

Our year: 2019/20

GM Freeze's Annual Report and Accounts for the year from April 2019 to March 2020 are published in full on the [GM Freeze website](#) and will be discussed at the [AGM](#). This page offers a user-friendly summary of key developments and financial results for the year.

Objecting to GM field trials

A rush of new GM field trial applications in early 2019 continued into April when we [submitted a detailed objection](#) to The Sainsbury Laboratory's plans for an open field trial of experimental GM potatoes. The trial went ahead but official papers suggested that our objection (signed by 31 different organisations) and the submissions from many of our supporters raised questions that will be considered in a lot more depth if there is any attempt to allow GM potatoes into the UK food chain.

Protecting our food and our farms after Brexit

We had a busy time taking our [Don't Hide What's Inside](#) and [Safeguard our Farms](#) campaigns to summer festivals and the March for Farming, Food, and Climate Justice. Later in the year we held a workshop with key people in food and farming to wrestle with the

difficult question of what good GM regulation would actually look like. The answers weren't simple but are feeding into much of our ongoing work.

Influencing public policy

We submitted evidence to [the Nuffield Council on Bioethics inquiry on genome editing and farmed animals](#) in September 2019 and [the National Food Strategy](#) in October, before publishing the [GM Freeze manifesto for a responsible, fair and sustainable food system](#) in November to help our members and supporters discuss GM with candidates in the December General Election.

Thanks to the generosity of the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation, which awarded GM Freeze a new grant this year, we also began a project exploring the feasibility of creating a new coalition for robust regulation of genetic engineering in UK food and farming. This is very much a "behind

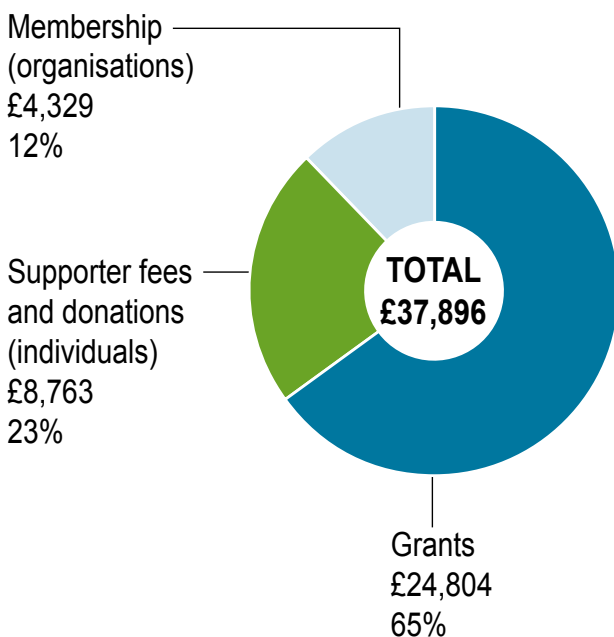
the scenes" project but it will help us to plan and work much more effectively with others in the coming months and years.

Difficult times

Financially the year to March 2020 was very challenging as shifting funder interests and competing demands have left GM Freeze with just one regular core grant funder – Sheepdrove Trust, to whom we extend our sincere gratitude. Project grants allow us to deliver important work but we cannot continue to employ staff and operate fully without a more solid income base and, reluctantly, the GM Freeze Management Committee decided in March 2020 that we could not keep going. That all changed when we reached out to you – our members and supporters – early in the new financial year, as reported in [Thin Ice 55](#). We still need a more sustainable plan for the future but, thanks to your generosity, we have the time to think more creatively about just what that plan should be.

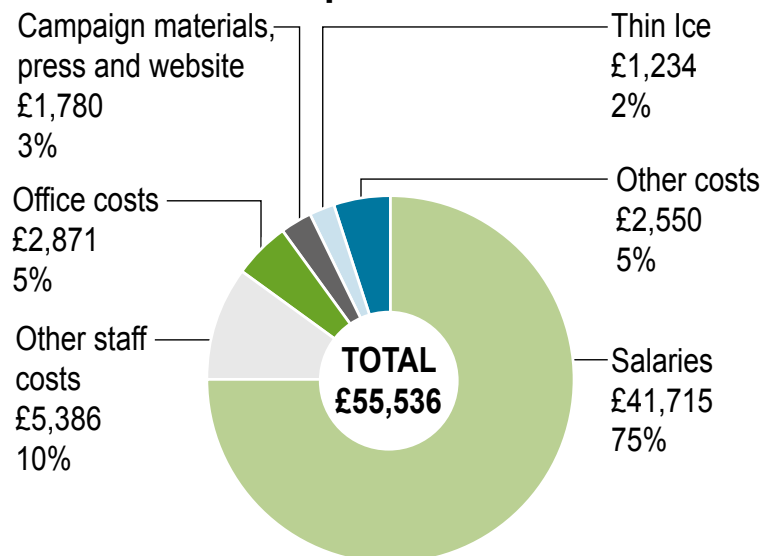
Our finances 2019/20

Income



£4,584 of grant income received in previous years was brought forward to spend in 2019/20
£6,972 of grant income has been carried forward into 2020/21 for ongoing work.

Expenditure



Members and supporters are warmly invited to attend the GM Freeze AGM which will take place online on Thursday 19 November 10am to 12noon. After the formal business there will be an opportunity to contribute your thoughts on the future of GM Freeze. Please go to www.gmfreeze.org/AGM to register and receive joining instructions.