

## The Funding of Child Migration Programmes

With reference to our Main Report, Chapter 2, Section 2.3, the Inquiry has asked for additional information about the funding of child migration programmes, and four questions have been put to us.

### ***1. Is it possible to give a broad figure for the overall United Kingdom government investment in these programmes?***

1.1 As will become apparent, the financial data needed to answer this question precisely is not readily available, for the following reasons. First, our study of National Archives files does not allow us to progress beyond the year 1966. In that year, the renewal of the Commonwealth Settlement Act, of Assisted Passage agreements with receiving countries, and of agreements with sending societies which authorised the subsidising by the UK Government of their child migration schemes were again under review, prior to their extension in 1967, before the legislation finally expired in 1972. Second, the last report published by the Oversea Migration Board as a Parliamentary Paper gives statistics of costs only up to 1964-65. Third, we have not found reports by the House of Commons Public Accounts Committee or the Select Committee on Estimates which address the costs of child migration programmes. It is possible that some National Archives files dealing with Commonwealth Office accounts might yield something, but we have not located such material. So what follows relies quite a bit on extrapolating from files we have seen, particularly a 1966 file.

1.2 There are two ways of calculating costs. The first is complicated; the second is very complicated. We start with the 'easier' option, which will produce a figure of monetary expenditure at contemporary prices, leaving the 'harder' option, calculating expenditure at today's prices, to later.

1.3 For both sets of calculations our starting point is a National Archives file, DO175/133, entitled *Interdepartmental Committee on Policy re Emigration to Canada, Australia and New Zealand*. This contains a Commonwealth Relations Office 'Note on UK expenditure on Emigration 1946-66'. For the years 1947-1966 it includes annual and aggregated data on the cost of child migration to (in spite of the file title) Australia, Canada and Southern Rhodesia. (There was no UK Government financial support for children migrated to New Zealand.) Our dependence on this table, in the absence of earlier usable data, explains why we have confined our calculations to the years from 1947.

1.4 One table in the CRO 'Note' gives figures for the cost of outfitting and maintenance for all child migrants to Australia, Canada and Southern Rhodesia. This, we know, was made up of an outfitting allowance before migration of £4 per child, and an overseas maintenance subsidy per child of £26 a year (10s a week) from 1947 to 1961 and of £52 a year (£1 a week) from 1962. This was to be paid until the child was aged 16. Annual totals in the 'Note' for outfitting and maintenance rose rapidly from just under £1000 in 1947-8 to over £36,000 in 1956-7, before declining to an estimated £9000 in 1965-6. The total, 1947-66, is given as **£390,611 for outfitting and maintenance 1947-1965**. (Please note that pre-war the UK government only paid an annual maintenance allowance for a maximum of five years or until the child was 16, so there were no on-going post-war costs for children emigrated pre-war.)