

Review of the year

April 2020 to March 2021 was an extraordinary time for us all. We look forward to welcoming members and supporters to our [Annual General Meeting](#) to find out more about how our financial year started under the threat of imminent closure and ended on much more positive ground. Here we share a summary of key developments and the headline figures to give you a flavour of our Annual Report and Accounts which can be found [on our website](#) or sent out in the post if you contact us on info@gmfreeze.org or 0845 217 8992.

Defending GM safeguards

Political moves to deregulate newer GM methods began last summer during debate about the Agriculture Bill. In January, just days after the end of the Brexit transition period, the Government launched its [Consultation on the Regulation of Genetic Technologies](#), which closed to submissions in March. Thanks to funding from the Farming the Future collective, we worked intensively with our colleagues at Beyond GM to ensure that the case for robust regulation of ALL forms of genetic engineering was heard loud and clear. We also used the context of the consultation to start building relationships with the UK politicians and civil service teams that have taken over responsibilities previously held in Brussels.

Improving the way we talk about GM in food and farming

In April 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. This work, funded by the Network for Social Change, continues and you can visit www.gmfreeze.org/framed to find out more.

Building an effective campaign network

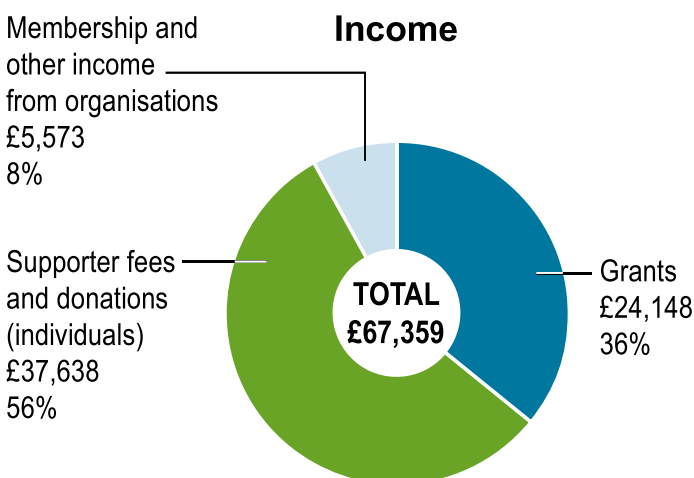
In 2019/20 we received funding from Esmée Fairbairn Foundation to explore the feasibility of establishing a new civil society coalition to campaign for effective UK regulation of GM in food and farming. For various reasons

we concluded this year that, while effective high-profile work to uphold and develop GM regulation is essential, a new coalition is not the way to make that happen. We need to collaborate, of course, but in a more nimble and responsive way than a formal coalition would allow. We shared our conclusions with the funder and are pleased to report (see page 2) that they have put their faith in our approach.

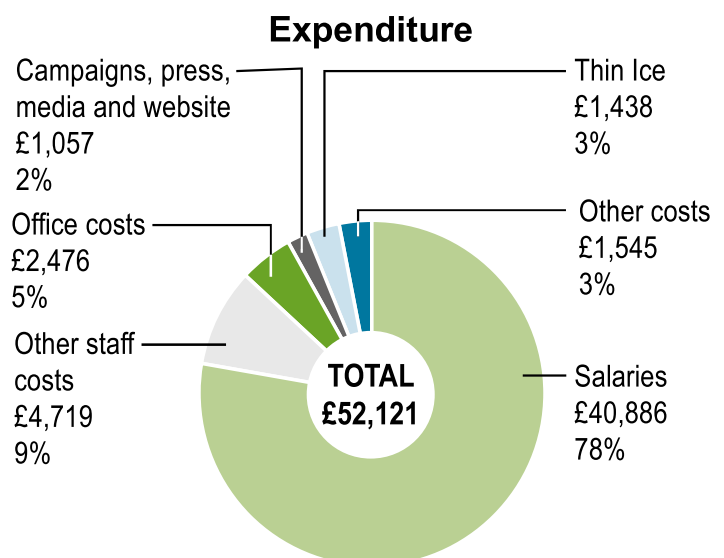
Difficult times and positive outcomes

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. However, we faced our own troubles and started the financial year with an appeal to raise £25,000 to avoid closure. The response from our supporters was phenomenal, with over £37,000 received from generous individuals this year – a more than four-fold rise on 2019/20. 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. Thank you all for your ongoing support.

Our finances 2020/21



£6,972 of grant income received in previous years was brought forward to spend in 2020/21
 £3,764 of grant income has been carried forward into 2021/22 for ongoing work.
 Please note: all figures are provisional, pending final approval by the GM Freeze Management Committee



Members and supporters are warmly invited to join the GM Freeze AGM, which will be held online from 10am to 12noon, on Wednesday 3 November. The formal business will be followed by a creative session on *Messaging Dos and Don'ts*. Please email info@gmfreeze.org or call us on 0845 217 8992 for details of how to join the Zoom meeting online or by telephone.