

Health & Safety stops search for aliens

The British Broadcasting Corp. (BBC) has shelved a plan to look for alien life form on two recently discovered planets because of health & safety concerns. Professor Brian Cox, who co-hosts a show called *Stargazing Live*, with a reported audience of 4 million viewers, said the BBC was concerned the planned live experiment broke the corporation's health and safety rules.

In an interview aired on BBC Radio 1 on November 14th, Professor Cox stated:

"We decided that we'd point the Jodrell Bank telescope at the planet that had been discovered by these two viewers and listen because no one had ever pointed a radio telescope at it and you never know," said Cox.

"The BBC actually said, 'But you can't do that because we need to go through the regulations and health and safety and everything in case we discover a signal from an alien civilisation'.

"You mean we would discover the first hint that there is other intelligent life in the universe beyond Earth, live on air, and you're worried about the health and safety of it?

"It was incredible. They did have guidelines. Compliance."

It may be of interest to note while the BBC does not have an Extra-terrestrial policy(nor does the UN for that matter), the Vatican does. Perhaps, Prof. Cox should have taken his search to Vatican TV.