A NURSE awarded £23,000 compensation in a landmark whistleblower case 16 months ago has still not received a penny.

ALM Medical Service, which was ordered by an employment tribunal to make the payment to Bryan Bladon, has been granted permission to take the case to the Court of Appeal next spring.

The tribunal ruled in June last year that Mr Bladon had been unfairly dismissed from Lowther View nursing home, Lancashire, in September 1999. He claimed he had been sacked after alleging that staff failed to complete drug tests, order essential drugs or consult a doctor before sedating patients. In addition, he claimed his health had suffered as a result of the case.

ALM said Mr Bladon was sacked following an unheeded warning about neglecting his duties.

The tribunal said ALM effectively 'manufactured a disciplinary situation' and 'failed to follow the procedure of a reasonable employer'.

ALM appealed to an Employment Appeal Tribunal. It upheld the ruling that granted Mr Bladon £13,000 for loss of earnings and set a date for a further hearing this November to reconsider the remaining £10,000 for 'aggravated injuries'. But now the Court of Appeal will re-examine the entire case.

ALM spokesperson Colin Sinclair said four important witnesses were not called at the original hearing, he added. 'Not calling them made for a one-sided case. If there were minor failings in administrative records, it was Mr Bladon who was in charge of them. Its odd that many of the complaints he made were about things he was in charge of.'

Mr Bladon said: "ALM are making wild accusations against me without any evidence. They have used every delaying tactic they can.'

Mr Bladon's award was the first brought under the Public Interest Disclosure Act, which brought increased compensation for staff sacked for whistleblowing.