

Our Year: 2022/3

The year from April 2022 to March 2023 was a tough one for anyone who shares GM Freeze’s vision of a world in which everyone’s food is produced responsibly, fairly and sustainably. Here, we share a brief summary of what happened, how GM Freeze was able to make a difference, and what it all meant for our finances.

The UK Government introduced its Genetic Technology Bill in May 2022 and it was signed into law as the Genetic Technology (Precision Breeding) Act in March 2023. Its dominance over our work last year is reflected in our coverage of the detail of what the law says – and what we did to try and change it – see [Thin Ice 62](#), [Thin Ice 63](#), [Thin Ice 64](#) and [Thin Ice 65](#).

The GM Freeze team worked throughout year to analyse the content of the Genetic Technology Bill and present the evidence-based case against the deregulation that it will bring. We worked directly with MPs and peers, wrote and shared detailed briefings, drafted amendments and helped others to raise their voices. We also answered a lot of questions covering the technology, the policy implications of the provisions in

the bill and what might go wrong without proper safeguards in place. We submitted formal evidence to a committee of MPs and published four separate briefings for different stages of the Parliamentary process. Having identified a significant knowledge gap around the nature of a range of genetic engineering techniques that are often referred to as gene editing, we also developed and published a briefing that explains in simple terms the scientific basis for our assertion that *Gene Editing is GM with Better PR*.

Throughout the year GM Freeze worked collaboratively with other organisations, meeting regularly and co-ordinating our responses to maximise our collective impact.

While debate was ongoing about the need for proper safeguards on the use of newer GM techniques, developers continued to seek permission to plant open field trials of experimental crops developed with first-generation GM techniques. GM Freeze responded quickly on each occasion, as did our supporters, whose generous donations funded this work through our *Trials and Authorisations Fund*.

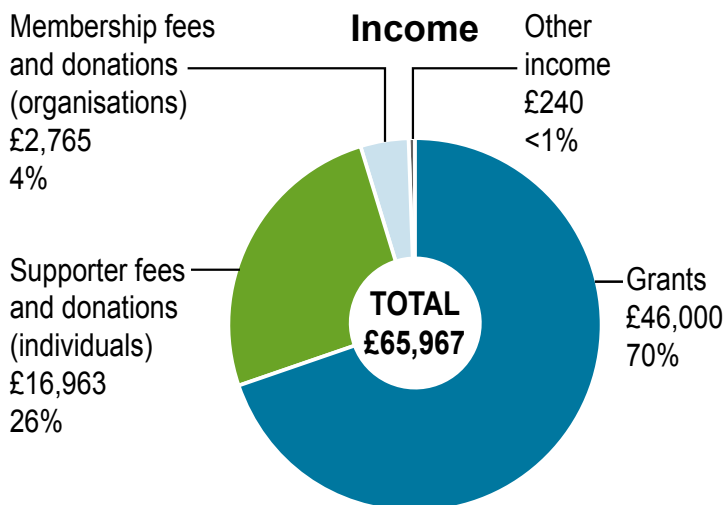
Media interest in our work was strong this year and GM Freeze

was featured or quoted in at least 35 different articles and broadcasts including interviews on BBC and ITV news programmes as well as several BBC radio stations. We also got out and about in person, presenting at the Oxford Real Farming Conference (alongside Vandana Shiva), the Wales Real Food and Farming Conference, the online Seed Sovereignty Gathering, the Good Food, Good Farming March and rally in London and the Championing High Standards Conference in Edinburgh.

Financially the year was positive, with the second tranche of a two-year funding award from the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation and an unexpected core grant of £13,000 from the Movements Trust. Our supporters were as generous as ever, contributing a hugely important quarter of our income in 2022/3 through regular and one-off donations.

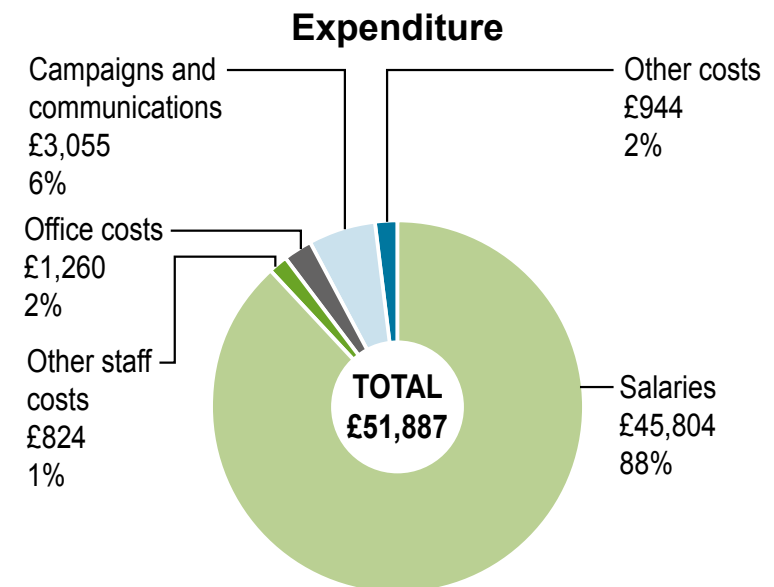
Please see our Annual Report and Accounts for further details on how we: made the case for effective safeguards; helped to plug scientific knowledge gaps; defended our right to choose, and spread the word about the issues.¹

Our finances 2022/23



£394 of grant income received in previous years was brought forward to spend in 2022/3.

£288 of grant income has been carried forward into 2023/4 for ongoing work.



£1,208 of donations to our Trials and Authorisations fund was carried forward into 2023/4 for work carried out early in our financial year.

Detailed accounts can be found on our website.

¹ www.gmfreeze.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/G057-final-accounts-2023-version-3-signed.pdf