



OF&G STATEMENT IN RESPONSE TO SCIENCE FOR SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

Factually correct

Organic Farmers & Growers (OF&G) categorically refutes Science for Sustainable Agriculture's claim that OF&G has spread 'misinformation' about genetically engineered soil microbes.

OF&G stands by its statement that the Genetic Technology (Precision Breeding) Act gives a green light to pesticide and biotech companies to develop and release genetically edited (GE) microbes.

The Act not only removes regulatory control from 'Precision Bred' plants and animals but also removes such control from almost all types of genetically engineered crops and foods.

The wording is such that the Act is open to interpretation. The prescriptions within it are ill-defined and the anticipated secondary legislation (that could offer greater clarity) has yet to materialise.

Throughout the legislative process this Act has met considerable resistance. As shown in public records, notable geneticists have been thwarted in their efforts to support policymakers in finding robust, unequivocal wording:

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/Lords/2022-12-12/debates/AE904A12-2F68-4992-8BCE-AF885A45DE8B/details#contribution-056571D5-2EE7-4B49-BFFB-F2266A63D6FA>

It is the absolute lack of transparency and guardrails within the Act that causes OF&G and numerous respected scientists and institutions such concern and why the introduction of strong regulatory framework is paramount.

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Notes to editors:

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OF&G is one of the largest control bodies in the UK, certifying over 50% of UK organic land and operating across Great Britain and Northern Ireland, including the Channel Islands and Isle of Man.

OF&G has more than 40 years' experience in the organic sector and is the longest established Defra-approved organic control body. The company's headquarters are in Shrewsbury, Shropshire.

<https://ofgorganic.org/>