Informal payments = unreliable, make applying for credit or mortgages difficult as only formal can be declared and fear that it will come to the attention of police
- People would rather formal payments, undermining argument that they are trying to ‘cheat the state’. Result of the states own structural failings

Spaces of informal practices
- Informal activities often rely on large social networks
- Strong sense of community helps this? [LINK TO GY200]
- Informal kindergartens as a frustrated response to tactics of formal ones
  - Meant to be free but often required bribes to secure a place
  - Further payments often required for equipment and building maintenance - failure to pay results in expulsion
- **Role of the workspace**
  - Many informal practices arise from opportunities in the formal space e.g. taking produce from work home to sell. Illegal but forced into it by low wages
  - Even if payments are not explicitly required, idea of ‘owing favours’ which strengthens social networks. Built on trust, sharing information/knowledge - and sharing in something not strictly legal?
  - Everyone paying up to their superiors to avoid being caught - makes everyone complicit?
- **Spatial nature of domestically grown food**
  - 35% had access to land to grow food - 76% of these said it made significant contribution to household diet
  - Goods are shared or exchanged for other services
  - Impossibility of getting licences to sell produce in urban areas; too expensive and length of process
  - Need to use contacts to secure a space as regular vendors don’t want new competition
  - Militia often ask for payments to allow them to keep selling informally
  - Develop relationships with those who understand they are forced to do it not trying to cheat the state - makes process easier

Informal economies as sites of resistance and exploitation
- Exploitative as born of low wages and pensions; and agency is restricted by power relations and inequalities
  - E.g. teachers conducting extra lessons after school - while earning up to $150/week, 70% of these proceeds —> school director. Director then blackmails them into continuing by threatening to go to the police. —> extreme stress
  - Extra lessons partially resist marginalisation through increased income, but are limited and still exploitative
  - Senior citizens; more time for informal practices but often physically demanding and insecure
  - Pride in informal practices? Able to provide for their house despite the states failings
  - Many practices could contribute significantly to FORMAL economy if barriers were removed
  - Networks built on high levels of trust
  - People therefore choose to be marginalised in certain regions rather than migrate away from their social networks to a landscape they don’t know how to use

Conclusion
- Economic marginalisation’s longevity in the post-Soviet arena
- Trickle down of national economic growth has not worked despite their remaining prevalence in state discourse
- Anti-corruption programmes simply increase cost of bribes because people have more to lose by accepting them
- Rent seeking economy attempts to address econ marginalisation lead to quick market reaction
  - E.g. 2006; pensions raised but gains wiped out by inflation
- State treats informal actors as a blanket group who simply want to deny the country taxes when this is not the case