Press release of Marc Spring 4 November 2015 concerning the Harmful Digital Communications Act 2015

First Interim Injunction against unmoderated mainstream "bully boy blog" *Your NZ*.

The Harmful Digital Communications Act 2015 [HDCA], the brain child of ex Justice Minister Judith Collins, had its first test in a District Court application today with the Court granting Marc Robert Springs application for an interim injunction [CIV-2015-004-001653] against previous Dunedin Mayoral candidate Peter Donald George, aged 60, of 9 Babsie Road, Ravensbourne, of unknown occupation.

"Peter Georges behaviour, in abusing people, and inciting other people to come on to his blog to abuse people, and to lie, and fabricate the most serious criminal allegations against innocent persons that he nor his fellow bloggers have ever met, needed to be brought under control by the processes of justice" **said Mr Spring**

The Courts interim ruling by District Court Judge Gary Harrison takes immediate effect as against Mr George and his blog site "Your NZ". It provides that Mr George is restrained from mentioning the names of Mr Spring, his employer, or any of the employers associated companies, on his blog "Your NZ", and that Mr George is restrained from directly or indirectly communicating with Mr Spring, or any employees of Mr Springs employer, or any of the companies associated with Mr Springs employer. The second part of the ruling is that Mr George has to, with immediate effect, remove all direct and indirect references to Mr Spring, his employer, and any of the employers associated companies.   The third and final ruling is that Mr George has to, with immediate effect, introduce a full time moderator system so that no comment that is harmful to those protected by the Courts orders, is "placed on the Blog "Your NZ".

"I felt that the Court understood that Mr Georges articles were fiction, fabrication, and falsehood, designed to grab readership, and incite malice, in order to harm persons inclusive of myself, and those associated with me. I took particular umbrage at an attempt by Mr George to blackmail my employer into terminating my employment, and I felt that Mr George needed to be reeled in" **said Mr Spring**

Mr Spring intends to prosecute Mr George under s22 of the HDCA seeking that Mr George receives the maximum penalty for his actions. The maximum penalty for causing harm to a person is a \$50,000 fine, or imprisonment for a maximum term of 2 years.   Mr Spring believes his application and orders were the first under the new Act. In keeping with the new age of communication, and the content of the order, Mr Spring intends serving Mr George by posting the order on Mr Georges website, which will be, for the last time in its history, as of today unmoderated.

"Numerous friends and associates that were reading the hateful and hurtful fabrications of Mr George have agreed to stump funds to assist me bring Mr George to justice, and that I feel that serving the Courts orders online by posting them on his blog, in his comments section, is somehow appropriate in the circumstances. <u>I would appreciate it if my employer, who has stood by me, is not mentioned in the media"</u> **said Mr Spring.**

Should Mr George not immediately obey the Courts orders, Mr Spring will apply to the Court to have Mr George imprisoned for contempt, and prosecuted for non-compliance which could see Mr George, if he were convicted, serve a maximum term of imprisonment of 6 months.   Mr Spring is unsure whether Mr George could operate his blog from a prison cell.

"Mr George has attacked the likes of Cameron Slater and other bloggers for years, when in fact it has been his behaviour that has been, by far, the worst. The statutorily enforced moderation of blog site comments should be made law in an immediate amendment to the HDCA, with the addition that the website owner is liable for any comments that are posted after moderation. If these additions were to become law, the significant expense to date will have been worth it" **said Mr Spring.**

Mr Spring is not available for comment.