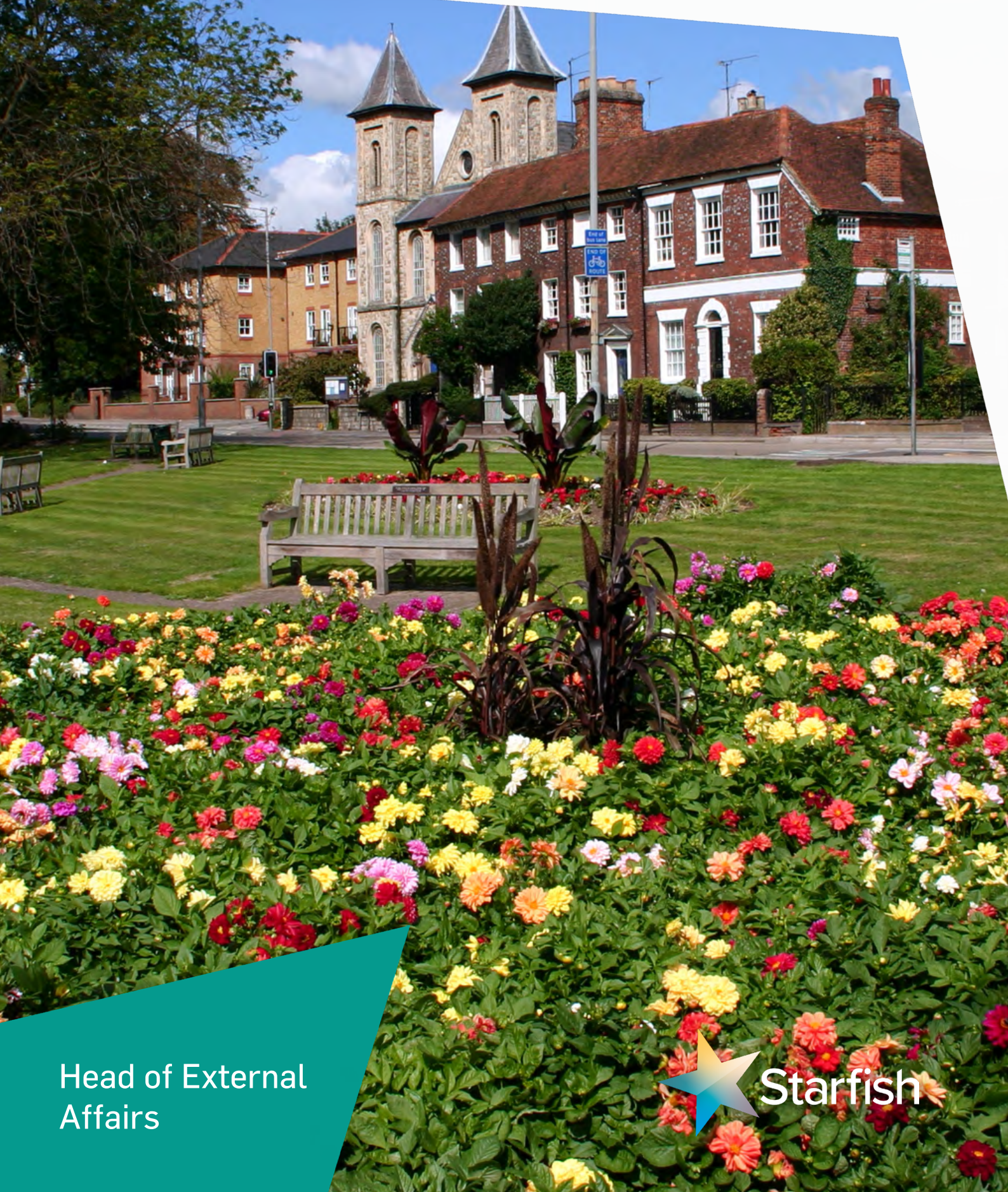




**Buckinghamshire
Council**



**Head of External
Affairs**



Starfish

Welcome letter from Sarah Ashmead

Thank you for your interest in joining Buckinghamshire Council as our new Head of External Affairs.

This is an exciting time for us as we continue our journey as a new organisation. The Council was created in 2020 as a single Unitary Authority from the merger of five predecessor organisations. As a modern, forward thinking council that embraces innovation, we have a unique opportunity to transform the way in which local government works with our residents, communities and businesses to deliver great outcomes for our county.

Buckinghamshire Council is one of the largest councils in the county and we are ambitious to play our part as a leading authority nationally and internationally. This brand new role aims to help us deliver on this ambition through raising our profile and forming mutually beneficial strategic relationships with key decision makers.

As a place, we are home to Pinewood Studios, Silverstone racetrack and have a number of national infrastructure projects in the county. Our economy delivers over £14.5bn nationally and we have an important role to play in building the national and regional economy as we come out of Covid. Working in partnership with businesses, staff and other public service partners is in our DNA and collectively we have big ambitions for our county and our residents. We are looking for an experienced and forward-looking Head of External Affairs to be responsible for developing our new External Affairs function.

By working with us, you will be an important part of something bigger. From supporting residents who are at the heart of what we do to helping to shape our county, now and for future generations. This role is a hugely exciting opportunity to not only create a new function but play a lead role at the heart of one of the country's most ambitious and dynamic local authorities. If you understand what it takes to create a world class reputation, form meaningful relationships at the highest levels and exert influence across a variety of sectors and bodies, then we would love to hear from you.



Sarah Ashmead
Deputy Chief Executive



A new era for Local Government in Buckinghamshire

Buckinghamshire Council is a new unitary authority that brings together the best of the previous five councils to create positive change for local people, communities and businesses. Following a decision to merge the five former local authorities across Buckinghamshire – Aylesbury Vale District Council, Buckinghamshire County Council, Chiltern District Council, South Bucks District Council and Wycombe District Council – the new authority was created on 1st April 2020. We are firmly focused on the future and have made a clear commitment to serve residents better and to provide stronger representation for Buckinghamshire, both locally and nationally.

Facts and figures

In 2019...

- The population was 546,000.
- The average house price was £407,967 (as of August 2019)
- The median rent for a two-bed property was £1,069.
- There were 169 town and parish councils.
- 31% of the county is designated green belt (England average 12.5%)
- The Buckinghamshire economy was worth £15.2 billion.
- Almost 1 in 2 of the workforce was employed outside Buckinghamshire.
- There were 235 schools.
- 50% of young people went to university, of which 95% did so out of the county (majority do not return).

On the horizon

- The population is set to reach 585,000 by 2030.
- There will be 440 state pension age citizens per 1,000 working age citizens by 2038 (from 310 per 1,000 in 2018).
- In the next decade, there is set to be a 23% increase in 65+ year olds, a 42% increase in 85+ year olds, and a 5% increase in children.

Corporate plan:

Our corporate plan sets out our strategic direction for the next three years, outlining our ambitions and priorities to make Buckinghamshire the best place to live, raise a family, work and do business.

We will work with partners to deliver our key priorities:

- strengthening our communities
- improving our environment
- protecting the vulnerable
- increasing prosperity

For more information, visit:

<https://www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/your-council/corporate-plans-and-priorities/>



Objectives for 2020-2023:

We have defined several key objectives for the future:

- ensuring our residents can live independent, fulfilling lives within strong, healthy, inclusive and resilient communities;
- enabling children, adults and families to feel safe and supported to live independent lives;
- giving older, disabled and vulnerable people access to the right support at the right time;
- encouraging sustainable economic growth, working with partners to maximise opportunities and boost productivity;
- attracting high quality jobs and investment in skills, innovation and connectivity, keeping Buckinghamshire one of the best places to do business;
- addressing climate change, improving our environment, and creating economic opportunities for clean growth;
- reducing our county's environmental impact by promoting sustainability and reducing waste;
- improving air quality and people's health, by reducing emissions and encouraging green transport options;
- improving connectivity and tackle congestion through investments in our roads, transport and digital infrastructure.

We also need to deliver more homes and the associated infrastructure for our ever-growing population. By managing growth sensibly and responsibly, we can protect and enhance our natural environment and the benefits it brings.

Investing for the future

As a Council, we are passionate about the future of Buckinghamshire for our residents, communities, and businesses alike. To ensure we meet our corporate aims, we have committed to spending our £1.186billion Council budget (gross for 2020-21) on a series of large-scale investment programmes, which include:

- £501m for buildings, roads, and other infrastructure (capital budget), including:
- £114m for economic regeneration
- £108m for schools
- £70m for strategic highways maintenance
- £62m infrastructure including link roads
- £504m for schools and education
- £191m for adult social care
- £78m for children's social care
- £44m for transport, including roads, footpaths, street lighting, repairing potholes and parking
- £5m for tackling climate change.

Useful links:

<https://www.zoopla.co.uk/discover/buying-area-guides/living-in-buckinghamshire/>

<https://www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/>

<https://www.visitbuckinghamshire.org/>

<https://www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/health-wellbeing-and-sports/>

About Buckinghamshire

Buckinghamshire is a beautiful county and our stunning natural and historic landscape is valued by all. Over a quarter of our county is within the Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and a further third is covered by the Metropolitan Green Belt. The county has much to offer to its visitors, including historic houses, stunning gardens such as those at Cliveden and Stowe, and historic attractions such as the Chiltern Open Air Museum and the Hell-Fire Caves.

Buckinghamshire is a prosperous county and a successful place to do business, contributing £14.8 billion to the UK economy and ranked as the fourth most productive area in England. The county has low unemployment rates, higher than average household incomes and boasts world-leading sectors. With the home of British motor racing at Silverstone Circuit based in the north, through to Pinewood Studios in the south where the legendary James Bond movies were filmed, it's fair to say that Buckinghamshire is already a hive of activity.

Buckinghamshire has excellent rail and road connections to London and other Home Counties, and comprises of both peaceful and bustling towns and villages - some of which are part of the London commuter belt. With glorious countryside on your doorstep, exceptional schools across the county, and diverse locations to suit a range of lifestyles and budgets; Buckinghamshire is an exceptional county to both live and work.

See: <https://www.visitbuckinghamshire.org/>



Working for Buckinghamshire Council

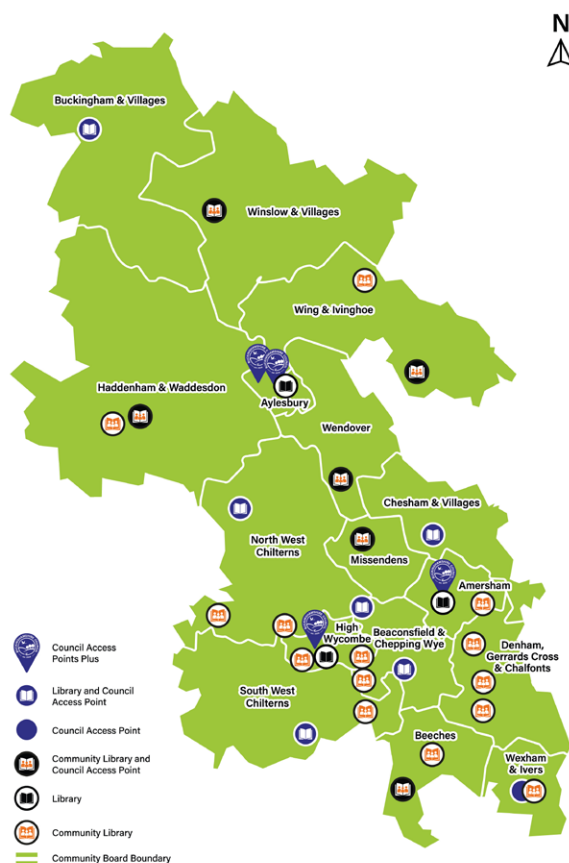
At Buckinghamshire Council, we have a set of values chosen by employees, that represent what we are – Proud, Ambitious, Collaborative and Trustworthy. Our work matters, and our residents are at the heart of what we do. As one of the biggest local authorities in the UK, we are part of a network of partners spanning both public and private sectors. By working for us, you are part of something bigger, and you'll have the chance to make a positive difference to the communities we serve.

Our services are wide-ranging, meaning that the opportunities for staff to grow and progress are endless. Colleagues' career development is supported, and we believe in growing our own talent. Our staff are offered a wide range of pay and financial benefits, from a generous employer pension scheme in line with the Local Government Pension Scheme, and staff discounts at local gyms and restaurants – a we recognise and reward you.

Everyone has a voice, and we listen, which is why regular communications and staff-led networks are so important to us. We know that our biggest strength comes from the people that work for us, and that's why we're working hard to ensure we continue to be an accessible and inclusive organisation. From dedicated staff networks overseen by our Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Steering Group, to proudly standing as a Disability Confident employer, it's important to us that all our colleagues feel engaged, listened to, and valued.

Our offer of flexible working empowers a productive and happy workforce and allows employees to combine work with other responsibilities and commitments. We believe our workforce should reflect the diverse communities we service in Buckinghamshire, and we are looking for like-minded individuals to join us in promoting equality, fairness, and inclusion for everyone.

For more information see: <https://jobs.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/working-buckinghamshire-council/>



About the role

As a new unitary authority, Buckinghamshire Council has the chance to do things differently and forge its own approach, in order to create positive change for the residents, communities and businesses of Buckinghamshire.

Our work matters, and we are proud of our ambitious and collaborative culture, but we also know we could do more to raise our profile and form strategic relationships with key decision makers. As a result, we have created this brand new role, reporting to the Service Director for Policy and Communications, which will be responsible for setting up and developing our External Affairs function. Working closely with Members and senior officers, you will lobby government and relevant bodies, liaising with communications and engagement colleagues to promote the work of the council, monitor and report back on the big political and legislative developments, organise and attend key events, and develop strong and robust networks across sectors.

This is a hugely exciting opportunity to not only shape a new function but play a lead role at the heart of one of the country's most ambitious and dynamic local authorities. We are therefore seeking exceptional candidates who understand what it takes to create a world class reputation, form meaningful relationships at the highest levels, and exert influence across a variety of sectors and bodies.

The role is a grade 14 Leadership role. There are three points within the grade:

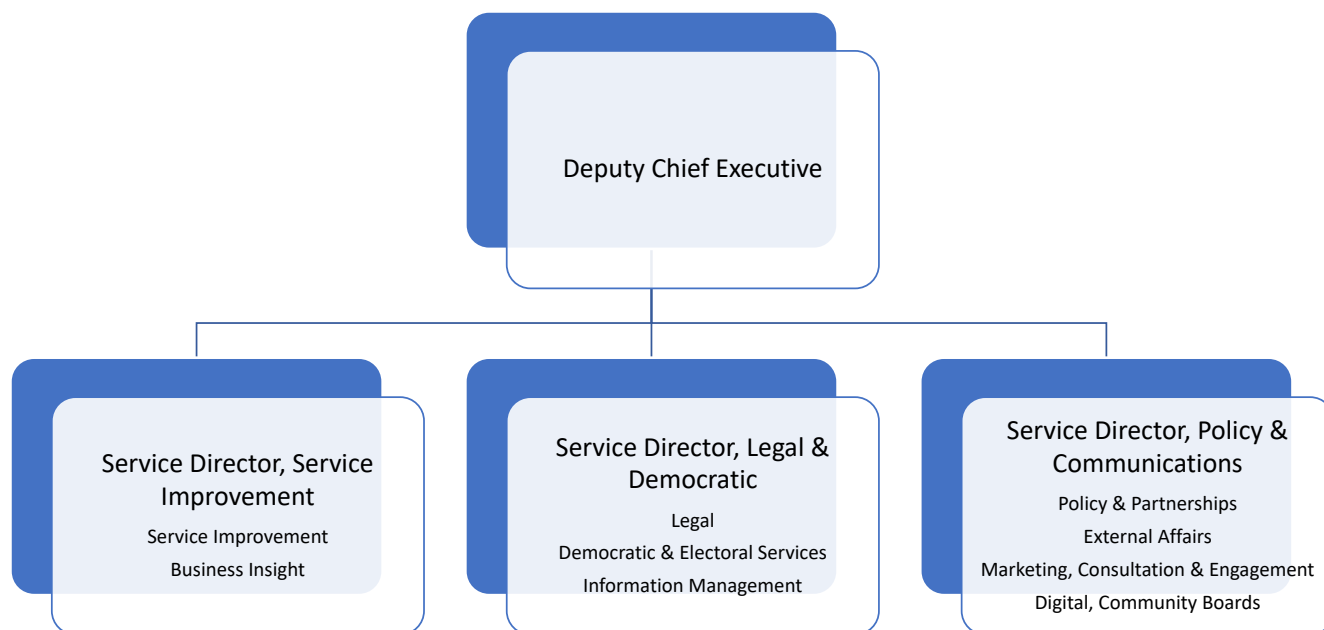
Point 1 - £87,826

Point 2 - £90,077

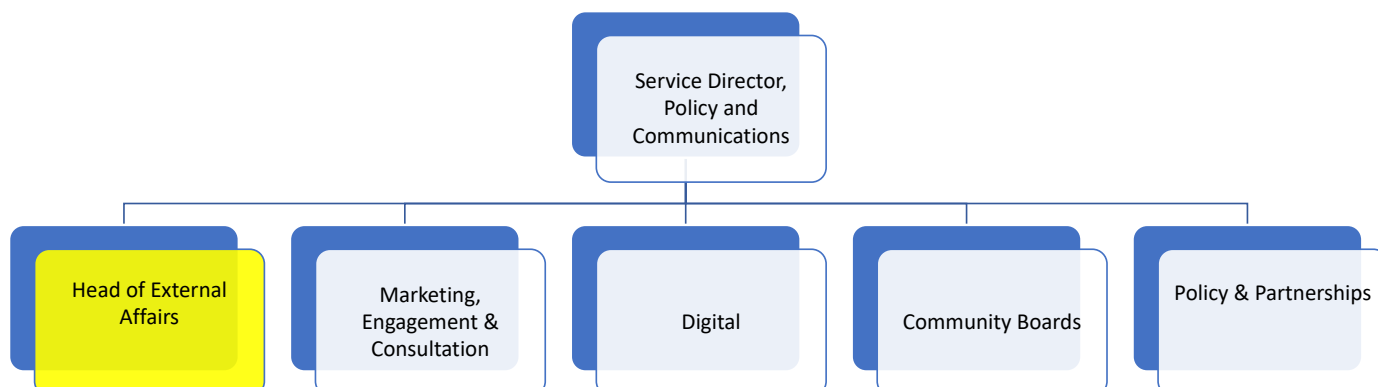
Point 3 - £92,329



DCE Overview



Policy & Communications



How to Apply

For a confidential discussion about the role please get in touch with Luke Judd at Starfish Search at luke.judd@starfishsearch.com or 07435 270659.

To make an application, please go to <https://starfishsearch.com/jobs/bucks-head-of-external-affairs/> and click on the apply now button, with the following prepared:

- Your CV
- A supporting statement (max four sides)

We would also be grateful if you would also complete the Equality and Diversity monitoring form on the online application process. This form is for monitoring purposes only and is not treated as part of your application.

Closing date: 29 April 2022

Longlist interviews: 12-13 May 2022

Final interviews: 19 May 2022

