

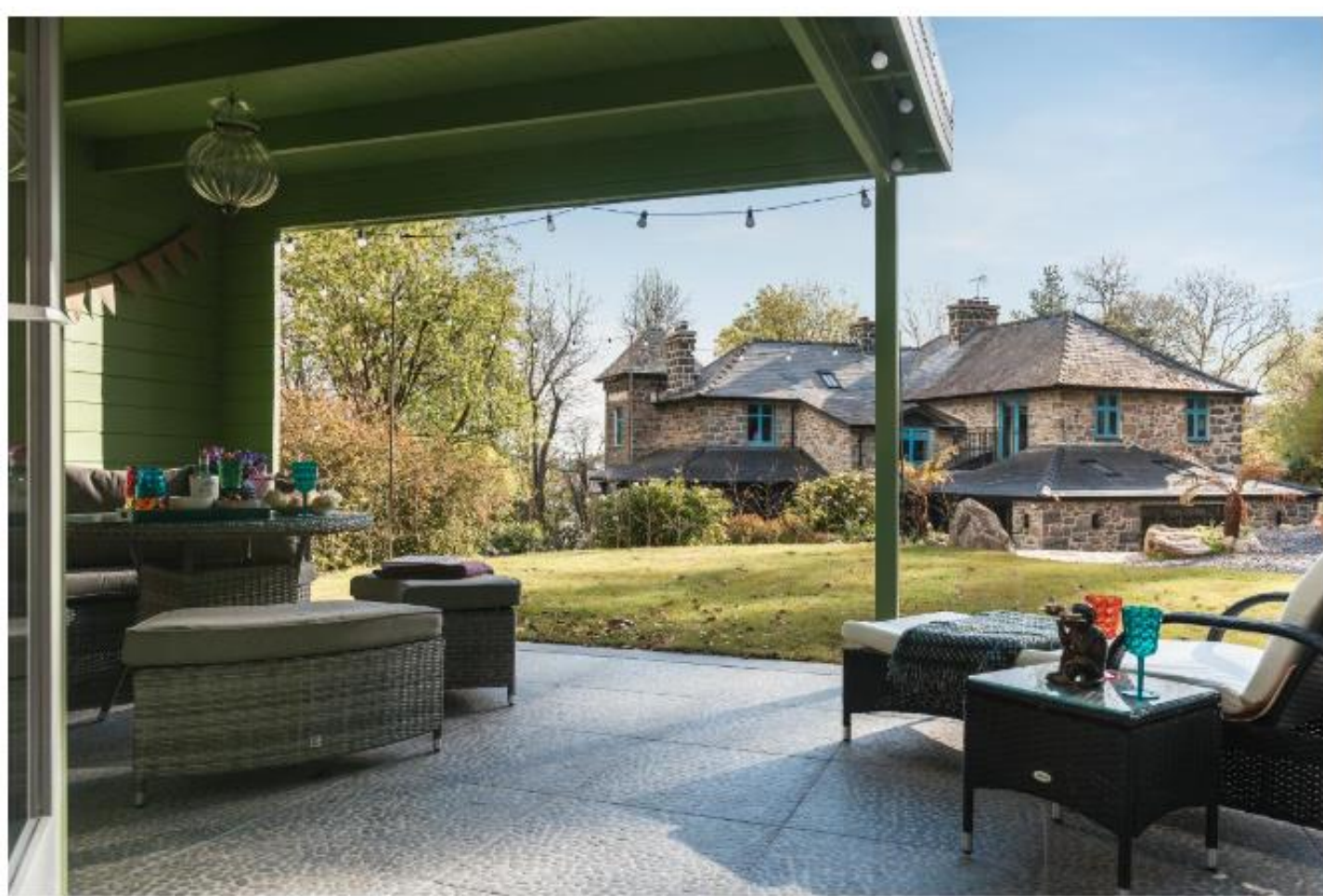
## New holiday let rules in Wales ‘doing more harm than good’

As the Waleses plan to stay in Airbnbs in the principality, a clampdown on tourist rentals is causing chaos as landlords sell up

Prince William has said he plans to take the family to Wales, staying in rentals and B&Bs just like ordinary holidaymakers. He needs to do it sooner rather than later, with the Welsh government, led by the first minister, Mark Drakeford, clamping down on holiday lets and owners selling up.

Drakeford introduced punitive council tax and business rate measures aimed at curbing the number of holiday homes and Airbnbs in July 2022. The first minister, who admits his family has owned “a chalet” in Pembrokeshire for almost three decades, but insists it’s not classed as a second home, is keen to convert tourist properties to local long-term ownership. Critics say he’s taking a very large sledgehammer to crack a valuable nut and failing to see the bigger picture.

Panic followed Drakeford’s announcements, prompting a flood of holiday lets and Airbnbs onto the market as landlords rushed to sell up, raising fears of damage to local economies reliant on tourism.



The Pandy House in Snowdonia has a wood-fired hot tub and sleeps up to ten. Available from £3,850 a week, [uniquehomestays.com](https://www.uniquehomestays.com)



Charity, a retreat that sleeps up to 12 in the Black Mountains on the Welsh border, is available from £3,395 a week, [uniquehomestays.com](https://www.uniquehomestays.com)



Celestia in the Brecon Beacons sleeps up to 14, and is available from £3,295 per week, [uniquehomestays.com](https://www.uniquehomestays.com)