

Email Submission: Tamsyn Glen

With regard to the proposed amendments to Gene Technology Regulations, 2001, I would like to make the following submission:

- * The new gene technologies such as CRISPR et al. are new and therefore have not been around long enough to know what harm they pose. The technologies must be regarded as “new” for a long time so that they can be tested and independent researchers can conduct long-term safety assessments to ensure public safety and well-being. These study periods can be and should be decades so those studying them can prove that they are not harmful on a long term (& generational) basis.
- * The new gene technology/techniques involve risks and results such as mutations could occur and are be harmful, and the effectiveness of these techniques can make it very difficult to identify such mutations or genetic modifications once outside the laboratory. That is scary.
- * Any mutations or genetic modifications can be passed between organisms and species, and within species. Once again, this is scary as once they are there, they're there and there is no going back or undoing.
- * If genetic modifications are not clearly labelled as GM and cannot necessarily or easily be identified independently or by the layman, any harmful effects arising from those genetic modifications cannot easily be ascertained. A crucial decision has been taken away from the layman.
- * Any organism whose genes have been changed in any way has been genetically modified - GM!
- * Any organism which has been genetically modified should be labelled as such forever more.

In the strongest of terms, I submit that any modification of the regulations which allows the elimination or omission of GM labelling should not be approved or progressed further - the unknown consequences are too scary to contemplate.