

Registered number
5525160

GM Freeze
Report and Accounts
31 March 2021

GM Freeze
Company Information

A company limited by guarantee, incorporated 2 August 2005.

Directors

Charlotte Bickler
Kierra Box
Honor May Eldridge
Louise Payton
Bruce Pearce
Ricarda Steinbrecher

Secretary

Liz O'Neill

Accountants

Slade & Cooper Ltd
Beehive Mill
Jersey Street
Manchester
M4 6JG

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 2021.

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:

Charlotte Bickler	Organic Research Centre, elected 19 November 2020
Kierra Box	Friends of the Earth England Wales and Northern Ireland
Honor May Eldridge	(Chair)
Louise Payton	Soil Association
Bruce Pearce	(Treasurer)
Ricarda Steinbrecher	EcoNexus

Directors report – 2020/21

April 2020 to March 2021 was an extraordinary year for many reasons. As the world adjusted to the impacts of a global pandemic, GM Freeze started the year with our own financial crisis and the threat of imminent closure. Our supporters rose to the occasion with generous donations and, as a result, we are delighted to report on a full year packed with activity and plans for much more.

In a year that saw the end of the Brexit transition period and unprecedented efforts to undermine key GM safeguards we worked towards the five strategic priorities agreed in 2019. Recognising the turbulent times in which we live, our strategy is consciously flexible – allowing the team to focus on what most needs doing from one month to the next, while always reaching towards our vision of a world in which everyone's food is produced responsibly, fairly and sustainably.

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Directors' Report

Strategic aim 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.

This year saw a concerted political effort to remove key GM safeguards and open the UK's door to GMOs created with highly experimental new genome editing techniques. First came an attempt to amend the Agriculture Bill to give Ministers the power to decide what does – and does not – count as a GMO in English law. We worked intensively with colleagues at Beyond GM and GM Watch to engage a wide range of organisations and individuals in opposing this outrageous move. The amendment was withdrawn but only after the Government promised a public consultation on deregulating gene editing in food and farming.

The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra)'s Consultation on the Regulation of Genetic Technologies (as it became) launched on 7 January, closed to submissions on 17 March and dominated our work in the final quarter of 2020/21. We again teamed up with colleagues in other organisations (particularly Beyond GM – see Strategic Aim 4, below) and work included an extensive guide to support public submissions, a fully referenced political briefing, an Early Day Motion developed with and proposed by Caroline Lucas MP, parliamentary questions and, of course, our own submission to the consultation. The Government's response to the consultation was announced in Autumn 2021 and will influence our work throughout 2021/2.

Strategic aim 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.

With this year's strong focus on defending key GM safeguards, we made the case time and again for informed choice. Our Don't Hide What's Inside petition continued to demonstrate that the UK public wants to keep our GM labels and the role of GM labelling featured heavily in our response to Defra's consultation, as detailed under Strategic Aim 1, above.

The Brexit transition period ended on 31 December 2020 and we analysed the overlapping impacts of new legislation, trade deals, the Northern Ireland protocol and devolution to Scotland and Wales – all of which will affect which GMOs are allowed into our food and how easily we will be able to choose whether or not to buy and eat them. New civil service teams were given responsibilities previously held in Brussels and we organised private meetings with the Food Standards Agency, Food Standards Scotland, officials at Defra and more.

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Directors' Report

Strategic aim 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.

In April we received a grant from the Network for Social Change to support a new **PROJECT: We've Been Framed**. We brought a group of key campaigners and civil society representatives together to learn about the unhelpful ways that discussion around GM is framed. We identified new, more effective ways to talk about why GM has no place in a responsible, fair and sustainable food system. Our findings were shared at the ORFC Global conference, and we continue to develop and share resources at www.gmfreeze.org/framed as well as building key lessons into our own external communications.

Media interest in GM in food and farming was higher this year than in the recent past and GM Freeze was quoted in many articles across national newspapers, trade press and news websites. Our Director appeared on BBC Radio 4's Farming Today programme five times and extended our reach with appearances on RT UK (Russia Today's English language TV channel), Voice of Islam radio and BBC Radio Ulster. Links to media coverage that we are aware of are published in the News section of our website www.gmfreeze.org.

Strategic aim 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.

Our Esmée Fairbairn Foundation-funded **PROJECT: Creating a new GM Regulation Coalition** continued this year with a careful analysis of what it would take to get an effective new coalition off the ground. We concluded that, while effective high-profile work to uphold and develop GM regulation is essential in the short to medium-term future, a new coalition is not the way to make that happen. Collaboration and shared working are essential to the task of safeguarding our food and our farms, but we need a much more nimble and responsive approach that can adapt to the rapid and ongoing political, scientific and industrial changes in this area. We shared our conclusions with the funder and are pleased to report (Looking Ahead, below) that they have put their faith in our approach.

We developed and are delivering a new **PROJECT: Safeguarding Agroecology** in close partnership with the independent campaigning initiative Beyond GM. Generously funded by the Farming the Future collective, this project supported our response to Defra's pivotal consultation (see Strategic Aim 1, above) and focuses more broadly on building a coherent civil society response to the risks that gene editing poses to agroecological farming.

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Strategic aim 5:

We will IMPROVE our own effectiveness as an organisation.

We started this financial year with an appeal for funds, and a need to raise £25,000 to avoid closure. The response from our supporters was phenomenal, with over £37,000 received from generous individuals throughout the year – a more than four-fold rise on the previous year. Alongside small core grants from JMG Foundation and the A Team Foundation (together with project grants noted above), the new income allowed us to operate at full capacity throughout the year.

LOOKING AHEAD

As noted last year, the fluctuating interests of grant funders presents a great challenge to expert issue-based campaigning organisations like GM Freeze. The phenomenal response to our appeal shows just how much our supporters value our work but their donations were given (quite reasonably!) on a one-off basis. For GM Freeze to continue, we need a more sustainable funding plan.

We are delighted to report that, in June 2021, Esmée Fairbairn Foundation granted GM Freeze a two-year funding award that will cover more than half our current running costs. This is a hugely important award and will allow us to work in a focused but flexible way to support the food, farming and environmental sectors to better understand and make the case for effective UK regulation of agricultural GMOs. However, we are not sitting on our laurels and the Management Committee continues to consider radical options for changing what GM Freeze does and how we do it.

COVID-19

The COVID-19 pandemic and the public health measures established to manage its impact affected us all, but GM Freeze suffered less disruption than most. Our staff team are largely based at home, and we have long used online meeting platforms, so we adjusted quickly. Our Director temporarily reduced her working hours to balance family demands in the early months of this financial year and we worked to support each other as best we could. We have missed getting out and seeing our members and supporters face to face but used temporary legal arrangements to hold our 2020 AGM online. That meeting accepted a motion to amend our Articles of Association so that all General Meetings may now be held online or in person with equal status. We established a detailed COVID-19 risk assessment in April 2020 and mitigation measures are regularly reviewed by the Management Committee.

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Directors' Report

ORGANISATIONAL UPDATES AND THANKS

Sincere thanks are due to the Management Committee (Board of Directors) who volunteer their time to support, guide and develop the work of GM Freeze. The small staff team of Liz O'Neill (Director) and Vicky Hart (Admin Assistant) remained in post throughout the year, though Vicky began maternity leave and welcomed beautiful baby Alder into the world (and the GM Freeze family) in March. Coral Sirett joined the team to cover Vicky's maternity leave. As in the past, we have also worked with a small pool of expert freelancers as project and other budgets allow.

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 22 / 10 / 2021 and signed on its behalf.



Honor Eldridge
Director

22 / 10 / 2021

GM Freeze

Report to the directors on the preparation of the unaudited statutory accounts of GM Freeze for the year ended 31 March 2021

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 2021 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 Ltd
Chartered Certified Accountants
Beehive Mill
Jersey Street
Manchester
M4 6JG

**GM Freeze
Profit and Loss Account
for the year ended 31 March 2021**

	2021 £	2020 £
Turnover	43,211	13,092
Administrative expenses	(52,121)	(55,536)
Other operating income	27,356	22,416
Operating profit/(loss)	<u>18,446</u>	<u>(20,028)</u>
Profit/(loss) on ordinary activities before taxation	<u>18,446</u>	<u>(20,028)</u>
Tax on profit/(loss) on ordinary activities	-	-
Profit/(loss) for the financial year	<u>18,446</u>	<u>(20,028)</u>

GM Freeze**Registered number:** 5525160**Balance Sheet****as at 31 March 2021**

	Notes	2021	2020
		£	£
Current assets			
Debtors	2	1,157	345
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>34,154</u>	<u>17,613</u>
		35,311	17,958
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year			
	3	(6,839)	(7,932)
Net current assets		<u>28,472</u>	<u>10,026</u>
Net assets		<u>28,472</u>	<u>10,026</u>
Capital and reserves			
Profit and loss account		28,472	10,026
Total funds		<u>28,472</u>	<u>10,026</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.



Bruce Pearce

Treasurer 22 / 10 / 2021

Approved by the board on _____

GM Freeze
Notes to the Accounts
for the year ended 31 March 2021

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 2021

2 Debtors	2021	2020
	£	£
Other debtors	<u>1,157</u>	<u>345</u>
3 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	2021	2020
	£	£
Trade creditors	960	960
Other taxes and social security costs	1,306	-
Other creditors	<u>4,573</u>	<u>6,972</u>
	<u>6,839</u>	<u>7,932</u>

4 Staff

The average number of employees in the year was 2 (2020: 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 2021

6 Detailed Project accounts	Core	Development of Regulation Coalition	Brexit	Safeguarding Agroecology	We've Been Framed	Total 2021	2020
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Income							
Grants	10,350	-	-	5,975	7,823	24,148	24,804
Membership, supporter fees & donations	43,211	-	-	-	-	43,211	13,092
	<u>53,561</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>5,975</u>	<u>7,823</u>	<u>67,359</u>	<u>37,896</u>
Expenditure							
Salaries	28,343	3,247	-	6,348	2,948	40,886	41,715
Other staff costs	1,074	650	-	145	2,850	4,719	5,386
Office costs	1,758	198	-	291	229	2,476	2,871
Campaign, press, media	355	-	-	-	-	355	1,081
Website	652	-	50	-	-	702	699
Thin Ice	1,438	-	-	-	-	1,438	1,234
Other costs	1,495	-	-	-	50	1,545	2,550
	<u>35,115</u>	<u>4,095</u>	<u>50</u>	<u>6,784</u>	<u>6,077</u>	<u>52,121</u>	<u>55,536</u>
Net income before deferrals	18,446	(4,095)	(50)	(809)	1,746	15,238	(17,640)
Grants brought forward	-	6,447	525	-	-	6,972	4,584
Grants carried forward	-	(2,352)	(475)	809	(1,746)	(3,764)	(6,972)
Profit/(Loss) for the year	<u>£ 18,446</u>	<u>£ -</u>	<u>£ -</u>	<u>£ -</u>	<u>£ -</u>	<u>£ 18,446</u>	<u>£ (20,028)</u>

GM Freeze
Detailed profit and loss account
for the year ended 31 March 2021







	2021	2020
	£	£
Income	43,211	13,092
Administrative expenses	(52,121)	(55,536)
Other operating income	27,356	22,416
Operating profit/(loss)	<u>18,446</u>	<u>(20,028)</u>
Profit/(loss) before tax	<u>18,446</u>	<u>(20,028)</u>

GM Freeze
Detailed profit and loss account
for the year ended 31 March 2021

	2021	2020
	£	£
Sales		
Organisation fees & donations	5,573	4,329
Supporter fees & donations	37,638	8,763
	<u>43,211</u>	<u>13,092</u>
Administrative expenses		
General administrative expenses:		
Staff Costs	40,886	41,715
Travel & accommodation	27	2,311
Consultancy & freelance	4,492	2,889
Professional fees	1,495	1,495
Office expenses	1,381	1,062
Premises	845	1,525
Telephone	250	284
Meetings & conferences	50	1,055
Thin Ice	1,438	1,234
Website	702	699
Campaign, press, media	355	1,081
Training and development	200	186
	<u>52,121</u>	<u>55,536</u>
	<u>52,121</u>	<u>55,536</u>
Other operating income		
Grants	<u>27,356</u>	<u>22,416</u>

TITLE	GM Freeze Annual Report and Accounts
FILE NAME	G057 Final Accounts 2021- revised.pdf
DOCUMENT ID	a891695a67ee9de45c3ba94b1314b2ed525395ce
AUDIT TRAIL DATE FORMAT	DD / MM / YYYY
STATUS	● Completed

Document history

 SENT	20 / 10 / 2021 15:43:43 UTC	Sent for signature to Bruce Pearce (brucepearce@fearann-consulting.co.uk) and Honor Eldridge (honor.eldridge@plantlife.org.uk) from liz@gmfreeze.org IP: 82.31.48.132
 VIEWED	22 / 10 / 2021 11:13:06 UTC	Viewed by Bruce Pearce (brucepearce@fearann-consulting.co.uk) IP: 82.37.147.172
 SIGNED	22 / 10 / 2021 11:24:00 UTC	Signed by Bruce Pearce (brucepearce@fearann-consulting.co.uk) IP: 82.37.147.172
 VIEWED	22 / 10 / 2021 13:10:07 UTC	Viewed by Honor Eldridge (honor.eldridge@plantlife.org.uk) IP: 81.158.157.0
 SIGNED	22 / 10 / 2021 13:10:46 UTC	Signed by Honor Eldridge (honor.eldridge@plantlife.org.uk) IP: 81.158.157.0
 COMPLETED	22 / 10 / 2021 13:10:46 UTC	The document has been completed.