

WINSTON PETERS PRESS RELEASE ANNEX:

1. I am making this press release to address recent events concerning the resignation of the Speaker of Parliament, the Rt Hon Trevor Mallard, and the Prime Minister's announcement that he was to be posted as an ambassador for New Zealand to Europe.
2. As the New Zealand Public know, on 28 April 2022 I was served with a trespass notice issued by the Speaker or his delegate, because on 22 February 2022 I went to the grounds of Parliament for approximately 45 minutes and spoke to protesters there. Many others were served with trespass notices as well.
3. This trespass notice was withdrawn only 7 days later following significant public backlash against this decision, including my indication that I was considering proceedings against the decision.
4. When the Speaker was questioned about these trespass notices by the Government and Administration Select Committee on 8 June 2022, he said he played no part in the decision to issue trespass notices, and would not answer further questions due to ongoing court cases related to the protests.
5. For the record, on 25 May 2022, my solicitors wrote to the Speaker and referred to the Speaker's own press release in which he said that the decision to withdraw the trespass notice against me and five others was because we were "no longer regarded as being a risk to the safety or security of others at Parliament."
6. My solicitors posed these questions to the Speaker:
 - a. How could it be said that I posed a risk to the security of Parliament by attending Parliament for 45 minutes on 22 February 2022 and talking to people there?
 - b. If I was such a threat, why it took two months to serve the trespass notice on me?
 - c. Why was I considered a threat on 28 April 2022 but seven days later I was "no longer" considered a threat?
7. My Solicitors, on my behalf, expressed the view that the answers to these questions disclose that the trespass notice issued against me, and probably others, had nothing to do with a threat, but was as a consequence of an irrational and unreasonable exercise of this power.
8. What my solicitors sought from the Speaker was all of the information disclosing the reason for the decision to issue a trespass notice against me so that these reasons could be known and considered.
9. My solicitors had to write three times to obtain a confirmation from the Speaker that he had received their letter. And only then, on 31 May 2022, the Speaker explained that he was in Europe and that he had understood me to have already issued proceedings, which was wrong. My solicitors wrote confirming that no proceedings had been issued by me, and

repeating their request for the information I sought. They noted that the issues raised are of considerable constitutional and public importance.

10. The Speaker replied, again on 31 May 2022, insisting that I had said that I had issued proceedings, claiming I had said this on the radio, which I had not.
11. It was made plain to the Speaker, again on 31 May 2022, that I had not issued proceedings.
12. Since this exchange the Speaker has engaged a private law firm. On 9 June 2022, following the Speaker's statements to the select committee, my lawyers again wrote to the Speaker's lawyers noting that the Speaker had previously and persistently, but wrongly claimed that I had issued proceedings. They sought detail of the court proceedings the Speaker was referring to before the Select Committee.
13. Having sought replies from the Speaker that address the seriousness of this matter and failed, I have instructed my Solicitors to issue proceedings forthwith. In a free and democratic Country, a citizen should be informed of the reasons for being trespassed from the Nation's Parliament.