

Inmate Cells - Window Covering Example

Included in the Department of Corrections' (SCDC) August 22, 2019 letter to the House Legislative Oversight Committee (LOC). This information was provided in response to the following question in LOC's July 29, 2019 letter to the Department of Corrections: "27. Currently, are there windows at any of the SCDC facilities, through which inmates would otherwise receive natural light, that are obstructed (e.g., blocked, painted over)? If so, at which institutions and why?"

In addition to providing the information in this document, SCDC provided the following response:

- Yes, please see attached example of the window coverings and louvers that have been and will be installed at the following institutions: Allendale, Broad River, Evans, McCormick, Perry and Tyger River. The top row in the picture is what SCDC was installing, which allowed limited light to pass through. This cover has been modified and louvers attached to the outside to allow additional natural light to enter. SCDC has installed approximately 60 louvers at Broad River CI and will continue installation until the institution is complete. To fabricate window coverings with louvers and install will take approximately 3 years to complete. The windows that are being sandblasted do allow light to pass through, however, it does not allow any visibility to the outside. The following institutions have obstructed natural light, which could include paint, sandblasting or glaze: Kershaw, Turbeville and Lieber. Though these methods obstruct natural light, it does not completely block natural light from entering the cell. The reason SCDC installed window coverings or obstructed natural light is for security reasons due to inmates coordinating with outside civilians regarding the introduction of contraband, by signaling to the civilian when the employee perimeter rover has passed the area where the contraband is being thrown. Inmates have also used hacksaws and other devices to cut the cell bars and windows to exit the cells to obtain contraband, and possibly attempt escape.

