2019

7 Detailed Project accounts	Core	Feed the Facts	Brexit	Trial Objection	Total 2019	2018
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Income						
Grants	35,000	-	10,031	-	45,031	50,366
Membership, supporter fees & donations	22,921	-	500	2,893	26,314	11,607
	57,921	-	10,531	2,893	71,345	61,973
Expenditure						
Salaries	27,596	415	6,516	4,993	39,520	45,306
Other staff costs	1,737	17	438	1,500	3,692	3,831
Office costs	2,150	27	330	247	2,754	2,585
Campaign, press, media	153	-	537	-	690	1,478
Website	725	-	854	1	1,580	947
Thin Ice	1,768	-	-	-	1,768	1,847
Other costs	1,469	-	81	-	1,550	1,818
	35,598	459	8,756	6,741	51,554	57,812
Net income before deferrals	22,323	(459)	1,775	(3,848)	19,791	4,161
Grants brought forward	-	459	2,809	-	3,268	782
Grants carried forward	-	-	(4,584)	-	(4,584)	(3,268)
Profit/(Loss) for the year	£ 22,323	£ -	£ -	£ (3,848)	£ 18,475	£ 1,675

GM Freeze
Detailed profit and loss account
for the year ended 31 March 2019

	2019	2018
	£	£
Income	26,314	11,607
Administrative expenses	(51,554)	(57,812)
Other operating income	43,715	47,880
Operating profit	<u>18,475</u>	<u>1,675</u>
Profit before tax	<u>18,475</u>	<u>1,675</u>

GM Freeze
Detailed profit and loss account
for the year ended 31 March 2019

	2019 £	2018 £
Sales		
Organisation fees & donations	4,564	3,720
Supporter fees & donations	21,750	7,887
	<u>26,314</u>	<u>11,607</u>
Administrative expenses		
General administrative expenses:		
Staff Costs	39,520	45,306
Travel & accommodation	1,789	2,400
Consultancy & freelance	1,700	1,050
Professional fees	1,342	1,258
Office expenses	788	1,245
Premises	1,652	1,213
Telephone	314	206
Meetings & conferences	169	498
Thin Ice	1,768	1,847
Website	1,580	947
Campaign, press, media	690	1,478
Training and development	203	303
Fundraising costs	-	7
Miscellaneous	39	54
	<u>51,554</u>	<u>57,812</u>
	<u>51,554</u>	<u>57,812</u>
Other operating income		
Grants	<u>43,715</u>	<u>47,880</u>

