

The number of funded child migrants sent overseas 1947-1970 probably totalled 3662: 3310 to Australia, 276 to Southern Rhodesia and 76 to British Columbia. This gives a rough per capita cost at 2016 prices of £2969.52p, or more memorably about **£3000 per child**.

2. Is it possible to give a figure for the United Kingdom's overall provision of support to a particular sending organisation, such as the Fairbridge Society?

2.1 We are not aware of any source in National Archives or in published Government or Parliamentary reports which provides regular annual figures containing data specifically on each of the various sending organisations, though it is possible that such information may feature in their financial accounts, as income. All this is probably true of the Fairbridge Society, and instead we can only offer extrapolation from aggregated data, using our two models to calculate.

2.2 The **Rhodesia Fairbridge Memorial College in Southern Rhodesia** had a somewhat distant relationship with the Fairbridge Society (see our Main Report, 4.4). What we know from the CRO 'Note' is that the cost of Assisted Passages for children going to Southern Rhodesia was **£7743**. Beyond that we can only deduce by extrapolation that the college also benefitted from its share of the outfitting and maintenance costs. At £4 a head, outfitting for the 276 children sent to the college³ would have amounted to **£1104**. All these children arrived in the decade 1946-56, and assuming that the college received maintenance subsidies on average for 8 years, at a rate of £26 a year, the cost to the UK Government would be £26 x 276 children x 8 years = £57,408. Since the cost of maintenance for an uncertain few after 1962 would have been at the higher rate of £52 a year, we suggest increasing the overall figure to **£60,000**. At most, the aggregated costs to the UK Government for Assisted Passages, for outfitting, and for maintenance for child migrants sent to the Rhodesia Fairbridge Memorial College was probably £7743 + £1104 + £60,000 = **£68,847**. Bearing in mind that in these cases Assisted Passage costs were involved, but the number of children were few, it would not be unreasonable to take our £3000 per child figure and suggest that **at 2016 prices** the gross cost to British taxpayers of sending child migrants to Southern Rhodesia government funding was in the order of £3000 x 276 = **£828,000**.

2.3 With respect to the 76 children sent post-war to the **Prince of Wales Fairbridge Farm School in British Columbia**,⁴ the calculations are a little more straightforward. From the CRO 'Note' we know that their Assisted Passages cost **£1137**. Outfitting allowances at £4 a child would amount to **£304**. Since all these children were sent in the years 1945-48, even the youngest would have been 16 before the 1962 higher rate kicked in. Accordingly, and again assuming that on average these child migrants also generated maintenance costs of £26 a year for 8 years, the cost to the UK Government would be £26 x 76 children x 8 years = **£15,808**. Aggregated costs to the UK Government would be **£17,249**. On the same basis as in 9.2, that equates at 2016 prices to a gross cost something in the order of £3000 x 76 = **£228,000**.

³ EWM000092, Sherington and Jeffery, *Fairbridge*, p.266.

⁴ EWM000092, Sherington and Jeffery, *Fairbridge*, p.265.